



Annual Impact Report
2024–2025

Honouring every moment of life.





As we reflect on the 2024-25 fiscal year, Mariposa House Hospice is proud to report significant achievements and foundational progress.

A cornerstone of this year’s efforts was the development of a strategic plan – a roadmap designed to double our capacity and enhance our service to the community. Through this, we identified **the attributes and strengths** that we want our staff, volunteers, donors and the community to associate with our hospice.

Skilled, Diverse Staff and Volunteers Committed to Our Mission, Vision And Values

- Our dedicated, compassionate team is what makes the difference.

Uniqueness Of Culture

- Mariposa House Hospice is mission and values driven. Our success is rooted in our ability to demonstrate our mission and values daily.

Capacity To Deliver Excellent Clinical Care and Related Programs

- Funders and donors recognize our ability to provide high-quality and effective delivery of care, especially within the limited resources available from government funding.

Reputation Management

- Mariposa House Hospice is trusted and has a strong positive image within the local community as well as across the region.

Fiscal Management

- Our financial base is stable, and our fiscal management is strong. We manage with a balanced focus on both the present and the future.

Whether at the hospice itself, in our beautiful gardens, or as part of our dynamic group of fundraisers, our volunteers are an indispensable part of the fabric of the community. I am also grateful for the strong support we receive from a rigorous and collaborative volunteer board.

I want to extend my deepest appreciation to each member of the staff for their unparalleled professionalism, dedication, and compassion.

Finally, to our valued donors, I wish to convey the profound impact of your support. Your contributions translate into immediate and visible improvements.

Ted Markle, Executive Director



By all measures 2024-25 was a very good year for Mariposa House Hospice. Highlights include:

- A capital campaign for the replacement of our patient beds. Thank you to all those donors and volunteers who made the “Cuddle Bed” initiative a success.
- Approval for the funding of a 6th patient bed. We appreciate the support provided by the provincial health ministry to recognize the expanding needs for palliative care in our community.
- A very successful financial year highlighted by our fundraising events -
 - Hike For Hospice – Thanks to all our volunteers, hikers and donors for taking this event to record levels. A special thanks to our community partner – Hospice Orillia, for your leadership.
 - Butterfly Kisses Fashion Show – was again a must-attend event. Thanks to our retail partners, Casino Rama, and our dedicated and creative fundraising volunteers.
 - Golf tournament – We set a record level for this past year’s golf event. Special thanks to the Swinimer family for your financial support and allowing us to hold the event in memory of Bill
 - Autumn Concert in the Barn (new) – A complete sellout for this inaugural event. Thank you to all the sponsors including our host Braestone Farm for this wonderful venue.
 - Angel Tree – This was our 6th Christmas season running our Angel Tree campaign. Thank you to Mariposa Market for allowing us to set up in our downtown location.
- Completion of our 5-year Strategic Plan – This past November the Board of Directors, MHH Leadership Team, and community volunteers gathered to create a strategic plan that will guide us to 2030.

The Strategic Priorities were identified as follows:

1. **Financial Resilience and Sustainability** – To meet the expanding needs, we will embark on a capital campaign to raise funds necessary to double our bed capacity.
2. **Expanding Scale and Scope of Programs** – With the growing and aging population of our region, we have established a goal of reaching 10 beds by 2030.
3. **Community Awareness** – We will strive to raise community awareness so that everyone in our community has access to end-of-life care from Mariposa House Hospice.
4. **People and Culture** – Staff and volunteer excellence is the key to delivering exceptional care. We will aspire to become an “Employer of Choice” for health care in our region.
5. **External Leadership** – Our management team and staff will take on leadership roles within the community to support the awareness and effectiveness of palliative care services in our region.
6. **Standards and Accreditation** - We will maintain a readiness position to pursue provincial hospice accreditation at an appropriate time.

On behalf of the Board of Mariposa House Hospice, I wish to express our gratitude to the entire community for the support we have received in establishing, building, and operating this compassionate palliative care residential home that was so desperately needed. Thank-you!!!

