



Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller



2021 ANNUAL REPORT ALMONER COMMITTEE

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

Chair Succession Planning:

- Susan Scott Gabe completed a highly successful term as Co-Chair of the Committee on December 31, 2021. We are indebted to Susan for her tireless efforts to improve the quality of grant request evaluations and increasing the visibility and relevance of the Order in the provincial and national palliative care spheres
- With Susan's departure, Jennifer Clarke and Martin Glynn agreed to serve as Co-Chairs of the Committee along with John Jennings. John will retire from the Committee on December 31, 2022, leaving the Committee in their capable hands

New Member Recruitment:

- In 2021, Dr. Suzanne Lewis joined the Committee and Martin Glynn rejoined the Committee
- Several members of the Committee will be retiring at the end of 2022, generating the need for recruitment of new members. The skills matrix developed in 2020 will be used to determine the target skills sought in new members
- Members interested to serve on this important Committee should make their interest known to any of John Jennings (john@jennings.ca), Jennifer Clarke (jpclarkex@gmail.com), or Martin Glynn (martin@martinglynn.ca)

Remembering:

- Dr. David Hardwick, a long-serving member of the Committee passed away in 2021. David left a legacy of service and good humour

Outreach and Brand Awareness:

- SOSJ was successful in submitting an abstract to the 2021 BC Patient Safety Council Quality Forum on behalf of the Provincial Hospice Working Group, held in February 2021. Over 1,200 participants attended the Forum, our largest exposure to date. A link to the presentation is found [here](#)
- In May 2021, the Committee hosted over 300 participants for the inaugural Grant Recipient Webinar, featuring all the small grant recipients in 2020. A link to the presentation is found [here](#). The Committee intends to make this an annual event, with the 2021 Grant Recipient Webinar to take place in May 2022
- The Committee was invited to participate in several other outreach initiatives, indicative of the increasing awareness of our work in palliative care and other project funding.

Governance:

- The Committee's Terms of Reference (TORs) were reviewed and updated during 2021

DASHBOARD (JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST 2021)

	2021	2020	Increase/(Decrease) 2021 vs. 2020
# of requests for funding	29	44	(15)/34% decrease from 2020
# of requests approved	21	27	(6)/22% decrease from 2020
# of requests declined	8	17	(9)/53% decrease from 2020
\$ value of requests for funding	\$504,574	\$575,674	(\$71,100)/12% decrease from 2020
\$ value of requests approved	\$301,383	\$272,454	\$28,929/11% increase from 2020
\$ value of requests declined	\$203,191	\$303,220	(\$100,029)/33% decrease from 2020

ALMONER COMMITTEE MEMBERS – 2021

Susan Scott Gabe ¹

John Jennings ²

Jennifer Clarke ³

Martin Glynn ⁴

Barbara Brink ⁵

Alanna Donahue ⁶

David Hardwick ⁷

Suzanne Lewis ⁸

Deborah Meredith ⁹

Ross Sharp ¹⁰

Marvin Storrow ¹¹

¹ Susan Scott Gabe retired from the Committee as Co-Chair on December 31, 2021.

² John Jennings will complete his final term as Co-Chair on December 31, 2022.

³ Jennifer Clarke assumed the role of Co-Chair on January 1, 2022. Her final term concludes on December 31, 2026.

⁴ Martin Glynn assumed the role of Co-Chair on January 1, 2022. His final term concludes on December 31, 2027.

⁵ Barbara Brink will complete her final term on December 31, 2022.

⁶ Alanna Donahue will complete her final term on December 31, 2022.

⁷ David Hardwick passed away during 2021.

⁸ Suzanne Lewis joined the Committee in 2021. Her final term concludes on December 31, 2027.

⁹ Deborah Meredith will complete her final term on December 31, 2025.

¹⁰ Ross Sharp will complete his final term on December 31, 2022.

¹¹ Marvin Storrow will complete his final term on December 31, 2025.

