



Donor Profile: The Mount Pleasant Group



The Mount Pleasant Group is a proud supporter of Emily's House. While the relationship is new, we're eager to see it grow next year and beyond. The Mount Pleasant Group supports hospice and palliative care organizations across the GTA and the work we do with Emily's House is an important part of that. The staff are enthusiastic participants in Hike for Hospice and other fundraisers. Why do we support Emily's House? We are part of the same community

and the need is great. But more than that: **our staff members understand the importance of caring for families struggling through difficult times.**

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Thank you to medical humanitarian, Dr. James Orbinski, for helping us celebrate our milestone 20-year anniversary. Not only did Dr. Orbinski's humanitarian organization win a Nobel Peace Prize under his leadership, but he also was a founding Board Member of the Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care just over 20 years ago.



From the C.E.O.'s Desk: Rauni Salminen

My dear friends of hospice care, 2015 is well underway. May you find in each day, a reason to be grateful and celebrate.

2014 at Philip Aziz Centre (PAC) and Emily's House (EH) was an inspiring year of growth, and gratitude as we celebrated 20 years of providing hospice care through our Community Program, (PAC) and the first full year of operations at EH. Since EH opened its doors in the summer of 2013, we have had 372 admissions.

Our programs at both EH and PAC continue to develop and grow in the areas of education, research, quality assurance, volunteerism, and child/family supportive care initiatives. We held our first annual memorial service in December 2014 with 100 people in attendance, and launched Ava's Memorial Garden in the fall, with 80 people in attendance, honoring a very short but impactful life, reflections, and release of butterflies. EH hosted Christmas parties for families who made it their home for the holidays, with food, music, gifts, and special guests as part of the celebrations.

We continue to facilitate support groups for the bereaved and are launching a new support group for parents/caregivers, caring for children with life-limiting conditions.

EH has recently been selected to be a training center for nursing grads for a community nursing agency. Similarly, PAC has provided field placement opportunities for Social Work, Nursing and Chaplaincy students over the years.

I stand in awe of how far we have come together, and it is all thanks to the commitment of the community, our partners in care such as SickKids Hospital and CCAC, generous donors, the Ministry of Health, Toronto Central LHIN, volunteers, Board of Directors and the extraordinary efforts of the entire PAC and EH staff team.

Thank you for your part in making hospice palliative care available, when and where needed. - Rauni

"Our current provincial Government has made palliative care a priority, as has the Ministry of Health, who are committed to improving its availability and accessibility."

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For more, visit: www.philipazizcentre.ca.



To receive our newsletter electronically or be taken off our mailing list, please contact info@philipazizcentre.ca
www.philipazizcentre.ca | Phone: 416-363-9196 | Fax: 416-363-6983
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YES! I would like to support compassionate, hospice and palliative care!

I would like to give a one-time donation of: \$300 \$150 \$75 Other \$ _____
 A monthly gift of \$ _____ to be: charged to my credit card direct bank withdrawal
Please give today to support the following programs:
 In-home Volunteer Visiting Hospice Program Emily's House
 Children & Families Programs Spiritual/Bereavement Program
 Wherever the need is greatest

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Prov.: _____
 Postal Code: _____ Tel.: _____
 Email: _____
 Cheque (Please make cheques payable to Philip Aziz Centre)
 Credit Card VISA MasterCard
 Card #: _____
 Exp.: _____ Signature: _____

Emily's House and the Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care provide respite and palliative care for children and adults living with life-limiting illnesses and their families: **compassionate care, when there is no cure...**



To donate online www.philipazizcentre.ca
 (Tax receipts will be provided for donations over \$20)



"Fearless" Cassidy's was featured in the Toronto Sun – a story about an aspiring Pan Am swimming contender, until her cancer recently accelerated.

