

***Your support can give more
families the gift of serenity.***

Dear Friend,

It never occurred to me that I might lose my brother one day. After all, I'd never known a life without him.

John and I were the fourth and fifth of six siblings, and we were always close. We grew up in a small town in the Georgina area, along with our parents and four other sisters. His presence was a constant – for me, and for our town.

Though he was an introvert, John spent his adulthood as a bartender. He worked at our local Legion and got to know just about everyone during his time there. My brother was a pool shark, a lover of darts, and a trivia champion. You *always* wanted him on your team.

But I didn't know John was hiding something from me. It was only after he was rushed to the hospital in December 2020 that I found out my brother had been feeling unwell for some time. Soon enough, we received the diagnosis everyone fears.

Cancer quickly robbed my brother of his independence. Within a couple of months, he lost the ability to walk. By August, we were told it was time to consider end-of-life care.

That's when John was transferred to Margaret Bahen Hospice. After months of visiting John in a cold and impersonal hospital environment, I was amazed by the serenity I felt as soon as I walked through the hospice's front doors.

The staff greeted me warmly. The halls were filled with light. I was overwhelmed by relief to know my brother would be well cared for even when I couldn't be there myself. For the first time since his hospital admission, I was able to truly exhale.

Every family deserves the comfort of knowing their loved ones are safe and well-supported during their last days. That's why I'm hoping you'll consider making a gift in support of Margaret Bahen Hospice now.

Will you make a donation of \$50, \$75, \$100 or even \$250 to help provide the highest quality of end-of-life care for people in our community? You'll ensure more families like mine can make the most of the remaining time they have together, reassured by the knowledge their loved one is in the best possible hands.

John's admission to Margaret Bahen was a turning point for the better. My niece Corrine

...please turn over



and I were able to alternate visits, with me spending lunch hours by his bedside and her coming over as soon as she got off work. My brother had the dignity he deserved, and we were able to be there strictly as his family rather than his caregivers.

I cherish that time to this day. We were amazed by how attentive the hospice staff were – not only to John, but to us as his family. They would pop in with tea and snacks, checking if anyone wanted or needed anything. I was always greeted with a smile when I came to visit, and everyone knew my name.



It takes special people to do hospice work, and the staff and volunteers at Margaret Bahen Hospice are extraordinary humans.

I never had to worry that my brother was lonely or ignored, because they truly took the time to get to know him. They wheeled John out into the sunshine when the weather was good. They wrote game times on his whiteboard so he never had to miss out on the sports he loved. They even filled his room with balloons on his 70th birthday!

The hospice's care made a difficult time so much easier. When John eventually passed away last spring, we felt at peace knowing he'd had every comfort possible.

You never really think about what the end of someone's life will look like until it's happening, but I can't imagine a better place to be for your final chapter. I'm so grateful we have Margaret Bahen Hospice right here in our backyard – and I don't take what they do for granted.

You see, the hospice relies on the support of people like you and me for the "extras" that make it such a wonderful place for families. From stocking the kitchen with snacks to bringing in special activities for residents, it's the community that ensures Margaret Bahen Hospice feels like a home away from home.

That's why my niece Corrine chose to participate in their Hike for Hospice last year. I joined her, and together we retraced John's journey between the hospital, long-term care, and hospice. **Now, I'm hoping you'll also join our efforts. Please consider making a donation to Margaret Bahen Hospice today!**

Together, we can give more families the gift of serenity and security at the end of their loved one's life.

Sincerely,

Jay Beaudrow

P.S. The care Margaret Bahen Hospice showed for my brother John will stick with me forever. **You can help ensure more people in our community can benefit from their compassion by making a gift today.**