2021 FUNDING REPORT

			PAYOUT	PAYOUT
			2021	2022
Nature of Grant	Name of Organization	Grant Request	Approved	
Small Grants				
	The Bloom Group	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$5,000
	Burnaby Hospice Society	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
	Canuck Place Children's Hospice	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
	Christ Church Cathedral - Maundy Ministries	\$6,950	\$4,000	\$4,000
	Cowichan Valley Hospice Society	\$3,195	\$3,195	\$3,195
	Greater Trail Hospice Society	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700
	Hospice Society of Columbia Valley	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
	Life & Death Matters	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Lumara (Camp Kerry)	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
	Nanaimo Community Hospice	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
	Revelstoke Hospice Society	\$6,000	\$4,300	\$4,300
	Terrace Hospice Society	\$1,188	\$1,188	\$1,188
	Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
	Approved Small Grants - Total (13 grants)	\$79,033	\$71,883	\$71,883
Medium Grants				
	BC Hospice Palliative Care Association	\$25,000	\$7,500	\$7,500
	British Columbia Bereavement Helpline	\$26,980	\$20,000	\$20,000
	Comox Valley Hospice	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Kalein Hospice Society	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
	Lumara (Camp Kerry)	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
	Pain BC Society	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
	Sunshine Coast Hospice Society	\$10,750	\$7,500	\$7,500
	Approved Medium Grants - Total (7 grants)	\$157,730	\$125,000	\$95,000 \$30,000
Large Projects				
	Pallium	\$104,500	\$104,500	\$104,500
	Approved Large Grant - Total (1 grant)	\$104,500	\$104,500	\$0 \$104,500
	All Approved Grants - Total (21 grants)	\$341,263	\$301,383	\$166,883 \$134,500
	Declined Small Grants - (5 grants)	\$35,000		
	Declined Medium Grants - Total (3 grants)	\$128,311		
	Declined Large Grants - Total (0 grants)	\$0		
	All Grant Requests Received - Total (29 grants)	\$504,574		

LEADERSHIP

PROVINCIAL HOSPICE WORKING GROUP

SOSJ is one of five (5) founding members of the Provincial Hospice Working Group (PHWG). Formed in 2019, the goal of the working group is to better coordinate resources and develop an integrated, strategic approach to hospice palliative care (HPC) across BC in consultation with key stakeholders.

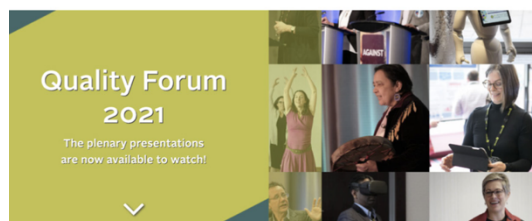
In 2020, PHWG developed this report—[Hospice Care in British Columbia: The Path Forward](#) with key recommendations. It has been circulated to hospices and stakeholders around the province with excellent feedback and full endorsement of the plan. SOSJ is actively supporting this initiative with financial and in-kind resources. The PHWG is actively promoting the 10-Step path forward contained in the plan.



OUTREACH AND BRAND AWARENESS

The Almoner Committee's outreach activities were limited in 2021 due to the global pandemic. However, we had the opportunity to present online at several important events. The following provides details regarding some of the activities our committee was engaged with:

BC PATIENT SAFETY & QUALITY COUNCIL



TOPIC Hospice Care in British Columbia—The Path Forward Annual Quality Forum 2021

EVENT Annual Quality Forum 2021

PRESENTERS Provincial Hospice Working Group: (SOSJ, Victoria Hospice, BCHPCA, Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices, and BC Centre for Palliative Care)

DATE February 2021

SOVEREIGN ORDER OF ST. JOHN, KNIGHTS HOSPITALLER



TOPIC 2020 Provincial SOSJ Grant Recipient Webinar

EVENT Webinar

PRESENTERS Vancouver Commandery, Almoner Committee

DATE May 2021

VANCOUVER ISLAND FEDERATIONS OF HOSPICES



TOPIC Presentation of SOSJ Activity on Vancouver Island

EVENT Webinar

PRESENTERS Vancouver Commandery, Almoner Committee

DATE June 2021




STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

IMPLEMENTING SOSJ's MISSION AND VISION

The Almoner Committee has incorporated SOSJ's refreshed mission and vision developed in 2020 to ensure that grant applications are aligned with our three strategic priorities: strengthening compassionate communities of care, training and education, and innovation and excellence. The committee has amended the decision-making grant vetting tool to reflect these priorities. Below is a sampling of our 2021 grant recipients, allocated by category.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2021 Projects

