



HOSPICE OF WATERLOO REGION BREAKS GROUND ON THE GIES FAMILY CENTRE AND ANNOUNCES NAMING OF THE RESIDENCE

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Waterloo, Sept 7, 2018. Today Hospice of Waterloo Region held the ceremonial groundbreaking for The Gies Family Centre, a state-of-the-art hospice residence and community palliative care centre. The 27,000 sq. ft. facility is being built at 2050 University Avenue in Waterloo, across from RIM Park. It will provide expanded spaces for Hospice of Waterloo Region's current community outreach services and will also include a palliative care medical clinic, education and client program spaces, volunteer service areas, as well as a new 10-bed hospice residence.

Last year Hospice of Waterloo Region received a \$2.5 million cornerstone gift from Bill and Gert Gies and their family. The new Centre was named The Gies Family Centre – Hospice of Waterloo Region in recognition of their generous donation.

Today, Hospice is pleased to announce that the 10-bed residence wing will be named the Cook Family Residence in honour of a \$1 million gift received from Ian and Bettina Cook and their family.

The current estimated cost for the building project is \$15 million. Government funding totaling \$2.5 million is being provided by the Ministry of Health, the Region of Waterloo, and the City of Waterloo, with operating funding for the residence provided by the Waterloo Wellington LHIN.

For the past 12 months Hospice of Waterloo Region has been conducting the quiet phase of a private sector \$10 million capital campaign. To date, \$9.1 million has been raised from individuals, corporations and foundations throughout the Region. This fall the more public phases of the campaign will begin, with the intention of exceeding the minimum target of \$10 million.

"We are overwhelmed by the support of our community in bringing to reality this vision for excellent end-of-life care in Waterloo Region. This truly is a compassionate community that has taken up the challenge of caring for family, friends and neighbours in their most significant time of need," said Merv Redman, Capital Campaign Chair.

The Gies Family Centre - Hospice of Waterloo Region is scheduled to open in the fall of 2019.

For more information:

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