

2022

In 2021 the Commandery distributed a total of C\$301,383 to 21 different charities and a further roughly \$375,000 in 2022.

This included major grants to Pallium Foundation of Canada (developing the Canadian Atlas of Palliative Care, to identify areas of strength, excellence and weakness). In addition, a significant number of medium size grants were made. For example, grants went to British Columbia Bereavement Helpline (extend existing operating hours), BC Hospice Palliative Care Association (help fund a Grief, Bereavement and Mental health Summit), Comox Valley Hospice Society (develop two new mobile apps to augment bereavement services) and BC Pain Society (fund the bi-weekly, two-hour online Pain Support and Wellness Group sessions).

Additionally small grants went to numerous charities, including The Bloom Group (support the Indigenous Peer Support Group, providing Hospice care to local

indigenous people), Canuck Place Children's Hospice (to support an enhanced community care program) and Cowichan Valley Hospice Society (to provide toys, books and educational materials to the Sovereign Order of St. John Children's Play Area).

This can only be a brief summary of all the work done. For greater detail please refer to the Vancouver Almoner Committee Annual Report for 2021 (available online)

2020/21

SMALL GRANTS (up to CAD\$10,000)

Bloom Group

Bereavement Counselling Program

The Bereavement Counselling Program provides free, accessible and ongoing bereavement counselling to families in Vancouver who have lost a loved one. Families and individuals who have lost a loved one at Cottage Hospice and May's Place will be given priority while the service will also be accessible by the community. This new, unique program, supported by SOSJ, builds on grief counselling currently offered while the loved one is in hospice, making it possible for the first time to extend much-needed care and support to families continuing to struggle with their grief and loss.

Approved Funding \$3,000

Canuck Place

Enhanced Community Care Program

Canuck Place's Enhanced Community Care (EEC) Program addresses the needs for complex medical in-home clients in Vancouver and Abbotsford. ECC provides community based pediatric palliative care to children and families across the province of BC. This program works with and improves upon existing regional health services by bringing specialized medical care to children with complex, life-limiting illnesses via in-home care, telephone & video conferencing, and our 24-hour nursing line. This program is open to families in need, anywhere in the province, all at no cost.

Approved Funding \$7,500

Fort Nelson Hospice Society

Hospice Centre

Northern Rockies Municipality is a large area of remote, isolated communities in North Eastern British Columbia. It suffers a chronic shortage of services and Hospice is able to assist many people who would otherwise have no support for grief and caregivers. Fort Nelson Hospice Society is expanding its programs and providing groups for caregivers, adult grief support groups, teen grief support groups, one-on-one counselling sessions, and social engagements, including barbecues and luncheons.

Approved Funding \$3,750

Fraser Valley Federation of Hospices

Federation of Hospices—Fraser Region

The creation of a Fraser Valley Federation of Hospices is to provide a more integrated and coordinated approach to hospice palliative care (HPC) in the Fraser Valley area covering twelve hospices. The project will include the establishment of an Alliance, building a well branded campaign, “We walk with you”, and the exploration of models of successful collaboration.

Approved Funding \$7,500

Hospice Society of the North Kootenay Lake

Community Outreach and Grief Support

The Hospice Society of North Kootenay Lake is a small rural hospice society serving a community of about 2500 residents with a small yet dedicated team including volunteers. The Community Outreach and Grief Support program is designed to meet the needs of community members. These needs have been identified through research, readings, partnerships and connections with health authorities, other hospices and organizations such as BCHPCA, CHPCA and other stakeholders such as SOSJ and other funders in the area of Hospice Palliative Care.

Approved Funding \$3,000

Kalein Hospice Centre Society

Nav-Care

Nav-CARE, a rural, community-based program, is connecting clients living with serious illness to community services and health resources and improving their quality of life. This program allows older adults to remain in the comfort of their homes, while maintaining their societal connections. Individuals are visited regularly by specially trained volunteers, who advocate, facilitate community connections, coordinate access to services and resources, and promote active engagement within the community.

Approved Funding \$7,000

Mission Hospice

Child and Youth Grief and Bereavement Groups

The child and youth grief groups in the Mission community includes the Circle of Friends, for children ages 6 to 12 years old and takes place in the Mission hospice after school. Additionally, youth support groups, for ages 12 to 15 years take place during school hours in the counselling room at each middle school one day a week. The teen support group, for ages 17 to 19 is held in the local high school and one-to-one. 25 children and youths are able to attend camp at Zajac Ranch each year.