	 Compassionate Communities	 Training & Education	 Innovation & Excellence
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bloom Group • Hospice Society of Columbia Valley • Revelstoke Hospice Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burnaby Hospice Society • Christ Church Cathedral • Kalein Hospice Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comox Valley Hospice Society • Sunshine Coast Hospice Society
Provincial / National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canuck Place • Pain BC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pallium Canada • Life & Death Matters • Lumara (formerly Camp Kerry)
Capital Projects	N/A	N/A	N/A

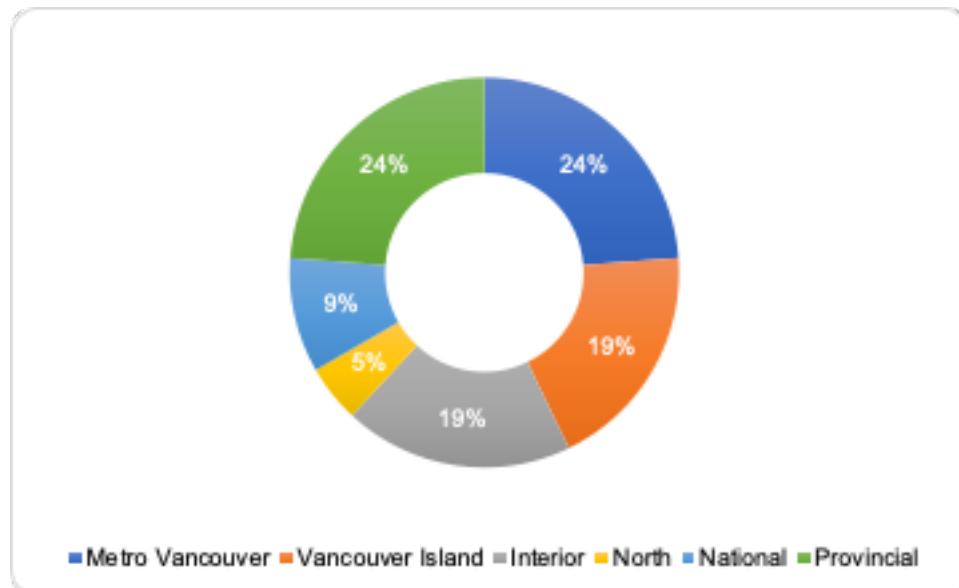
Mission

To advance care of the Lord's sick and poor primarily by playing a leadership role in delivery and funding of a more all-encompassing approach to Hospice Palliative Care based on embracing three priorities: strengthening compassionate communities of care, training and education, and innovation and excellence.

2021 PROJECTS

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE OF PROJECTS

The following provides a breakdown of the geographic locations of successful grant recipients between January 1 and December 31, 2021. Compared to 2020, there has been an increase in interest from provincial and national organizations applying for SOSJ grants and a decrease from Fraser Valley. Otherwise, there is good representation across the province.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

We have identified the successful grant applications using the following SOSJ strategic priority icons.



**COMPASSIONATE
COMMUNITIES**



**TRAINING &
EDUCATION**



**INNOVATION &
EXCELLENCE**

SMALL GRANTS - 2021

THE BLOOM GROUP



Indigenous Peer Support Program

The Indigenous Peer Support Program (IPSP) will make hospice care more accessible and appropriate for Indigenous individuals of Vancouver's DTES community and the Lower Mainland. The Program will ensure May's Place hospice is a viable option for Indigenous people so they can live out their last days in comfort and dignity. The IPSP will improve access to May's Place by increasing outreach into the community to consult, inform, promote, coordinate, and build relationships to increase the number of Indigenous people accessing May's Place. Outreach will focus on developing relationships and coordinating services with community health service providers such as hospitals and healthcare agencies. The IPSP will help connect residents to Indigenous services in the community that they may benefit from accessing, as well as coordinate individuals receiving in-house visits from Elders and cultural groups.