John Mayo, Board President



As I reflect on the 2024–25 fiscal year, I am proud of the meaningful progress we’ve made as a team and the deepening of our impact in Orillia and surrounding area. This year, we launched our grief and bereavement program — a long-envisioned addition that now provides structured, compassionate grief and bereavement support to the staff, residents, families and loved ones of residents during admission and after death. I’ve been honoured to support our Supportive Care Social Worker, Aundrea Larocque, in developing this program from the ground up — from designing and facilitating support groups to implementing outcome reporting. Together, we’ve helped bring comfort and connection to families navigating loss, further extending our care beyond the walls of the hospice.

We also took important steps to solidify the foundation of who we are as a team by clearly defining and living our core values. These values — Compassion, Connection, Respect, and Teamwork — are more than words on a page; they guide how we work together and how we care for others. We lead with compassion by listening deeply and showing genuine care. We foster connection by engaging our partners, donors, and broader community in meaningful ways. We demonstrate respect by treating everyone with dignity and building trust with residents, families, and colleagues. And we embody teamwork by stepping in to support one another, valuing diverse perspectives, and striving for continuous improvement. By embedding these behaviours into our daily practice, we have strengthened a culture that supports both our mission and each other.

One of our most tangible accomplishments this year was our successful application to the Expression of Interest process, securing funding to open our sixth bed. In a poetic echo of our beginnings during the COVID-19 pandemic, we opened the new bed during an April ice storm — a reminder of the resilience that has defined Mariposa House Hospice from the start.

In total, we served 112 residents this year. I continue to be inspired by the dedication and heart of this team. Thank you for bringing our mission to life, and for the care you provide, day in and day out.

Emily Lazareth, RN, Clinical Manager
Manager of Clinical & Hospice Services



A highlight in my role as Mariposa House Hospice Medical Director is the follow-up engagements I do with family members a few weeks after a loved-one has passed at the house.

While each conversation is unique, the feedback has a certain harmony: expressions of the relief they felt upon their loved-one’s admission and profound appreciation for the incredible combination of compassion and professionalism demonstrated without fail by our staff. It is an honour to be a member of such a team.

On April 1, 2025, we opened our 6th bed, and this was a meaningful milestone — particularly for me and Manager of Clinical and Hospice Services, Emily Lazareth. Far too many times last year, we were unable to admit a resident when they needed a bed because we were at capacity. Our 6th bed is already reducing these occurrences. We know, however, that our region is both growing and aging and that in short time 6 beds will no longer be enough.

Lastly, I wish to convey my deepest gratitude for the many donors and fundraising volunteers. All the efforts of the team at MHH would be impossible without your steadfast support.

Dr. Erika Catford, MD, CCFP, Medical Director



Grief and bereavement programming began August 2024. In January 2025, a social work student joined the team to focus on child and youth grief support. During the 24/25 fiscal year, we supported 119 clients (including residents), offering 42 anticipatory grief sessions for family members, 60 psychosocial support sessions for residents, 9 group sessions (bereaved family members) focused on “Grief & the holidays” and 24 individual grief counselling sessions were provided.

To build staff capacity, four grief training sessions were offered to 33 staff members in total. A group of volunteers participated in two grief training sessions with Hospice Simcoe. A resource library and legacy corner we established to support both staff and families navigating grief. To support the unique needs of children and youth, cuddle boxes and legacy activities were created, with the hope of providing grief education and providing children with meaningful activities to do with residents during their time at Hospice.

For the 2025/2026 year, plans are underway for a children’s support group, grief camp and spousal loss program. Additionally, we are offering specialized training to a select group of volunteers who can offer companionship and respite support to residents and families at the bedside. We hope to expand our program offerings to include an ongoing bereavement drop-in group and a day hospice program for those preparing for admission to MHH.

Aundrea Larocque MSW, RSW, Supportive Care Social Worker



As Engagement Manager, my heart is filled on a daily basis through my interactions with our volunteers, supporters, residents and their family members.

Connecting with residents and their family members is my passion, and it's such an honour to be a part of someone's end journey.

I am inspired by our more than 60 trained volunteers who help make Mariposa House Hospice what it is. One of the most important functions of a not-for-profit organization is fundraising and to liaise with our dynamic fundraising volunteers on our many community events is so fulfilling.

Kandas Bartlett, *Engagement Manager*

Volunteers

Mariposa House Hospice volunteers make a difference. Whether it is through fundraisers, at reception, in the kitchen, in our gardens, or at the board table, we could not function without their support.



The June Callwood Award



Mariposa House Hospice was honoured to have Alice Wood accepted into the June Callwood Circle of Outstanding Hospice Volunteers.

