

# Abbotsford Hospice Society

## August

### Volunteer Info Letter

PRESS RELEASE #3

#### Board Members

*Board Chair*

John Smith

Fiona Harris  
Leslie McConnell  
Cindy Boury  
John Richardson  
Rex Leonard  
Arno Neumann  
Vivienne Chin

#### Staff Members

*Executive Director*

Deborah Lehmann

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*Programs Administrator*

Kelly Railton

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*Office Administrator*

Bonnie Pierce

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*Support Services*

*Counsellor*

Juanita Fleming

juanita@abbotsfordhospice.org

*Bereavement Services*

*Manager*

Maryanne Balzer

maryanne@abbotsfordhospice.org

*Palliative Services*

*Manager*

Yoko Gifford

yoko@abbotsfordhospice.org

An evening of food and fun!

## Volunteer Kick-Off Event at the Phoenix Lounge

33780 King Road, Abbotsford, BC

Come and enjoy this 'Self Care' gift from AHS and be energized for your volunteer work in the coming year!



Laughter is good medicine!

**September 15th, 5:30pm — 7:30 pm**

Dinner will be served compliments of AHS!

Entertainment provided by the [Laughter Mission Society](#).

A registered not for profit charity that provides comedic entertainment for those with terminal illnesses and those who support them. Check out the Laughter Mission Society's website at: [www.laughtermission.com](http://www.laughtermission.com).

Please RSVP to Maryanne or Yoko by September 9th by email or phone.



# What are “Casual Connections” ?

- One of the new & exciting ways to support AHS Volunteers
- A time to connect with other Volunteers in a home setting
- An opportunity for a more casual meeting
- An event hosted and planned by Volunteers
- Three gatherings that will take place in October, February, and May

We are looking for three Volunteers to offer their homes to host Casual Connections. We would also like Volunteers to co-host and plan these events. **If you are interested in hosting or co-hosting, please contact Marianne or Yoko.**

## Fundraising Corner

### Play a Part in YOUR COMMUNITY

Join us at Ledgeview  
Golf & Country Club  
on Friday, August 14th  
for the

### 11th Annual Danielle Brown Memorial Golf Tournament

\$165 includes green fee, cart, and dinner.  
\$40 tax receipt available.



*We are committed to establishing a residential hospice in Abbotsford for persons 18 years of age and older. Your support can help make this a reality.*

AHS has received a very exciting raffle prize to help raise much needed funds for this organization. Concorde Distributing Inc. has generously donated a Vermont Castings BBQ (Propane) valued at over \$1400!!!!

**We are asking that Volunteers and Staff Members sell at least \$20 worth of tickets.** Not only will you be participating in the easiest fundraiser of the year but you, your family and friends could be enjoying delicious BBQ dinners for years to come. Please note that we need all unsold tickets and ticket stubs returned to the AHS office by August 12.

To arrange purchase or pick-up of tickets please call Bonnie or Kelly or email at [info@abbotsfordhospice.org](mailto:info@abbotsfordhospice.org).

# Juanita's Corner

## WHY WORK WITH DYING PEOPLE?

### *Through Your Eyes (Anonymous)*

*Through your eyes,  
People see things they have never seen.  
Through your words,  
People hear things they have never heard.  
Through your spirit,  
People are taken on a journey to discover the truth about themselves.*

When I read this poem it started me down a path of reflection as to why I do this work?

What is it about sitting by the bed of a dying patient and accompanying them on their final journey that inspires me so much? Well, I have been thinking about this a lot lately as I explore and process the loss that are left by each patient that dies. I wonder whether it is being in the presence of a person when they are at their most true-self or when they are focused on exploring the greater questions of life. I grow and learn so much from all of these teachers and feel very privileged that they would allow me to be a guest in their lives when they are on their end-of-life journey.

So then I started to wonder how other people feel about companioning dying people and how we reconcile all these losses which we experience. Do we tell ourselves that we can handle this?, Do we tell ourselves that we have been trained therefore we will be ok? Do we admit to ourselves that we are wounded and sad and that we need to acknowledge the pain in the way that we encourage our clients to do so. Let us not diminish the impact of the experiences we have working with dying and grieving families by pretending to be OK, let us acknowledge that we are human and that we are profoundly impacted by the pain all these families experience, and although we are trained to take care of ourselves, it is acceptable to sometimes feel overwhelmed by the loss of a particular client.

To that end I encourage you to remember well and to learn from each client, because not only do we learn from them in their final journey, but their lessons support us in our daily work and they continue to teach us even after they have died.

Take care of yourselves and be gentle with yourselves everyday.

Juanita Fleming MA RCC  
Support Services Counsellor

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