Approved Funding: \$5,000 (67% of request)

BURNABY HOSPICE SOCIETY



Burnaby Hospice Society Bereavement Volunteer Growth Program

Burnaby Hospice Society's (BHS) Bereavement Program supports Burnaby residents experiencing grief due to the death of someone they care about. Our Bereavement Program Coordinator (BPC), Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC), and trained and dedicated volunteers bring understanding, listening skills and support to help people find comfort during grief. This project builds a new direct bereavement volunteer training and development program. Further this project includes development training, best practices within volunteer bereavement programs, regular support from our qualified staff, and continuous improvement training. This will be managed through a new software program, InfoAnywhere.

Approved Funding: \$7,500 (100% of request)

CANUCK PLACE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



Enhanced Community Care Program

The Enhanced Community Care Program (EEC) provides community-based pediatric palliative care to children and families across the province of BC. This program has grown year over year and saw a significant increase, particularly with Virtual Physician Consults with both families and community caregivers, during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21 (a 79% increase over the previous year). Fraser Valley continues to be the fastest-growing region in BC and still accounts for an average of 46% of families across all Canuck Place Children's Hospice programs.

Approved Funding: \$3,000 (100% of request)

CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL



Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Instructor Training

The Maundy Ministries is located at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver's downtown core. Program participants include seniors, refugees, those precariously housed, those suffering from mental health and or addictions, and families. Unfortunately, there are crisis moments that require training to handle compassionately for the safety of everyone present. The NVCI training equips people to make quick and decisive safe decisions. Training a staff member to teach and facilitate the workshops would not only be cost effective, it would allow the scheduling of regular training opportunities to serve the larger community as well, including Maundy participants as many are seniors and vulnerable adults.

Approved Funding: \$4,000 (58% of request)

COWICHAN VALLEY
HOSPICE SOCIETY



Toys, Books, and Educational Materials for Sovereign Order of St. John Children's Play Area

Cowichan Valley Hospice society (CVHS) will furnish the SOSJ Children's Play Area with appropriate toys, books, educational materials, and comforts to support their healthy processing of a loved one's death.

Approved Funding: \$3,195 (100% of request)

GREATER TRAIL
HOSPICE SOCIETY



Grief Support Facilitator Training

Greater Trail Hospice Society will use the funding for training to allow volunteers to feel confident leading groups.

Approved Funding: \$3,700 (100% of request)

HOSPICE SOCIETY OF
COLUMBIA VALLEY



Supporting and Training Adults to Help Children/Youth with Loss & Grief Process

This project aims at developing a comprehensive approach for adults to support children and youth as they navigate grief and heal from loss, whether from death, divorce/separation, deployment, or other challenges. The program will be free for all participants, regardless of economic, racial, gender, or religious backgrounds. HSCV intends to train adults in the community; including parents, hospice volunteers, and other professionals that will be confident in supporting children and youth in their loss. The benefits of inclusion and open and honest communication with children and youth about loss and death is crucial to their ability to do well in all in social areas of their lives. This proposed initiative will aim at assisting adults understand grief and loss in children/youth so they can help them through the process in a healthy manner.

Approved Funding: \$7,500 (100% of request)

LIFE AND DEATH MATTERS



Canadian Palliative Care Education for Personal Support Workers—Online

This grant proposal requests funding to support the ongoing development of an innovative, competency based, online, palliative care education program for Personal Support Workers (PSWs). With support from St John's of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, Life and Death Matters completed development of the first online module. The pilot opened on December 1, 2020 with 55 Health Care Assistants from the First Nations Health Authority enrolled. This funding will support development of the second module with a scheduled start date of February 2021.

Approved Funding: \$10,000 (100% of request)

LUMARA GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT CARE SOCIETY



Kaleidoscope 2021: A Grief Convention for Families and Professionals

This conference gathers a community of people impacted by serious illness, grief and loss to share in three remarkable days of connection, inspired learning and hope. The conference includes a wide range of workshops, an Indigenous Wellness learning stream, community-building activities and support groups for children and adults.

