
NEWS RELEASE

November 24th, 2009 –The Abbotsford Hospice Society (AHS) announces the launching of a three year/seven million dollar capital campaign to build a facility to house its Resource & Support Centre and ultimately a residential hospice for persons age 19 and older.

The new AHS facility will form part of an innovative partnership between the Abbotsford Hospice Society, Canuck Place Children’s Hospice and Matthew’s House children’s respite centre to create a one of-a-kind Campus of Care in Abbotsford that will serve all of B.C.

AHS Executive Director Debbie Lehmann commented “It is the belief of our society that healthy communities are created through collaboration and progressive partnerships and we are excited about the potential this project has for the City of Abbotsford, the Province of B.C, and most significantly the people that each organization serves”. Lehmann continued “a variety of services would be coordinated in one location, aimed at a common vision of integration, innovation and excellence in health services delivery and patient care “

AHS is grateful to the Mayor and Council of the City of Abbotsford who have demonstrated great vision and compassion in providing an outstanding location adjacent to the new Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre.

The Abbotsford Hospice Society was created 23 years ago by community leaders who shared a dream of creating a residential hospice and a legacy in Abbotsford. AHS provides critical grief and loss support to Abbotsford residents of all ages together with services for people who are living with a terminal illness. AHS offers one-to-one companionship, counselling, advocacy, group support and community education to children, teens, families and friends. All services are provided at no cost to the recipients.

AHS received the 2009 Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence award for Social Responsibility.

Debbie Lehmann added “We look forward to working closely with our new partners Matthew’s House and Canuck Place Children’s Hospice on the Campus of Care project.”

Each organization will remain independent entities governing and operating in accordance with separate mandates.