

## A hospice needs community support

*Waterloo Region Record*

New Kitchener hospice meets a great need — Sept. 12

I want to thank community editorial board columnist Paula Crooks for sharing a very personal story about her father's death.

In her comments, she talks about the importance of privacy and dignity during the end-of-life journey. Her wish for her father to die peacefully with her mother at his side is the goal of Innisfree House, the new hospice being built in South Kitchener.

Innisfree is being built by Lisaard House, a charity, and the first hospice in the Waterloo Region, and will offer 10 beds to people in need of palliative care as they take their final journey.

Since July 2000, Lisaard House has helped more than 1,200 people and their families. Sadly, this is less than half the number of people who requested Lisaard's hospice care.

We know 80 per cent of Canadians would choose not to die in the hospital, but the reality is that 67 per cent still do. Innisfree's 10 additional beds will help respond to the growing community need for more palliative care facilities, providing comfort, care and closure to so many families.

Building a hospice relies on the support of the community, so please help us reach our goal by giving generously.

Jackie Hatherly-Martin

Chair, Innisfree House Capital Campaign Council

Cambridge