Approved Funding \$2,000

Pacific Rim Hospice

Child/Youth Grief Program in Ahousaht (aahuus ath)

The Pacific Rim Hospice Society (PRHS) is continuing to build on its child and youth grief program in Ahousaht, BC. Located 45 minutes by boat, north of Tofino, Ahousaht is a mighty First Nation's community with approximately 1100 people. Children, youth and their families face death, often with traumatic circumstances (boat accidents, suicide etc.), and grief permeates the community. Pacific Rim Hospice is hiring a registered clinical counsellor to provide grief and loss counselling in group settings; grief and loss education to elementary and secondary school aged young people; and create a new peer support program— giving youth tools to support one another.

Approved Funding \$7,500

Peace Arch Hospice

Dying to Learn More

Peace Arch Society's 'Dying to Learn More' series is a free educational program that is offered three times per year, and examples of topics include: Advance Care Planning, the Grieving Process, Palliative Care, Care for the Caregiver, and more. Sessions include community members, hospice society staff, and/or volunteers as speakers, and attendees receive food and refreshments, as well as valuable resources to take home with them.

Approved Funding \$5,000

People for a Healthy Community on Gabriola Island Society

Building a Compassionate Community

Gabriola Island Society is a new member of the Vancouver Island Hospice Federation and establishing its home hospice program. The purpose of the program is to raise awareness of home hospice in the context of a compassionate community, holding public events, training existing volunteers, doing friendly visits, and supporting families and volunteers.

Approved Funding \$5,000

Victoria Hospice

Bereavement Assessment Tool Development

Victoria Hospice is developing a tool that provides a short method to assess the intensities of bereavement in a multicultural community. The development includes a complete literature review, meetings with grief counselors to determine their exact needs, and creating a prototype of the bereavement assessment tool for testing. This tool will fill the tremendous need for bereavement support for family and caregivers, extending before and after the death of palliative care patients.

Approved Funding \$10,000

Trail Hospice Society and Castlegar Hospice

Nav-Care Training—Trail and Castlegar

SOSJ is supporting Trail and Castlegar Hospices to hold a two-day Nav-CARE training in the Genelle Community Center. Both Hospices were participants in the initial Nav- CARE research project in 2012-2014 with UBC Okanagan and Dr. Barb Pesut.

The Nav-Care program addresses the issues of living with a chronic life-limiting illness by training experienced hospice volunteers to be navigators. These navigators visit clients in their homes to help them navigate the complex health care system and find ways to keep them socially integrated in their community.

Approved Funding \$1,000

Victoria Hospice

Compassionate Connections: Enhanced Support for Palliative Caregivers

This specialized volunteer training program will allow volunteers from Victoria Hospice's three covered communities to support caregivers who wish to care for their loved one at home. Not only will this support healthy aging, both for the person with the serious illness and the person caring for them, it will help to reduce strain on our medical system from hospitalization, exhaustion, and patients having to spend their final days in unfamiliar or new environments.

Approved Funding \$10,000

British Columbia Bereavement Helpline

Grief Support Helpline, Online Grief Education and Training

The development of the Online Grief Education and Training program will bring more education and training to British Columbians, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. BCBH has traditionally provided grief education and training in-person. Human resources, geography and budgetary limits prevent the organization from providing education and training services more than a few times a year and only within a limited geographic reach. Support of this online program will greatly enhance bereavement services to all British Columbians.

Approved Funding \$7,500

Desert Valley Hospice Society

Facilitator Training for Grief Support Groups

Desert Valley Hospice has provided training for the development of a Group Grief Support Program. This new program will help alleviate social isolation and COVID-19 and provide clients with a means to stay connected as they navigate the ritual of mourning and alleviate risks of serious mental health issues.

Approved Funding \$2,500

Oceanside Hospice Society

Staffing-On-Call Supervisor

The project has provided staffing of an on-call-counsellor for Oceanside Hospice Society. Demand for this program has increased due to the isolation and anxiety caused by the COVID-19 epidemic. The Oceanside community has a very high percentage of seniors who make up the majority of its clientele and the addition of a virtual on-call-counsellor is expected to reduce the uncertainty experienced by clients regarding their safety and lack of face-to-face sessions with loved ones. Client sessions with the on-call-counsellor will be conducted via Zoom.

