

28 November 2011

Dear

The best mail I have ever received was the discharge letter from the Otago Community Hospice earlier this year.

Many years ago I learnt about the true nature of a hospice when my sister-in-law succumbed to cancer. Out of that sad and painful experience came a positive as it gave me insight and strength to help me cope with the news late in 2009 that I had oesophageal cancer.

I was referred to the Otago Community Hospice midway through 2010. I only spent 4 days in the hospice itself - as respite care to enable my wife, Pip, to take our two young daughters, Ruby and Grace, away from Dunedin to get a break from the interminable cycle of care for me, work, and continuing home life during the worst months of my illness.

Most of my contact with the hospice was in form of home visits as well as a number of counselling sessions. I found those sessions invaluable in coming to terms with the reality of impending death and then, after the revision of my prognosis and eventually successful surgery, rebuilding my life based on a new set of priorities other than career and my assumed role as family breadwinner.

I learned a number of things as a result of my association with the hospice. The focus is not on dying but, rather, living in the moment with dignity. Also there are some things in my life that cannot be changed - my life may be shorter than I would have hoped. I also came to feel blessed by the love of my family and friends and the devoted and professional care of my caregivers.

I have always made a point of supporting the Otago Community Hospice's fundraising appeals and initiatives and Pip is an avid supporter of the Butterflies Hospice Op Shop. We have since made provision in our wills to benefit the hospice as we now know first-hand the full significance of its work.

It is wonderful that so many people support the Otago Community Hospice in order to help it continue its invaluable work in making such a significant difference to the quality of the lives of patients and their loved ones in the face of terminal illnesses.

Warmest regards for the festive season.

Brian Craig



Brian, Pip, Ruby and Grace in the Hospice garden.

Hospice Wish List

Thank you for considering helping us with our wish list items. This is an opportunity to support the Hospice in a very tangible way and we really appreciate any contribution you feel able to make. Thank you very much. Many of the items we are looking for are quite specific so **please call for details from Hospice Staff on 4736005 to discuss.**

- Adobe Creative Suite
- Portable Patient Transfer System
- Plumbing and electrical cost for Sanitiser installation
- Donation for rates for Hospice shops
- Microplane – fine grater
- Front Row to go – Surround Sound system, which helps anyone with hearing difficulties attending the Kowhai programme.
- Coffee Tables for in-patient rooms – 12 required.
- Nest of Table for Seminar Room – 2 required.
- Grocery Vouchers
- Garden and petrol vouchers of any value that we can offer people who provide their serviced to the Hospice for no charge.
- Wool of any thickness that can be knitted into garments for “Butterflies” shops.
- Small doll’s house furniture (Sylvannia Family size)

We are also **Bartercard** traders and gratefully receive **Bartercard** dollars.

'Tis the season for the TRAILER RAFFLE & REMEMBRANCE TREES

Last year these 2 events raised over \$35,000. We couldn't have done it without you.
Are you keen to help us do it again this year?

Please contact:

Kelda or Lyn

lyn@otagohospice.co.nz | kelda.hunter@otagohospice.co.nz | 473 6005

PLEASE AMEND ANY ERRORS *The privacy act 1993 requires us to advise you that we keep the names, addresses and telephone numbers of our supporters on file to help us with our fund raising. If you do not wish us to store this information, please advise us.*

Yes, I would like to support the Otago Community Hospice

Please tick the appropriate boxes below

Payment by Cheque: Cash: Mastercard/Visa/Bankcard:

Nominate Amount: \$ \$25 \$50 \$100 \$200

Card No:

Full Name: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Expiry Date: _____

I would like to become a *Friend of the Hospice* on a regular monthly basis by:

Direct Credit **Indicate if you have left a bequest in your will**

(The Hospice will forward a Direct Credit Authority Form for relevant details.)

Receipts will be sent out annually.

I would like to receive my newsletter via email.

Email Address: _____