

Almoner Report

The Vancouver Commandery Almoner Committee had another busy year responding to requests for grants from a variety of hospice and palliative care initiatives around the province as well as for other assistance locally to the Lord's sick and poor. In 2022, there were 27 grant requests totaling \$436,640. Twenty grants were approved and awarded totaling \$265,077. In addition to our grants program, committee members have been involved in outreach, education and awareness events, with various programs interested in our Commandery's support. Vancouver Commandery is also playing a lead role in developing B.C. standards for hospice palliative care and is funding the development by Pallium Canada of a provincial atlas showing hospice and palliative care resources in B.C.

Below is a list of the organizations and programs to which the Almoner Committee recommended grants awarded in 2022. All of the organizations funded meet strict criteria, must acknowledge the SOSJ in their publications, and send us evaluation reports when the funded activity is completed so we can see the impact of the money spent.

Organization - Program Name	Grant (\$)	Program Description
The Bloom Group Community Services Society - Music Therapy Program for Hospices	\$7,500	This program provided music therapy sessions by a registered music therapist twice per week for patients at two hospices in the Downtown East Side/East end for a year.
Canuck Place Children's Hospice - Enhanced Community Care Program	\$7,500	The Canuck Place Enhanced Community Care (ECC) clinical team of highly specialized nurses coordinates extensive in-home and in-hospital care for families in need 24/7 throughout the province at no cost.
Compassionate Neighbourhood Health Partners Society - Family Caregiver Support Group	\$3,500	This Chilliwack based program offers weekly, trained peer facilitated, support groups for caregivers of frail and palliative older adults to share insights, successes, challenges and mutual support.

Greater Trail Hospice Society - Advanced Care Planning Community Presentation	\$2,680	The GTHS facilitated four community sessions for Advanced Care Planning (ACP) for end of life care.
Mission Hospice Society - Volunteer Training & Advance Care Planning	\$5,000	Mission Hospice Society offered 2 hospice volunteer training sessions to recruit 40 volunteers and 2 Advance Care Planning (ACP) community workshops.
Oceanside Hospice Society - Grief Packages	\$5,000	OHS provides grief packages to individuals and families in the community who have recently experienced a loss including information about the grieving process and about support programs and services in the community.
Prince Rupert and District Hospice Society 2009 - Zooming into Technology	\$2,175	Because of COVID this organization in a rural and remote community needed to purchase a smart TV and laptop to facilitate virtual training and virtual meetings with hospice volunteers and patients.
Revelstoke Hospice Society - Pals/Palliative	\$5,000	The Pals program supports older residents at the end stages of life with no family in the community connecting patients to social, health and other services in home and institutional care.
Room 217 Foundation - Music Care Conference Vancouver 2022	\$7,500	Room 217's Music Care Conference (MCC) is a national one-day conference bringing together community members and experts interested in music care in therapeutic settings including hospice.
Room 217 Foundation - Becoming musicare Certified	\$3,000	Musicare CERTIFY is a ground-breaking quality improvement program that provides training, processes, tools, and ongoing support for organizations to successfully complete defined criteria in 6-8 months with a 7-step purposeful process, raising the standard of how music is delivered in care.

Terrace Hospice Society - Learning and Teaching Expansion	\$5,263	Two 8-week revised volunteer training courses with information provided by the BC Centre for Palliative Care will give hospice societies and communities of the Northwest basic knowledge related to death and dying and services in their rural communities.
Abbotsford Society - Adult Grief & Loss Hospice Support Program	\$5,000	This program offered one-to-one and group grief support, webinars/seminars and events catered to adults in greater Abbotsford who have been impacted by grief and loss exacerbated by the pandemic and recent floods in the area.
Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC - Suicide Bereavement Program	\$10,000	This funding expanded suicide bereavement and suicide postvention services offering opportunities for healing and connection for those impacted by suicide loss, a need exacerbated by the pandemic.
Revelstoke Hospice Society: Hospice Public Awareness and Events	\$2,500	The RHS created events and workshops to promote awareness and empower individuals to consider their own mortality, create advance care plans and strengthen the roles of caregiver, of volunteers in end of life care.
Sunshine Coast Hospice Society - The Circle: Palliative Wellness Day Program	\$10,000	This is an innovative group wellness-focused day program that promotes wellbeing and quality of life for palliative patients and their caregivers.
Greater Trail Hospice Society - Volunteer Grief Support Training	\$2,959	To meet the burgeoning need for hospice volunteers brought on by the pandemic in 2021, GTHS developed and offered a 30 hour volunteer grief education and support program based on current best practice principles.
Victoria Therapeutic Riding Association - Program Bursary Support	\$3,000	This bursary supports the Victoria Therapeutic Riding Association (VTRA) in offering horseback riding and equine-based activities as a recognized therapeutic aid to more than 150 children and adults with diverse abilities throughout the Greater Victoria area.

Revelstoke Hospice Society - Pals/Palliative	\$5,000	The Pals program was created out of concern for older residents with no family at the end stages of life and is linked to RHS Hospice to provide support to terminal diagnosis patients.
Lumara Grief and Bereavement Care Society (total request \$180K over three years) - Building Communities of Hope	\$165,000	This is a three year grant to Lumara (formerly Camp Kerry) which offers bereavement programs to hundreds of children, youth and families in both virtual and camp based programs. Their 2022 installment was for \$65,000. Total grant accounted for in 2022.
Hospice Society of the Columbia Valley - Complicated and traumatic grief counseling	\$7,500	This supports a trained counselor with expertise in providing complicated and traumatic grief counseling on a one-on-one basis to individuals unable to progress beyond a complicated/traumatic grief.
Total Grants Funding:	\$265,077	

Hospitaller Report 2022

The Hospitaller Committee raised \$30,000 in the Virtual Hike for Hospice for Palliative Care in May 2022. The funds this year were donated to our very own St. John Hospice to help refresh and renew the hospice after the harsh chemicals took its toll on the furnishings. In particular the wood tables in the living and dining room needed refinishing, as well as the family room space and front hall/ reception sitting room. We were able to reupholster some of the worn fabric after covid, and it had been well worn after 10 years after opening. I am happy to report that it is looking like the first day we opened in 2013.

At the Christmas lunch members were asked to drop off clothing for marginalized youth at Covenant House. The Hospitaller Committee wanted a “boots on the ground” project at Xmas time so all members could participate. We donated a total of 30 new hoodies, 11 sweatpants, 7 sweaters as well as many pairs of warm socks. In addition, we donated 6 wonderful warm coats, several Gortex jackets, warm toques, pants, t-shirts and golf shirts. Charlie Kiers, Chair of the Hospitaller Committee and Heather Hamilton, Chair of the Social and Events Committee teamed up together to deliver all the wonderful donated clothing on December 14th to make sure that Santa could make his deliveries to Covenant House on Christmas Day.