Approved Funding \$5,000

Room 217 Foundation

Music Collections 3 & 4

The introduction of a sustainable music care program, delivered by Room 217 Foundation to St. John Hospice at UBC. Music (live and/or recorded) in hospice/palliative care settings, has been shown to impact health care in many ways. A variety of studies have been conducted to examine the effects of music in palliative care, including pain and symptom management support, emotional processing, building awareness of loss, assistance with life review, and relationship completion. Room 217 collection is a resource that can be delivered by non-musicians, e.g., palliative care by all care partners including patients, family members, staff members and volunteers.

Approved Funding \$5,000

Flatten the Curve Masks

COVID-19 Response—Flatten the Curve (FTC) Handmade Masks

The volunteer group, Flatten the Curve Handmade Masks, is dedicated to producing cloth masks to increase the availability to at-risk individuals, newcomers to Canada (refugees), medical clinics, hospices, women's shelters, mental health housing, and home support agencies in Vancouver.

Approved Funding \$5,500

L'Arche Greater Vancouver

Accessibility for Adults with Developmental Disabilities at L'Arche

The redevelopment of L'Arche's main building has created the need to find alternate housing for the people who have been living in the 3 homes housed there. The project is the renovation of a new house, which L'Arche purchased to relocate the people from the third home. This new house, once made fully accessible and safe, will allow L'Arche to provide care and support for five individuals with developmental disabilities (65 – 84 years) including: daily living support, spiritual support, companionship, aging support, and palliative care, when the need arises. SOSJ is supporting the creation of a ramp.

Approved Funding \$7,500

Life and Death Matters and HPCO

Life and Death Matters and Hospice Palliative Care Ontario are developing an innovative, competency based Online Palliative Care Certificate Program for Personal Support Workers with

a focus on palliative care. The course includes five introductory core modules, which can be taken independently, and an additional ten modules to achieve a full course package. Completion of the entire 15 modules in the course will provide the learner with a National Palliative Care Certificate for Personal Support Workers.

Approved Funding \$7,500

Burnaby Hospice Society

Registered Clinical Counsellor & Bereavement Coordinator

Burnaby Hospice Society is building a virtual grief lending library to assist those grieving during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds will go towards purchasing eBooks as well as a subscription to Overdrive, which mimics a local library. Anyone needing the resources on grief will be able to view the titles and borrow the eBooks for a certain time period. All resource services are offered free of charge to residents of all ages living in the Burnaby and surrounding areas.

Approved Funding \$2,000

Pain BC

Development of Pain BC's Pain & Wellness Fundamentals: An Online Self- Management Education Program for People with Chronic Pain

Pain BC is developing an innovative educational program that will support the 1 in 5 people living with pain to develop skills to better manage their chronic pain. This online program focuses on improving the quality of life of adults living with pain, including pain from other chronic and life-limiting conditions, at all stages of life. The program is accessible as a self-referred, stand-alone resource for anyone with pain. It will also be used as a prerequisite to/in concert with any of the pain programs offered by health authorities within BC, be utilized by primary care providers, and can be integrated into diverse health care contexts.

Approved Funding \$7,500

MEDIUM GRANTS (CAD\$10,000 to 100,000)

Pacifica Treatment Centre

Integrated Trauma Resiliency and Recovery Pilot Study for Women and Men in Recovery from Substance Dependency.

Pacifica conducted a pilot study for women and men in recovery with an integrated trauma resiliency component. As a non-profit community-based organization, Pacific provides In-residence rehabilitative treatment of substance dependency (addiction) within a 35-bed, home-like facility. The intensive 12-week treatment program is trauma and violence informed and incorporates varied clinical methodologies and techniques to serve the often-complex needs of

individuals and families experiencing the challenges associated with substance dependency, mental health and/or trauma.

Approved Funding \$20,000

The Dugout Drop in Society

Kitchen and other General Maintenance Upgrades

The Dugout, a supportive safe space where people in the DTES can come for breakfast, a snack, coffee, and enjoy company and conversation, has not had any kind of upgrade for decades. Approximately 600 individuals are served daily, 365 days per year at the Dugout. This project includes dedicated resources for maintenance upgrades with new flooring, repairs, painting to the interior and facade, cordoning off from the kitchen space when not in use, the purchase of a big screen TV, and blinds for the front windows.

