



ABOUT CANUCK PLACE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

History and Mandate

Canuck Place opened its doors in 1995 as the first free standing children's hospice in North America, and sixth in the world. Today it is recognized as a leader in pediatric palliative care sharing knowledge, expertise and research regionally, nationally and internationally to assist in the further development of best practices in this field.

Canuck Place provides a comprehensive continuum of care to over 400 children and teens with life-threatening illnesses and their families throughout British Columbia. The unique program offers world-class pediatric palliative care within a home-like environment and year-round 24-hour consultation support. With caring, professional staff and over 350 volunteers, it is a place for children and families to come in their time of need.

Whether a life is measured in days, weeks, or months, children deserve the opportunity to learn, develop and grow. Canuck Place encourages each child to 'embrace life' and believes in enhancing the quality of whatever time a child may have left by empowering them to live fully and joyfully.

Unique Program

Through all stages of a child's illness, an individual program is designed to meet the needs of each family.

Family Support and Respite Care - 24 hour in-house care on a temporary basis for a child (with or without their family) provides opportunities for counselling support, rest and renewal for caregivers. Respite visits also offer an opportunity for the ongoing evaluation of a child's health.

Expressive Therapies – music, art, play and recreational therapy are offered to encourage self-expression and foster communication throughout a child's illness. Children in care and their siblings also attend school at Canuck Place with a full-time teacher on staff to keep them up-to-date on their studies.

Pain & Symptom Management - doctors and nurses provide 24-hour in-house care aimed at managing the adverse physical and emotional symptoms of a child's illness or the side effects of treatment.

End-of-Life Care - involves comprehensive services, including counselling and 24-hour doctor and nursing care for children whose life expectancy is measured in days to weeks.

Grief and Bereavement Counselling – offered to the family from the early stage of diagnosis and extending throughout the progression of the illness and after the child dies.

Nursing & Medical Consultation – 24-hour, 1-800 number for families, nurses, doctors and other care professionals from across the province to consult with professionals at Canuck Place throughout all stages of a child's illness.

Outpatient Clinic – Canuck Place operates an outpatient clinic at BC Children's Hospital on a bi-weekly basis that provides an early introduction, advice and information, and out-patient follow-up care to children and families needing pediatric palliative care.

Funding

Canuck Place relies on the generosity of individuals, corporations, and various organizations to raise approximately 80% of its operating funds, with the remaining 20% funded by the provincial government. Over 80 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to patient care which is available to families at no cost.

The Growing Need – Extending Our Reach

Recent studies indicate that Canuck Place is only reaching 20 – 25% of the current needs for pediatric palliative care in British Columbia. Forty six percent of families currently served by Canuck Place reside in the Fraser Health Region. To extend its reach to those families in need, Canuck Place is working to enhance services such as counselling and support groups in Kelowna, Victoria and soon into the Fraser Valley.

Canuck Place is building a second children's hospice housed within a "Campus of Care" located on a two acre property located in Abbotsford. With 10 beds and 5 family suites, the new 30,000 square foot hospice will double Canuck Place's current capacity to better meet the growing need for pediatric palliative care services across the province.

The Campus of Care partners include Abbotsford Hospice Society, Matthews House and Canuck Place Children's Hospice. Together these organizations have a shared vision and are collaborating to bring needed health and support services to children and families living in and around the Fraser Valley region.

Canuck Place launched a capital campaign in 2010 entitled "Extending Our Reach" to raise funds to build the new hospice. Over \$10 million has been raised from generous individuals and organizations in an unprecedented short amount of time allowing for construction of the Hospice, expected to be completed in early 2013.

A further fundraising goal of \$3 million dollars will enable Canuck Place to support up to three years of Hospice operations, allowing the Hospice to build its capacity of specialized care professionals who will deliver the unique programs and services with that Canuck Place has become renowned for.

For more information:

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