

News Release

Monday January 15, 2018

The Capital Campaign Committee of Jessica's House – Huron County, a residential hospice for end-of-life care being built in Exeter, announced today that the capital campaign to raise \$3.4 million dollars has been reached, with a total of \$3,410,000 being raised.

Considered an ambitious goal at the beginning, the campaign was met with passion and enthusiasm by a community who opened their hearts and wallets to honour 22 year-old Jessica Hamather who's life was cut short with a rare, incurable cancer in 2015 and whose name the hospice bears. The target of \$3.4 million covers the cost of the actual building and operating costs for three years.

"As of today, we have exceeded our goal of \$3.4 million dollars in cash and pledges PLUS an additional \$600,000 in gifts in kind", reports Rob Reid, Capital Campaign Co-Chair "The gifts in kind are the outstanding result of the 35 local suppliers who have contributed generously to the building of the hospice".

The hospice is on track to open this spring, offering 3 residential bedrooms, a homelike setting and an expanded set of support programs and services for families and their loved ones.

The fundraising campaign was launched December 12, 2016 and quickly gained momentum with more than 4,000 individual donors and hundreds of community events naming Jessica's House as their chosen charity. "To be able to reach such an ambitious goal in a small, mostly rural community, within 13 months is stunning", advises Deb Homuth, Chair of the Jessica's House Board. "The results surpassed our expectations and are contributed to our caring, passionate community". Without exception, the major donors cite the need for a residential hospice in the area as the primary reason to donate, in addition to long-standing support of the South Huron Hospital Foundation and admiration for the Hamather family, one of the region's most respected families.

"We are delighted to reach this milestone with such significant help from donors large and small", muses Pat O'Rourke, Chair of the South Huron Hospital Foundation. "It speaks volumes to the depth of our caring neighbours, families and friends to make this exceptional project a reality". The Capital Campaign may be complete but donations are always welcome, ensuring that Jessica's House never has to worry that the lights will be on, and the welcome mat will be out. #thehousecommunitybuilt

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