Approved Funding \$26,304

Hospice Care Alliance British Columbia

Implementation of the 10-Step Forward for the Hospice Care Alliance British Columbia

Hospice Care Alliance British Columbia has a joint vision for hospice care in BC. Hospice organizations, regional health authorities, the Government of British Columbia, community organizations, and other key stakeholders are coming together to implement the 10-step path into action to overcome some of the challenges that our healthcare system is currently experiencing and improve the quality of life for all British Columbians living with serious illnesses and their caregivers. The success of the important work planned by the Alliance is expected to have ground-breaking results in HPC across BC and beyond.

Approved Funding \$20,000

100 Mile House Hospice

Acute Care Palliative Hospice Unit

100 Mile House Hospice is improving care for palliative individuals who are in acute care because they have medical care needs that are critical or more complex than can be managed in the Hospice Suite or at home. The old maternity wing in the 100 Mile District General Hospital is being converted into an acute care palliative hospice appropriate space. People facing the end of life in acute care can now do so in a less clinical and more home-like environment. The space is thoughtfully designed with attention to comfort and dignity to help lessen stress and loneliness and make the unbearable as graceful as possible.

Approved Funding \$33,900

Camp Kerry Society

Kaleidoscope 2020: A Virtual Grief Convention for Families and Professionals

This four-day event (September 24-27, 2020) was available to grieving families, frontline health care workers, grief and loss professionals and volunteers across Canada. The caliber of speakers from across North America was exceptional and exciting. Keynote speakers (Dr. Lorraine Hedtke, Dr. Patch Adams, and Ann Douglas) are internationally renowned for their accomplishments and expertise in the fields of therapy, medicine, and parent education. Alannah Donahue spoke on behalf of the commandery

Approved Funding \$50,000 (2020)

LARGE GRANTS (CAD\$100,000 and over)

Canadian Atlas of Palliative Care – British Columbia Edition

The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem (SOSJ), Vancouver Commandery and Pallium Canada are pleased to announce a new funding partnership to develop the British Columbia edition of the Canadian Atlas of Palliative Care – a first of its kind for the province.

In collaboration with the University of British Columbia, the Canadian Atlas of Palliative Care – BC Edition will implement a systematic and coordinated method of assessing the status of palliative care across the province. The Atlas will map out existing strengths, areas of excellence, and gaps across all regions within the province with respect to palliative care. This research will then be translated into powerful and visual user-friendly tools to foster improvements in the timeliness, access to, and availability of palliative care in BC.

The use of palliative care Atlases, as mapping approaches of service availability and systems performance, has proven very useful around the world. They have acted as catalysts for change and have helped funders, policymakers, the media, health care analysts, health care planners, educators and the community improve their understanding of palliative care systems and form the foundation for ongoing efforts to ultimately provide timelier, more effective, and compassionate palliative care.

2019

- **Camp Kerry:** Camp Kerry provides counseling, education, and support services for BC children, youth, and families coping with serious illness; its vision is of a society where no child, adult, or family ever has to walk through grief alone. As well as its year-round programming, Camp Kerry delivers the BC Family Bereavement Retreat program, a four-day retreat for up to 35 families, supported by 60 volunteers, to focus on the grieving process in a safe place. SOSJ's funding will allow Camp Kerry to secure the use of a long-term site for the delivery of the BC Family Bereavement Retreat program and support the enhancement of its current Youth Bereavement program. The grants were

\$50,000 for the Family Bereavement Program and \$25,000 for the Youth Bereavement Program.

- **BCHPCA Small Grants:** During 2019 the Commandery awarded a total of \$56,000 to various small grant projects for BCHPCA.
- **Provincial Hospice Working Group:** SOSJ is one of five (5) founding members of the Provincial Hospice Working Group (PHWG). The goals of the working group are to better coordinate resources and develop an integrated, strategic approach to hospice palliative care (HPC) across BC in consultation with key stakeholders. Since its inception it has conducted a survey of hospices, with a 75% response rate, and on November 13, 2019 the Group facilitated a round-table discussion with 38 key stakeholders from across the province—SOSJ provided \$10,000 towards this event.



- **Dugout:** The Dugout Drop-in Centre and ‘community living room’ is a supportive safe space where people in the DTES can come for breakfast, a snack, coffee, and enjoy company and conversation. Approximately 600 individuals are served daily, 365 days per year. The grant of \$11,500 supports the robust food program and daily AA sessions.