Heart-Link: Fearless Cassidy

At fourteen-years of age, Cassidy spent a lot of her time at Emily's House painting and creating, with her family and friends all around her, including: friends from school; her swim team; and those who were in remission after their own, personal journeys with cancer treatments. They organized a big baking party for Cassidy. She needed some help measuring ingredients, but insisted on doing as much of the baking as she could.

One very special celebration included the very talented Eleanor McCain and her husband Jeff, who came to Emily's House to sing for our dear, sweet, special guests. They came when they heard that Cassidy wanted to hear music, "like what she hears in church." A beautiful circle of music was created in our common area. Eleanor's angelic voice, brought smiles, tears of joy, appreciation, and love.

"Cassidy was grateful that she could stay in Emily's House to end of her journey. Cass was so thankful to the nurses and the staff at Emily's House in her daily prayers. She always wanted to spend more time and more fun time with her nurses and staff there. She really enjoyed their presence." - Cassidy's mom

**** To read the Toronto Sun articles on Cassidy, visit our Facebook page, or Google "Fearless Cassidy."*

"You made us healthier as a family, and made us happier, better able to cope when the caregiving strain got too much."

Special Announcement!

Thank you **Chef Corbin** – for taking an evening off from the Food Network's Restaurant Makeover and Dinner Party Wars – to host a culinary evening to raise funds for us. After presenting dinner for our invited guests, **Chef Corbin delivered a birthday cake** to help celebrate with a young boy and his family at our children's residential hospice Emily's House.



(© George Pimentel Photography)

Events for your calendar:

Toronto Hike for Hospice Sunday, May 3rd, 2015

Riverdale Park, 201 Winchester St., Toronto

The 2014 event was high energy. **Danny Marks** performed some great music. **Tammy Gunn Zumba** led the most energetic warm-up stretch ever. And our first-ever scavenger hunt encouraged us to enjoy the neighbourhood. **Last year's top fundraiser won flights for two via WestJet!** Join us this year and help raise awareness and essential funding for local hospice. After the 5 KM hike/2 KM walk, enjoy a barbeque, live music, and fun for all ages.

Jazz it Up for Emily's House

Our volunteer committee who brought us **Magical Moments** in 2013, and the **Art of Caring** in 2014, are planning a **Jazz it Up for Emily's House** fundraising event for May 2015. An evening of entertainment, buskers, magic, food stations and cocktails will raise funds for Emily's House – **our goal is 250 days of care.** Updates will be announced on our website.

For event updates, visit: philipazizcentre.ca!



Donor Profile: Michele Lobraico-Perkell

A volunteer since September 2013, **Michele Lobraico-Perkell** writes: *"I just want you to know how much I enjoy my time playing with children at Emily's House. When I finish my shift I feel blessed that I could help out in some small way. Every child I have met has been a joy in their own special and unique way!"* Michelle has been a volunteer speaker, driver, and has helped with outreach projects. She visits Emily's House weekly and will also be starting home visits with a client in our PAC community program. Our clients are blessed by how gracious, gentle and kind she is. Michele is a truly lovely woman who brings sunshine where she goes!



YAC (Youth Advisory Council):

Our amazing **Youth Advisory Council (YAC)** is planning an arts-related fundraiser that they will be excited to announce later this spring. After their brainstorm and planning meetings, YAC spend some time personally connecting with our cause by volunteering at Emily's House. They read stories, play games, and **provide peer support for children and youth in our care.** They did a great job helping out at our latest Halloween and Christmas parties. Thank you, YAC!

Next Volunteer Information Sessions: April 6th, 2015, 7-8:30pm / April 7th, 2015, 2-3:30pm
All Information Sessions until August 2015 are on our website: www.philipazizcentre.ca/volunteerinfo/.



Monthly Donor Program:

Join our Monthly Giving Program! Monthly giving is the most cost-effective way to donate. Your monthly donations will provide support to our clients and their families **all year round.** We have had weekends where we have had seven and eight children in our care at Emily's House, when our government funding only supports six kids. By becoming a Monthly Donor, you can help address the funding gap, and provide continuous, year-round care and support.