Approved Funding: \$7,500 (100% of request)

NANAIMO COMMUNITY HOSPICE SOCIETY



Expansion of Child and Youth Program

Nanaimo Community Hospice Society will hire an additional part-time counselor to ensure that it can see all the children and young families who are being referred to its program due to COVID-19.

Approved Funding: \$7,500 (100% of request)

REVELSTOKE HOSPICE SOCIETY



Pals/Palliative Program

The Pals visitation program leads into its role of providing palliative care for citizens of Revelstoke. The Pals program began in 2010 to engage RHS volunteers until their services were needed for more urgent palliative referrals. The visitation program is provided by volunteers to isolated seniors. Eligible persons may live on their own or in residential care facilities and have little to no interaction from family; Pals volunteers become that designated person and provide weekly visits in person, via Zoom, over the phone or through a window. Pal's offers isolated and vulnerable members of Revelstoke a visit in hopes of creating a meaningful connection until their end of life, where the RHS Palliative program picks up. RHS programs need specifically trained volunteers to provide services and improving our online presence is vital to this success.

Approved Funding: \$4,300 (72% of request)

TERRACE HOSPICE SOCIETY



InfoAnywhere

Terrace Hospice Society (THS) will purchase licenses for InfoAnywhere for two people (one volunteer and one staff member) for twelve months. InfoAnywhere will replace THS's current paper system of recording information related to clients, volunteers and members. Once the volunteer and staff member become familiarized with this service, it will significantly improve the organization of information which in turn will lead to having more time available to promote THS's services and support community members.

Approved Funding: \$1,188 (100% of request)

VANCOUVER ISLAND FEDERATION OF HOSPICES



Data Collection & Analysis of Member Services

Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices (VIFOH) will hire a contractor to work with Federation members (12 Hospice programs) to establish and collect standardized metrics about the delivery of hospices services across Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

Approved Funding: \$3,000 (100% of request)

MEDIUM GRANTS - 2021

BRITISH COLUMBIA BEREAVEMENT HELPLINE



Expansion of the Helpline Program

The project will extend the existing operating hours of the BC Bereavement Helpline, as well as adding a text support feature to existing email and phone options.

Approved Funding: \$20,000 (74% of request)

BC HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE ASSOCIATION



Grief, Bereavement, and Mental Health Summit

Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices (VIFOH) will hire a contractor to work with Federation members (12 Hospice programs) to establish and collect standardized metrics about the delivery of hospices services across Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

Approved Funding: \$7,500 (30% of request)

COMOX VALLEY
HOSPICE SOCIETY



There's an App for that - Digital Apps to Support Bereavement and Healing

Comox Valley Hospice Society (CVHS) sought funding to allow it to provide clients with digital access to some of CVHS's bereavement support programs through the use of customized mobile "Apps". COVID protocols have motivated many people to adapt to technology more readily than they might have prior to 2020 even among older demographics. At the same time, particularly among women, younger Canadians, Indigenous people, and immigrants is the number of people reporting an increase in stress and anxiety, depression, worsening mental health, economic hardship and concerns for family members.

CVHS believes that by augmenting bereavement support services through readily available user-friendly apps, more people in the community will be able to access the tools they need to process their grief in a safe and comfortable way, in places and ways that are convenient for them.

Approved Funding: \$10,000 (67% of request)

KALEIN HOSPICE
CENTRE SOCIETY



Nav-CARE Expansion to Nakusp

Nav-CARE is a compassionate community-based program that aims to improve the quality of life of adults living with chronic illness, social isolation or increased frailty. Nav-CARE was designed to address these needs that fall outside of the responsibilities of healthcare providers. Nav-CARE provides volunteers with a specially designed training centered on the quality-of-life concerns experienced by adults with declining health. Volunteers are then matched 1:1 with clients to assist with the client and family priorities. Volunteers have the luxury of time to engage, listen, support decision-making, and assist clients with practical things that help to meet their needs. By participating in the Nav-CARE program, the anticipated result is that clients will have increased awareness and access to community-based services that can help meet their daily needs, will feel more connected to their community, and be better equipped to age-in-place.