- **100 Mile House Hospice:** As part of the Small Grants program this Hospice was awarded \$5,000 to support development of grief and bereavement programs.
- **Hospice Society of Columbia Valley:** As part of the small grants program, they were awarded \$4,000 to support advanced care planning sessions in the community.
- **St. John Hospice Standby Generator:**
 - The Vancouver St. John Hospice was completed about 7 years ago with the installation of a standby generator installation deferred based on the low risk of power interruption due to underground services. This proved to be an erroneous assumption that did not appreciate frequent new construction activity impacting the power grid. Recognizing the impact on patient care these interruptions were having, the Vancouver Commandery commissioned an electrical engineering firm to design and prepare tender specifications for the installation of the standby generator.
 - The initial total project cost estimate was \$ 220,000 and as a result of a vigorous cost engineering and bidding process we were able to deliver the completed installation for \$ 175,000. Our design team was also able to aesthetically treat the exterior of the generator so as to minimize the visual impact on the high-quality landscaping and exterior aesthetics.

- Mission accomplished and patient care assured.



2018

- **Cowichan Hospice Project:** Cowichan Hospice House is building a stand-alone 10-bed hospice in Duncan BC to support local communities. SOSJ Vancouver and Victoria Commanderies have partnered with the society to support the Children's Room. Vancouver Commandery provided \$80,000 to this project.



- **BCHPCA 2019 Education:** In previous years British Columbia Hospice and Palliative Care Association held an annual two-day education conference in Vancouver. In 2019 it adjusted its model to host relevant workshops in all four regions of BC in collaboration with the BC Centre for Palliative Care. The Commandery grant of \$25,000 supported the development of conference and regional workshops.

2017/2018

- **Purdy Pavilion Residential Care Project:** Provided four renovated hospice rooms, one for each floor – it has now been completed. Each room is warm and welcoming for patients who are near end-of-life and their families. They no longer have an institutional feel but a home like ambience with complimentary wall colour, window covering, floor covering, lighting and comfortable furniture for family staying over (hide-a-bed). Each room has appropriate tasteful signage indicating SOSJ sponsorship. Commander Anne Rowland brought all her talents to bear on this project. There will be a formal dedication ceremony later in the year. We hope to shortly have six Nurse Educators identified who will be funded to take the ‘Intensive Medical Course in Palliative Care’ offered by Victoria Hospice
- **Cottage Hospice Painting Project:** The Cottage Hospice is a 10 bed hospice located in a heritage building on Vancouver’s eastside, operated by the Bloom Group. The SOSJ funded a \$9000 grant to fund the painting of 10 patient rooms and bathrooms.
- **‘Because We Care’ Outpatient Clinic:** This clinic will be attached to The North Shore Hospice but with separate entrance. SOSJ is partnering with the North Shore Palliative Care Program in providing a \$150,000 pledge spread over two years to support this new Outpatient Clinic. It will manage pain and other symptoms for patients with life threatening illness to avoid the delays of treatment in the Emergency and Chemotherapy

units and unnecessary hospital admissions. This clinic is very innovative, the first of its kind in BC and possibly Canada. With our pledge SOSJ is sponsoring the reception area where our support will be acknowledged with appropriate signage.