The June Callwood Award acknowledges outstanding Hospice Volunteers from across Ontario. The award was established and named in honour of the late June Callwood in 1994 in recognition of her long-time advocacy for Hospice. Ms. Callwood was Patron of the award from 1994 until her death and considered the award ceremony a highpoint of each year.

Alice's dedication, compassion, and selfless service to Mariposa House Hospice have truly made a lasting impact. She is a shining example of what it means to give back.

Fundraising Events

Our events play a crucial role in helping us reach our financial targets and keep us close to the community we serve. Our volunteer fundraising committee designed, planned, and pulled off our Golf Tournament, Butterfly Kisses Fashion Show, Autumn Concert, and Angel Tree events.

(F2024-25 Net Contributions)

Hike for Hospice*	\$32,055
Butterfly Kisses Fashion Show	\$28,509
MHH Golf Tournament in Memory of Bill Swinimer	\$38,215
Autumn Concert in the Barn	\$26,388
Giving Tuesday	\$19,061
Angel Tree	\$36,794

*MHH share, event held in partnership with Hospice Orillia

Ways to Give

Celebrating the life of a cherished individual through hospice memorial donations is a beautiful gesture. Hospice memorial donations, regardless of their size, play a crucial role in enabling care services, acquiring necessary equipment and supplies, and facilitating staff training.

Patio stones are another way that loved ones can both remember and support Mariposa House Hospice. These stones are found all around the grounds and gardens. We invite you to take a stroll and read the many touching, inspiring, and sometimes humorous ways our past residents have been memorialized.

Butterfly Club

Our Butterfly Club members have chosen to make sustaining donations to Mariposa House Hospice. At a determined frequency (monthly, quarterly, annually) Butterfly Club members provide crucial funding that allows our team to meet its essential mission.

Statistics F2024-25

RESIDENTS AVERAGE STAY

112 14 days

Occupancy Rate

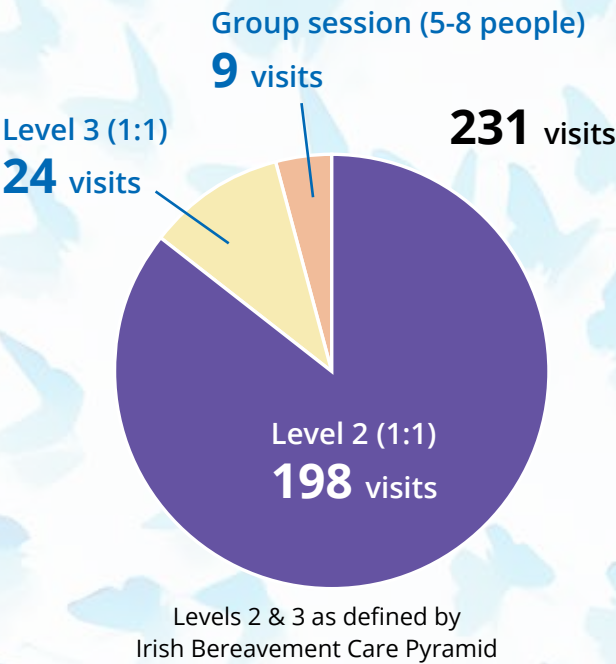
2023-24 2024-25
85% 82%

CLINICAL CARE HOURS (F2024-25)

