



**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Durham Hospice Services Transitioned to VON Durham

(OSHAWA, ON) April 2, 2015 – On April 1st, 2015 Durham Hospice successfully transitioned the delivery of its Information and Education, Bereavement, Palliative Care, and Day Hospice programs to VON Durham (Victorian Order of Nurses).

Under the new program name, *VON Durham Hospice Services*, services continue to be provided to existing clients with no interruption and access to all services remains the same. VON is also pleased to announce that all staff and volunteers of Durham Hospice were warmly welcomed as new members of the VON family.

“Durham Hospice, through the dedication of caring staff, volunteers and donors, has provided a much needed service in the community for many years,” said Lori Cooper, District Executive Director of Community Support Services, South Eastern Ontario District, VON Canada. “We look forward to continuing to provide the high quality, compassionate care that clients have become accustomed to.”

Transition of Durham Hospice will enable staff and volunteers to offer a wider variety of programs and services and continue to identify unmet needs in the community. The office location remains the same and all donations and support should be directed to VON Durham Hospice Services at www.von.ca.

With a goal of leveraging the strength and expertise of both Durham Hospice and VON, the transition is part of a larger Community Health Services (CHS) Integration Strategy in Durham Region by the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) to address demographic pressures, adjust to changing expectations of patients and families and to meet provincial expectations on improving access, quality and value for money.

“The leadership from Durham Hospice and VON Durham – including their volunteers and staff – is to be congratulated on the achievement of this successful transition. Palliative and end-of-life clients and their caregivers will now have easier access to a wider range of services as they are supported in their choices through this phase of their lives,” said Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East LHIN.

Current VON programs and services offered in the Durham region include Palliative Pain and Symptom Management Consultation, Mental Health Case Management, Select Program

(provides professional, specialized community based supports and services to adults with developmental disabilities), Assisted Living Services for Seniors, SMART Exercise – Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together® and Blood Pressure Checks.

About VON Canada: VON is a national health organization and registered charity offering a wide range of community health care solutions that meet the needs of millions of Canadians. VON is accredited by Accreditation Canada. www.von.ca

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