- **Environmental Scan of BC Hospices and Hospice Societies:** Vice Almoner Dame Susan Scott Gabe with help from Lorraine Gerrard, BCHPCA Executive Director has completed a comprehensive survey of all the existing hospices, palliative care programs, hospice societies in BC. Data collected includes: demographics, areas served, cultures served, number of beds, active volunteers, local training programs, annual number of patients served etc. This information will be invaluable for the SOSJ in planning our allocation of charitable resources and expertise going forward.
- **The Downtown Eastside Hospice:** The SOSJ is hoping to partner with Vancouver Coastal Health in building a new hospice in the Downtown East Side serving Vancouver's most marginalized citizens. The new hospice will be a 10,000 square foot facility occupying the fourth floor of a new building in the heart of the DTES. The first three floors will provide comprehensive medical, social welfare and addiction services provided by Vancouver Coastal Health. The floors above the hospice will be to provide social housing. The land is being donated by VCH and the developer is BC housing. To create the hospice, SOSJ will pledge up to \$1.5 Million over four years. This project closely aligns with our mandate to serve the Lord's sick and poor.
- **Proposal for a St John Endowed Chair in Palliative Care at UBC:** BC has a number of excellent Hospices including our own at UBC. Bill C277, a national policy mandating palliative care as a right for all Canadians is before the federal government. There remains one missing initiative to ensure that quality palliative care is available throughout BC and Canada. The missing piece is the updating and lifelong continuing education of all healthcare practitioners, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, medical students and, in the era of medical assistance in dying, lawyers, professional colleges and others. To achieve a widespread knowledge and ongoing update on advances in palliative care, a powerful educational initiative by a strong educational institution is needed now and into the future. This initiative requires an eminent, internationally recognized advocate who can effectively communicate with the public, with his/her academic peers, a professional college, government and the media to ensure a new initiative and ongoing cooperation in the provision of palliative care to all citizens of BC and Canada. A strong advocate as the first St John endowed Chair in Palliative Care at UBC would make UBC a Centre of Excellence in Palliative Care.
- **Prince George Hospice:** Chevalier Howie Charters has been in preliminary discussions with the Prince George Hospice Society. They have asked for our help. They are early in their planning process.
- **Terrace Hospice Society:** Ongoing advice is being given to this Hospice Society by our Vice-Almoner, Ross Sharp. There may be an opportunity to develop models of palliative care in small remote First Nations Communities that provide needed medical support but are sensitive to the local culture. We had a meeting with one of the executive members in Vancouver early this year to discuss ways we may be able to help.
- **BC Hospice and Palliative Care Association:** The BCHPCA is focused on the importance of advance care planning and the advocating for equitable access to responsive quality care for end-of-life patients and grieving loved ones. Its membership consists of individuals and organizations that deliver hospice/palliative care and

bereavement services and programs across BC. Their direct services include assistance to patients ‘navigating’ the health care system, education, promoting volunteer participation, supporting hospice societies, their staff and board members, advocating with government and collaborating on leading research in the field. They now develop and host the BCHPCA Annual Conference in Palliative Care. The costs of attendance, including travel and accommodation, can be significant for their members outside the lower mainland. These are the organizations whose members need the education and networking the most. The SOSJ has provided \$25,000 as the lead sponsor for the 2018 BCHPCA Annual Conference. This sponsorship includes exhibit opportunities, guest registrations, and awards luncheon attendance.

2015

- **Christchurch Cathedral:** Support of the necessary renovations of this cathedral and the improvement of its kitchens, providing about 36,000 meals annually for the homeless and disadvantaged of the downtown of Vancouver. \$50,000.
- **BC Hospice and Palliative Care Association:** To facilitate the formation of the BC end of life coalition formed by the University of BC Palliative care division, the BC Center for Palliative Care, (both headquartered in the St John Hospice UBC), and the BC Hospice and Palliative Care Association. This will strengthen ties between academic medicine, the Government initiative in the Provincial end of life care action plan and private hospice and palliative care facilities. \$5,000.
- **BC Hospice and Palliative Care Association:** To allow professional rewriting and editing of an Advance Care Planning training manual, and allow its distribution throughout BC. This is intended to ensure a wider education and involvement in this important personal planning activity critical to improved palliative care and the sustainability of the Health System in BC. \$25,000.
- **Pacific Rim Hospice Society:** Remote First Nations communities on the West Coast of Vancouver Island experience unusually high traumatic deaths and suicide rates. Culturally sensitive counselling and other support will be provided in one community Ahousat, and started in another remote community: \$5,000.
- **Camp Kerry:** Children who recently suffered bereavement benefit greatly from the friendship and support of peers, particularly participating in group activities. Camp Kerry will develop a community choir for children and parents. Science indicates this is a very powerful healing modality in children. \$5,000.
- **Comox Valley Hospice Society:** The early evening or “settling time” in hospices can be difficult. Music therapy and healing touch can be very effective in allowing relaxation and providing comfort at this time. Enhancement of an already successful program will be provided. \$5,000.
- **Mission Hospice:** Children 6-12 who have suffered bereavement will be sent to Camp Zajac for a week. This riding camp encourages friendship, reduces isolation and is known to improve recovery and ultimately success in future endeavours at home and school. \$5,000.
- **North Okanagan Hospice Society:** A well-known national expert will facilitate a series of community learning programs “Living Well / Dying Well.” Evaluation of the effects of the events will be used to plan future such events. \$5,000.