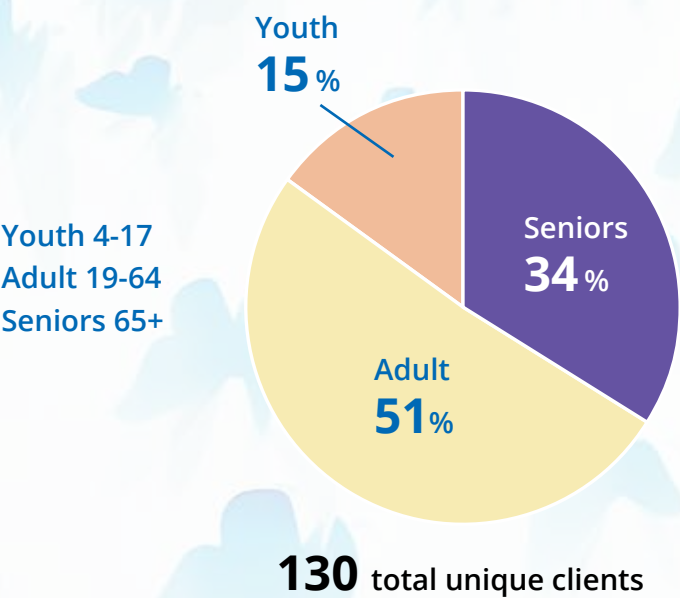
Provided by
nurses (hrs)
9,419

Provided by
PSWs (hrs)
9,169

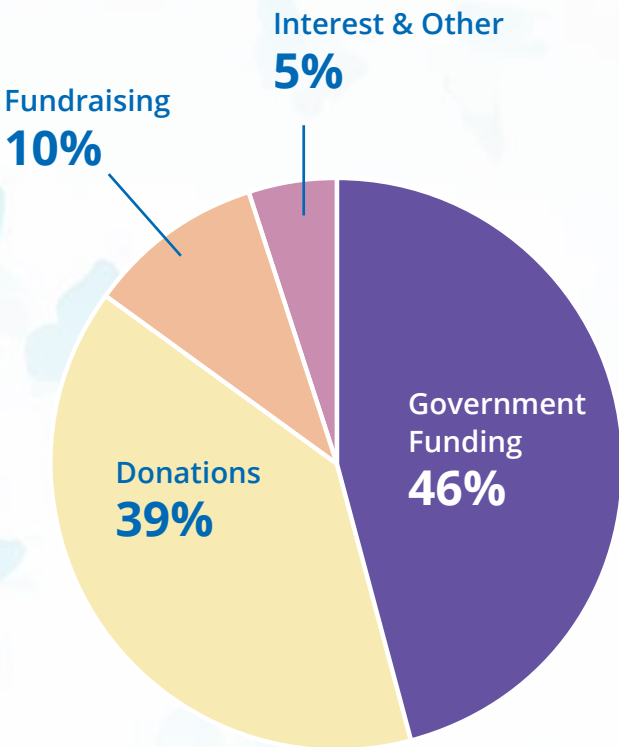
GRIEF & BEREAVEMENT VISITS
(A new service offered by Mariposa House Hospice
beginning in August, 2024)



GRIEF & BEREAVEMENT SESSIONS BY AGE



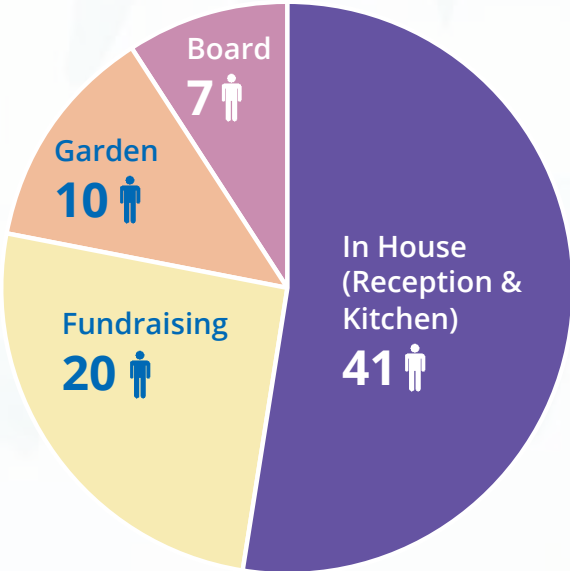
REVENUE BY SOURCE



VOLUNTEERS

Number of
volunteers
78

Hours
donated
7,083



RESIDENT STORY

The Unforeseen Embrace: The Beard Family's Journey at Mariposa House Hospice

Life has a way of presenting us with challenges we never anticipate, and sometimes, in the midst of profound difficulty, a beacon of unexpected comfort emerges. For the Beard family of Oro-Medonte, January 2025 brought such a challenge, followed by an experience of care and compassion at Mariposa House Hospice that would forever alter their understanding of end-of-life support.

They sought a place where she could find peace, dignity, and expert care in her final days

"It was all a little overwhelming, and I couldn't have done it without the hospice," shared Randy Beard, reflecting on a period that tested his family's resilience in ways they could scarcely have imagined. The new year had barely begun when the family made the difficult, yet necessary, decision to admit Sylvia Beard, Randy's beloved mother, to Mariposa House Hospice. They sought a place where she could find peace, dignity, and expert care in her final days, a place that could provide the comfort and support that home care, despite their best efforts, could no longer fully offer.

