



## Stories of Impact

### “Presentation Sisters Offer the Gift of Hospice”

Presentation People around the world recognize and respond to the needs of older people, the sick, and those approaching death. While much of this work is done through humanitarian aid or crisis response, it can also include end-of-life care within our own local communities. **Rose M. Daley**, Collaborator with the Presentation Sisters in Newfoundland, shares an initiative in which Presentation People worked together to address a critical need and provide end-of-life care.



In 2014, a group of health care professionals in the Central Region of Newfoundland began exploring options to address the gap that exists in the health care continuum for end-of-life care. Inspired by Dr. Lionel Kelland, whose compassion and belief that all families deserve a dignified end-of-life journey, this group of volunteers set out to create a stand-alone residential hospice to serve families of the Central Region of Newfoundland. The group wanted to develop a home away from home for palliative patients who no longer need to remain in hospital, but for various reasons are unable to be cared for at home. While there was early support for the concept, the group of community volunteers struggled with moving the project forward. In 2016, the Presentation Sisters became engaged in the effort to bring hospice care to the province.

The Presentation Sisters donated St. Catherine’s Renewal Centre in Grand Falls-Windsor to be used as a residential hospice. For decades the building had served as a school, convent and housed young women from rural areas whose education continued at St. Catherine’s School. The gifting of the building was a pivotal point in the hospice project.

The IPA gives its appreciation Justice Contact Clo Martin, PBVM for submitting this Story of Impact, and Rose M. Daley for providing the information included.

Presentation Centre is now being re-constructed to feature 10 private resident suites and spaces that enable families to be supported as they journey with their loved ones during the last days and moments of life. The care delivery model includes 24/7 medical supports and will meet the social, emotional and spiritual care needs of residents and their family members.



Scheduled to open in late spring of 2023, the building has been re-designed to become a modern, fully- equipped, 2430 square metre with spaces that allow residents and their families to share precious moments together in the end-of-life journey. In addition to donating the building and supporting the hospice financially, the Presentation Sisters provided the services of a consultant to assist with project development and fundraising, facilitating a public capital campaign which began in 2021 and is achieving success.

Since 2016, the Lionel Kelland Hospice Board of Directors have been served by Sr. Sharon Fagan, Sr. Elizabeth Lee, Sr. Lois Greene and Sr. Roisin Gannon. The Presentation Sisters' work with community leaders in Central Newfoundland has led to the development of Newfoundland and Labrador's first residential hospice for end-of-life care. Through their vision and leadership, the Presentation Sisters have enabled hospice care to become available in Newfoundland and Labrador. However, the greatest impact is yet to come. With the opening of the Hospice in 2023, hundreds of people will benefit from the gift of Hospice each year:

- Palliative residents will have the right care in the right place. Approximately 140 residents will receive the medical, emotional and spiritual care needed to enable a death with dignity.
- Families are supported during a most traumatic period; Instead of being the caregiver, a loved one may be the daughter, son, spouse, or parent.
- People struggling with loss and grief will be supported. Counselling and community outreach programs will help people understand the grief experience and find meaning after loss.
- Caregiver support programs and respite care will be available. Those providing care to a loved one at home may have a break from the stress and fatigue of caregiving.
- Health care providers will benefit from training and educational programs. The Hospice will be a provincial resource for quality in end-of-life care.

Learn more about the IPA, and explore the other Stories of Impact, at [www.globalpres.org](http://www.globalpres.org)

The Presentation Sisters have helped Lionel Kelland Hospice create a comfortable, nurturing environment, including a kitchen serving fresh, homemade meals, a living room, a sacred place and space for family members to stay overnight. The Hospice will serve people of all ages and cultural backgrounds and will offer both residential and community programs. The contributions of the Presentation Sisters will enable families to be together and say their last goodbyes in a peaceful space, when every moment matters. This project is an example of Presentation People bridging the divides of age or culture in order to earnestly seek well-being and dignity for all people.

Learn more about the IPA, and explore the other Stories of Impact, at [www.globalpres.org](http://www.globalpres.org)