- **Various Donations:** There are other smaller disbursements each being between \$500 and \$2,000 in most of the years.
- In 2015 two projects in which the Commandery has a strong interest received a total of \$2.53 million. The advocacy contributing to these large donations, to the Abbotsford Hospice Society and the BC Hospice and Palliative Care Association, was provided by members of the Vancouver Commandery. Further advocacy is expected to bear additional fruit later in 2015. No Sovereign Order funds were spent on this activity.

2014

- **[St. John Hospice](#):** Ongoing funding of the 2012 capital project completed. Members of the Commandery managed the recovery from burst pipes. Funding was completed and the Hospice put in service. As noted in 2012, \$5.3 million.
- **Camp Kerry Society:** Support of a successful youth bereavement program, of great benefit to many youth, from a variety of cultural backgrounds. This donation was particularly to assist in the employment of a year round counsellor to enhance the annual Camp. \$5000.
- **Fraser Canyon Hospice Society Camp Skylark:** A three day camp for children aged 7-12 who had suffered bereavement sometimes in extreme circumstances. Supported also by the BC Ministry of children and families. \$5,000.
- **Mission Hospice Society:** Training sessions for 40 volunteers for the Hospice. \$4,000.
- **Nanaimo Community Hospice Society:** The incidence of suicide in partners of those who have committed suicide themselves is very high. (10%) The award allowed for a doubling in facilities and programs offered to surviving partners: \$5,000.
- **Oceanside Hospice Society:** The donation is to help develop and implement a new concept, the client navigator, to assist those who have been involved in a recent bereavement.. It mirrors the patient navigators used in hospitals to allow navigation of the complexities of medical care. \$5,000.
- **Castlegar Hospice Society:** The donation supports a new concept of a drop in center to provide support for those recently bereaved. This award allows the use of a physical space and the development of a bereavement “kit” to assist in carrying out the numerous tasks which those who have been bereaved need to deal with. \$5,000.

2013

- **[St. John Hospice](#):** Ongoing capital funding of the 2012 project.
- **Christ Church Cathedral:** In support of the Centenary Celebrations of this iconic church providing pastoral support for the residents of Vancouver and services to the disadvantaged in the downtown area of Vancouver. \$5,650.
- **Camp Kerry Society:** Innovative bereavement support for children youth and families. These are science based peer group programs which can have a lifelong effect particularly on youth. Inspirational leaders and community support provide coping tools, positive memories and helpful connections to others with similar experiences. \$5000.

- **Comox Valley Hospice:** Enhancement of their website, particularly related to advance care planning and development of tools to assist in volunteer training. Volunteers donate 23,000 hours of service annually. The donation will help provide accessible and cost effective technologies to allow increased knowledge of “having the talk” about mortality. \$5,500.
- **Comox Valley Hospice:** The non-profit society has 160 volunteers and proposed to enhance retention and continuing interest for volunteers through development of online training and by augmentation of classroom training currently used. The donation was to address multiple different concepts and training options to assist volunteer training. \$5,900.

2012

- [caption id="attachment_948" align="alignright" width="400"]



St. John Hospice,
Vancouver[/caption]

St. John Hospice: Funding of the planning, architectural conceptions, construction, building equipment and furnishings was started. This project was conceived, planned, designed and built by the Commandery. The funds were raised largely from members with an assist through BC Housing. The 99 year lease of land negotiated with the University of British Columbia represented value in the region of \$7 million while the cost of the building was \$5.3 million. The website is at stjohnhospice.ca

- **BC Hospice and Palliative Care Association:** This important association started to experience increased support from volunteer board members, improved support of members and stabilisation of its staff. The ongoing support has helped to foster resurgence in its fortunes and capabilities. \$27,500.

2011

- **BC Hospice and Palliative Care Association:** The BCHPCA represents many BC hospices and palliative care organisations. It is the main organisation for the Province with over 160 individual and group members. The Commandery has supported them for over 10 years. Strategies to improve the oversight capabilities and functionality of the BCHPCA were devised. \$30,000.

- **Chilliwack Hospice Society:** This Hospice provides over 660 hours particularly for its relaxation program. The award allowed for an increase in the number of volunteers by 8 with a corresponding increase in hours of service within the hospice. \$5000.
- **Comox Valley Hospice Society:** This hospice provides bereavement support for 170 new clients per year. The award allowed development of training materials, workshops and consultations to build the community bereavement support capacity. \$5000.