Just days after Sylvia settled into her room, an extraordinary and deeply poignant turn of events unfolded. Randy's wife, Val Beard, Sylvia's daughter-in-law, also found herself in need of the specialized care that only a hospice could provide. In a twist of fate that was both heartbreaking and oddly comforting, Val was admitted to the room directly across the hall from

Sylvia. The Mariposa House Hospice became, for a brief but profoundly significant time, a shared sanctuary for two cherished members of the Beard family.

Val's journey to hospice had been a testament to her strength and Randy's unwavering devotion. "Val wanted to stay at home and I tried my damndest to do it and I did my best," Randy recounted, his voice tinged with the exhaustion and love of those challenging weeks. He had poured every ounce of his energy into fulfilling Val's wish, navigating the complexities of round-the-clock care. The demands were immense, a relentless cycle of physical and emotional exertion that left little room for rest. "It's a day and night process and we couldn't handle it," Randy explained.

The turning point came unexpectedly, a moment of serendipity that Randy now views with profound gratitude. "Then one day we were going out the door and I saw Erika (Dr. Erika Catford) driving by and I waved her in. I told her things were not going well and she took care of the rest." Dr. Catford's timely intervention was a lifeline, a compassionate hand that guided them through the overwhelming process of transitioning Val to hospice care. The relief that washed over Randy in that moment was immense, a recognition that they no longer had to bear the weight alone.

With both Sylvia and Val under the compassionate roof of Mariposa House, the hospice transformed into a central gathering place for extended family and so many friends. Randy, his son Jacob, sister Lorie, brother Steve, and Val's sisters Robin and Kelly



The family room and the kitchen became spaces for quiet conversations, shared meals, and moments of collective support.

found solace and strength in the hospice's welcoming environment. The family room and the kitchen became spaces for quiet conversations, shared meals, and moments of collective support. They took turns holding Sylvia's hand, offering comfort and presence, ensuring she felt surrounded by love. The staff at Mariposa House became an extension of their family, providing not just medical care, but emotional sustenance, understanding, and gentle guidance through an unimaginably difficult period.

The unique proximity of Sylvia and Val, though born of sorrow, allowed for a shared experience of comfort and familial closeness, even as they navigated their individual paths. The hospice provided an atmosphere where peace was prioritized, where pain was managed with expert hands, and where every moment was treated with dignity and respect.

Sylvia Beard passed away peacefully, surrounded by the quiet love of her family and the gentle care of the hospice team. Just twelve days later, her daughter-in-law, Val, also found her peace within the same compassionate walls. Their parallel journeys through Mariposa House Hospice underscored the profound impact of its mission.

"We appreciated it so much. It was more than I ever thought it would be," Randy Beard concluded, his words a testament to the invaluable role Mariposa House Hospice played in their lives. In a time of overwhelming grief and logistical complexity, the hospice provided not just a place of care, but a haven of support, allowing the Beard family to focus on what truly mattered: being present with their loved ones, offering comfort, and saying their goodbyes in an environment of profound peace and dignity. Their story is a powerful reminder of the essential, heartfelt work carried out every day at Mariposa House Hospice.



Our Vision For The Future

Our robust new five-year Strategic Plan charts a course through 2030. It is a comprehensive roadmap, formed through a collaborative effort involving staff, volunteers, regional partners, and our dedicated board members.

Our plan calls for the doubling of our capacity – to expand Mariposa House Hospice to a 10-bed facility.

In order to realize our vision, we are launching a new Expansion Capital Campaign in September, 2025.

For a copy of our Audited 2024-25 Financial Statements, please contact: ted@mariposahousehospice.com

Get In Touch

Mariposa Hospice House

1140 Brodie Drive
Severn, Ontario
L3V 0V2 Canada
705-558-2888
705-558-2889 Fax
info@mariposahousehospice.com

 [@mariposahousehospice](https://www.instagram.com/mariposahousehospice)

 [facebook.com/mariposahousehospice](https://www.facebook.com/mariposahousehospice)

 [mariposa-house-hospice](https://www.linkedin.com/company/mariposa-house-hospice)

www.mariposahousehospice.com

