

Annual Report 2008-2009

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President's Message

My second term as president for Compassion House Foundation has been rewarding and not without its challenges. After being short staffed for six months, Melissa Kraft joined the Compassion House Foundation at the beginning of July. Having an executive director in place, not only with the right skills but also the vision of helping others, has certainly made a difference in what we have been able to accomplish.

As I previously reported, the Foundation is working on expanding capacity in order to meet our vision that more people with breast cancer will have access to sanctuary and compassionate support. A capital project committee has been formed to lay the groundwork for the eventual capital campaign. The committee has been working with architects from Stantec to develop the plans for the expansion. With the economy taking a swift down turn over the past year, the committee is working cautiously to plan the expansion.

Serving the former guests of Sorrentino's Compassion House 'beyond our four walls', is integral to the work we do. We know that once guests leave the house and return home, they often feel isolated. When they leave Sorrentino's Compassion House, they leave the friendships and support systems that they have come to value. Guests who attended the second annual former guest retreat were very grateful to have the opportunity to reconnect with each other and to share their feelings as survivors. The retreat was facilitated in partnership with Willow Breast Cancer Support Canada.

I continue to be extremely grateful for the support we receive from the community through donations and volunteer commitments. Each one of you who attends events, develops third party initiatives, makes a donation and/or volunteers your time is making a difference in the lives of people battling breast cancer.

To my colleagues on the board of directors, thank you for your dedication to ensuring people from the North have an affordable, safe place to stay while receiving breast cancer treatment. The hard work and cooperation of the board is what makes us a successful team in providing for the needs of our guests.

Thank you to all who helped make this year a success!

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Walker
President
Compassion House Foundation

Vision

More people with breast cancer will have access to sanctuary and compassionate support.

Mission

The Compassion House Foundation will provide sanctuary and support to people with breast cancer and their companions during diagnosis, treatment and recovery within and beyond our four walls.

Year in Review

Sorrentino's Compassion House

In 2008-2009 we continued to operate at capacity. We welcomed 101 guests from 44 communities to Sorrentino's Compassion House.

The six guest suites are always full and we had to turn away many people who needed accommodation.

Most of the house guests travel to Edmonton to receive radiation treatment at the Cross Cancer Institute. The average length of stay at the house is six weeks.

Companions are always welcome at the house. Family and friends of the house guests take comfort in knowing their loved ones are safe and supported during their treatment.



"Thanks so much for taking such great care of my wife. You truly are a home away from home."

Where our guests come from...

Attwater	Fort St. John	Rocky Mnt. House
Barrhead	Fox Creek	Salmon Arm
Bashaw	Grande Prairie	St. Paul
Bezanson	Grimshaw	Stettler
Bonneyville	Innisfail	Tagish
Cold Lake	Irma	Tees
Consort	Jasper	Thorhild
Czar	Lac La Biche	Valleyview
Dawson Creek	Lacombe	Vegreville
Devon	Lethbridge	Wainwright
Drayton Valley	Little Smoky	Wetaskiwin
Edgerton	Lloydminster	Wildwood
Foamlake	Peace River	White Court
Fort Assiniboine	Radway	Yellowknife
Fort McMurray	Red Deer	

Willow Breast Cancer Canada

Compassion House Foundation partners with Willow Breast Cancer Canada to support our former guests in their home communities.

This year some former house guests participated in support group facilitator training sessions in Ontario and Leduc. With the knowledge and skills gained, the women were able to start support groups for other breast cancer survivors in their communities.

Beyond Our Four Walls

To support former house guests when they return home, the Compassion House Foundation offers an annual guest retreat. The second annual retreat was held in Grande Prairie with 32 former guests in attendance.

The participants enjoyed the sessions facilitated by Willow Breast Cancer Canada which focused on survivorship and issues of isolation. The participants carved soap stone hearts in the Art as Medicine session. After a day of learning, sharing and reconnecting, the women sang their hearts out at karaoke.

Thank you to Syncrude Canada who helped guests from Fort McMurray with transportation.



Guest Quote

"This house has been my 'port in the storm'. I didn't want to stay – I don't want to leave."

Annual Report

Volunteers

Volunteers play a significant role at Sorrentino's Compassion House. The Compassion House Foundation was formed by a dedicated group of volunteers who shared a vision to create a home away from home for individuals undergoing breast cancer treatment.

Today, our volunteers help keep this vision alive and their contributions make the house a home. Volunteers support the operation and maintenance of the house and assist with special events.

Six of our volunteers have been volunteering at Sorrentino's Compassion House for five years.

The Quilting from the Heart group regularly generously donates beautiful quilts. The quilts are created with love and each house guest is presented a quilt when they leave.



Community

The Compassion House Foundation actively participates and supports the local breast cancer community.

- The Foundation is a sponsor of the annual HBOC (Hereditary Breast & Ovarian Cancer) conference.
- Sorrentino's Compassion House entered a team in the 2008 CIBC Run for the Cure.
- The L'Chaim breast cancer survivor support group holds their monthly meetings at Sorrentino's Compassion House.
- An information booth was set up at the Positively Pink conference.
- The Harps and Soul group practices at the house.



Events & Donations

The Compassion House Foundation relies on events and donations to operate Sorrentino's Compassion House.

Sincere thanks goes to everyone who made our events this year a success!

Cup of Compassion – This partnership event with Second Cup cafes featured local celebrities serving beverages and raised \$12,000.

Dash'n for Compassion – The second annual half marathon and 10 km run/walk drew 275 participants and raised \$10,000.

Desjardins Financial Security Golf Tournament – This third party event raised \$12,000.

Syncrude's Fashion with Compassion – Our 12th annual fashion show luncheon and gala was a great success! Our signature event raised \$150,000.

Fork it Over 2009 – A partnership event with the Rotary Club of Edmonton Mayfield. The food themed event raised approximately \$40,000.

Donors

Compassion House Foundation appreciates all the in-kind support and financial donations.

Some examples of support:

- ATB Financial and Avon Canada donated flowers to the house and volunteered to plant them.
- The Family Pantry regularly brings donations of bread, baked goods and other food staples for our guests.
- The Paterson family donated a new oven so the guests could bake and cook with accuracy.
- Water Pure & Simple donates bottles of water for the water cooler.
- Royal Purple across the province hold fundraisers for the Foundation and donate their time.

Compassion
House
FOUNDATION

Audited financial statements are available on request.