



The Gift of Hospice

Three years ago Mom was welcomed into the Oasis Day Program at Doane House Hospice. Mom lived with me but when I was at work, she spent her days at home alone. Following her surgery for lung cancer, Mom no longer had her licence so she was unable to attend other programs due to her lack of transportation. When Thursdays became "Doane House" days, life brightened up for us both. Not only did the Oasis group open their hearts and doors to Mom, they also made sure she always had a drive to and from the program, giving her back some of her independence. Mom was always up extra early on Thursday mornings to get ready and she eagerly watched for the generous volunteers, like Gary, to pick her up. She couldn't wait to spend the day with her special friends. They could talk, laugh, cry and most of all understand each other because they determined to celebrate life while living with a terminal diagnosis. Mom said that when she was with her Oasis friends, cancer was the furthest thing from her mind. She enjoyed the meals that were generously donated by local restaurants and retirement homes. She would tell us about the wonderful volunteers who attended the program to share their talents of massage, art, music or nutrition, to name but a few. I mentioned

earlier that Doane House Hospice brightened up both of our lives. Although I didn't attend Doane House, it was a tremendous gift to me also. Doane House gave me joy and peace knowing that for one day a week when I was at work, my Mom was not



alone. I knew she was in a place where she was loved and happy. Two weeks before Mom died we visited Doane House Hospice together and Keri took the time to talk with me and cry with me, something many people are uncomfortable to do. Two days before Mom died, Juliet visited our home bringing us love and support. When the Doane House staff and clients attended Mom's funeral, I was overcome. They are true friends. How special that even after Mom passed, everyone showed up with hugs and support. Words are not sufficient to express what Doane House meant to Mom and to me. Thank you for living out love in all you do. Hospices are a great blessing and I will be forever grateful.

For more information please visit www.doanehospice.org

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TOM COCHRANE
***** 100% ROCK

The York Region Hospices are Better Together – They are collaborating as one of the charity recipients of this year's Hoedown; check out why we Hoedown <https://tinyurl.com/y7m194h>.

For tickets please go to <https://toronto.snapd.com/events/view/1064426> or contact your local hospice.