Approved Funding: \$15,000 (100% of request)

LUMARA GRIEF AND
BEREAVEMENT CARE
SOCIETY (formerly
Camp Kerry Society)



2021 marked the third and final year of a \$150,000 commitment to Lumara.

Approved Funding: \$50,000 (100% of request)

PAIN BC SOCIETY



Pain Support and Wellness Groups

Pain BC's peer-led Pain Support and Wellness Groups (PSWGs) offer opportunities for people with chronic pain to meet regularly and build a community of psychological and social support while learning about pain, pain management and coping strategies. The PSWGs integrate the power of psycho-educational groups, with content relevant for people who live with pain, with the life-changing potential of peer support and connection. Each bi-weekly two-hour online session allows participants to share their experiences, discuss self-management skills and take part in gentle movements as a group.

Approved Funding: \$15,000 (100% of request)

SUNSHINE COAST HOSPICE SOCIETY



Green Sleeve Program

The Green Sleeve Green Sleeve Program is a new advance care plan (ACP) program led by Sunshine Coast Hospice Society (SCHS) in collaboration with BC Emergency Health Services, Shishalh Nation, Shared Care, and the Sunshine Coast Division of Family Practice. A Green Sleeve is a kit that stores important medical and ACP documentation to be used by first responders, medical professionals, and loved ones so they know a patient's wishes for care in case of an emergency or a serious decline in health. SCHS produces and distributes the kits and provides workshops and trained ACP volunteer facilitators to support people with the completion of their ACP. The grant will go towards public marketing expenses, such as online education webinars, training of more ACP volunteer facilitators, printing of more brochures, and website development.

Approved Funding: \$7,500 (70% of request)

LARGE GRANT - 2021

PALLIUM FOUNDATION OF CANADA



Canadian Atlas of Palliative Care

Pallium Canada, in collaboration with regional, provincial, national, and international partners, is developing the Canadian Atlas of Palliative Care. The Canadian Atlas of Palliative Care BC Edition (BC Atlas) will map out existing strengths, areas of excellence, and gaps across all regions within the province with respect to palliative care. The Atlas will showcase a graphical representation of the status of palliative care in BC and serve to advance a systems-thinking approach to the BC health care system by identifying several benchmarks of excellence and leadership to drive evidence-based decision-making and patient-centered care.

Approved Funding: \$104,500 (100% of request)

SELECTED TESTIMONIALS

"Thank you so very much for the incredible grant towards our ECC program at Canuck Place. We are grateful for the continued support from you and everyone at SOSJ who have helped us grow this critical program in recent years."

Christina Boliszcuk
Philanthropy Officer- Foundations & Grants
Canuck Place Children's Hospice

"On behalf of the Burnaby Hospice Society, staff, volunteers, and the people who use our programs, thank you for your generous support. Your approval of our application in support of our Bereavement Volunteer Growth Project and your support last year of our Virtual Library Project means a lot to us and is helping us to better serve people in Burnaby grieving the loss of a loved one."

Brian Vidler
Executive Director
Burnaby Hospice Society

"Thanks again for the support the Sovereign Order of St. John provided us last year to support the development of our online pain self-management program. The program, called Live Plan Be +, is now in beta-testing and will be launched under our new "Pain Canada" national initiative at the end of March. This will be a free resource for people in pain in BC and beyond and is already attracting a lot of attention. We are working with some top caliber researchers from across Canada and hope to build in more therapeutic supports as well as formally research the impacts of the program on people with pain."

Maria Hudspith (she/her)
Executive Director
PainBC

"On behalf of The Bloom Group, I'd like to thank you very much for your donation to our music therapy program at hospice! Your generous contribution makes it possible for our end-of-life patients to benefit from the healing power of music therapy."

Cindy Graves
Director of Development and Communication
The Bloom Group

SUMMARY

The continuing global pandemic and our outreach programs have generated significant interest in our grant programs by hospices and other non-profit agencies around the province and beyond. It is an exciting time for the Almoner Committee as we define our priorities, improve our systems, and most importantly serve our communities. We look forward to another successful year in 2022 as we transition to a new leadership of the Committee, while continuing to play a leadership role in the delivery and funding of a more all-encompassing approach to supporting the Lord's sick and poor.