



THE SALVATION ARMY AGAPÉ HOSPICE

COMPASSION | EXCELLENCE | INTEGRITY | RESPECT | ACCOUNTABILITY



A Message From The Executive Director

The Salvation Army's Agapé Hospice strives to be more than just a healthcare facility - it is a safe place worthy of being where a loved one's journey comes to a close.

I'm so proud to have an incredible staff that displays endurance, kindness, and patience. We know that watching a family member's health decline is one of life's most significant challenges, and our staff is mindful of forming connections with residents and their families and doing our best to make everyone as comfortable as possible.

Thank you to all our funders and donors for continuing to make it possible for us to provide our residents with love and dignity.



Pat Wallace | Executive Director

MISSION STATEMENT

The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world.

The Heart of the Home

Some say a kitchen is the heart of the home and that couldn't be truer at Agapé. The kitchen is a natural hub of the home and a place that brings people together. Unfortunately, our kitchen now needs a little TLC, so we can continue to provide for residents and their families. It's been 25 years since its last renovation, and all of the stainless steel appliances, cabinets, and tables are due for upgrades.

The kitchen here at Agapé customizes meals for each of our residents, day or night, and provides special treats for staff, volunteers, and families. A few times a year, a special community BBQ is held as a special way to thank everyone. It's a way to create meals from the heart with love.

One aspect of our kitchen that we're proud of is our Comfort Carts. We provide families with tea, coffee, and pastries in the hopes that it takes a small amount of stress off a grieving person's emotional plate.

We want to raise enough donations to upgrade our kitchen to continue providing meals to residents and provide a social gathering space, but more importantly, a welcoming space.



"Agapé Hospice kitchen brings real food, real people, and a real home-like atmosphere to those who need it the most."

Yvonne Caulder | Kitchen staff

The Elephant Room

The Elephant Room is a place where kids under the age of 13 have a safe place to express their feelings and ask questions about the death of a loved one to a grief professional. For Shizuko Boga, a social worker who created the Elephant Room, one child comes to mind when she reflects on the impact the room can have on young lives: a boy named Teddy*.

Teddy, a young boy, came to Shizuko a couple of years ago when his grandma was dying of cancer at Agapé. Shizuko focused on grief support and helped him during this confusing time.

A few months later, his mother called Shizuko, expressing concerns about Teddy's reaction to the death of his grandfather (on the other side of the family), who had passed away shortly after the death of his grandma. Teddy was not taking it well and started expressing concerning traits.

It's out of the ordinary for Shizuko to continue seeing clients after their loved one is no longer staying at Agapé. However, because Teddy felt comfortable with her, she resumed meeting with him. She extended her role to provide care and did sessions until she could get him long-term support. Shizuko encouraged his mother to apply for community resources that could provide Teddy what he needed.

The waitlist was around four to five months, and in the

meantime, Shizuko continued to help Teddy express his feelings through art and talking through his grief.

"We notice that children grieve in a different, unique way than adults do. They want to be included in the experience instead of being segregated," Shizuko explains. "I found that children can cope with what they know but have a hard time with what they don't know, so we need to support them."

Children dealing with grief have an increased chance of having long-term effects such as depression, behavioural issues, and increased vulnerability to physical and mental illness.

The Elephant room is important to Agapé to help children learn how to cope with losing a loved one. It's a safe space for them when they visit the center and we aim to ensure that each child who walks through those doors knows they are seen and heard.

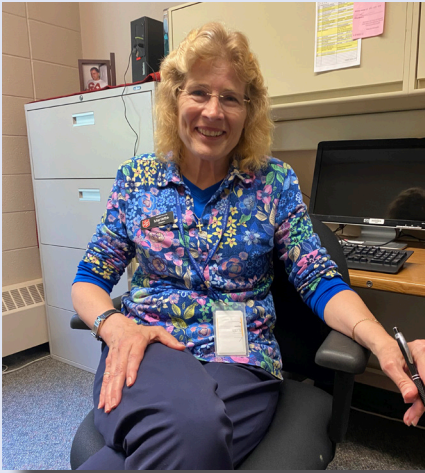
*The child's name has been changed for privacy



Shizuko Boga | Social Worker

The role that changes lives

The loss of a loved one is one of the most challenging events a person can encounter, and the grieving period after a death is a time to check in with family and friends to provide them with the support they need to move forward. That's why a Bereavement Coordinator is such a critical role for Agapé Hospicé.



Marlette Reed
Bereavement Coordinator

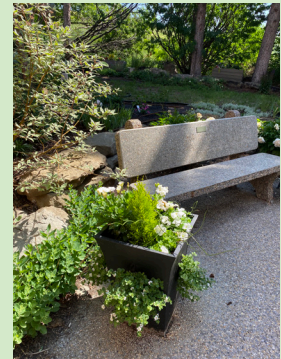
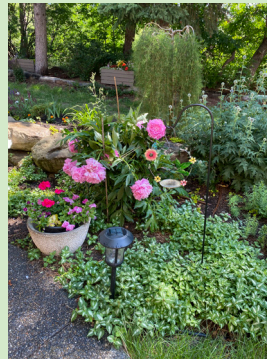
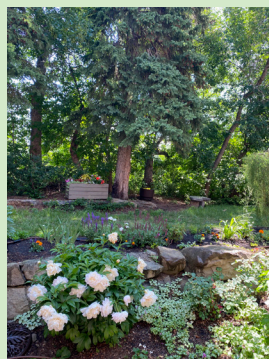
A Bereavement Coordinator ensures that family and friends of patients who have passed away at Agapé know that resources are available to help with their grieving process. Volunteers follow up with a phone call and assess whether the grieving individual is physically, emotionally, and socially doing well. If they are not, the Bereavement Coordinator will provide counseling and resources.

“There are many people without a community...” explains Marlette. “We have a number of bereaved people who are really struggling.”

Several years ago, The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice had an in-house Bereavement Coordinator working alongside Spiritual Care and Social Work departments to help support grieving individuals. Unfortunately, the difficult decision to eliminate this position due to the lack of funding happened during a time (COVID) when it was needed the most. During the next couple of years, the Chaplain and Social Worker took on the bereavement duties on top of their own, making it very challenging for all the staff.

However, in early 2022, when a donor asked what Agapé Hospice needed most, the overwhelming response from staff was to reinstate the Bereavement Coordinator position. This inquiry led to two donors generously providing funding to fill the role for one year.

The importance of a Bereavement Coordinator is significant, and we hope to continue having one at Agapé through donations. This role is helping create positive change in the lives of those still here who may be finding it difficult to move forward.



Those who plant a garden, plant serenity

Several years ago, a generous donor named Dr. Peter Geggie made a tremendous contribution to Agapé Hospice to help create the Serenity Garden located at the back of the building. Families and friends can spend time with their loved ones in this garden. It's a place of calm and serenity, which is why it's the most used space by residents.

When a family member or friend is a resident at Agapé, our role is to create an environment that feels like home and have beautiful spaces available that help momentarily escape the sad emotions one may be dealing with.

Our garden is our joy, but unfortunately, the funds provided by Dr. Geggie and others are beginning to run low. With help from our donors and community, we hope to continue maintaining the space and covering the annual costs needed to keep our Serenity Garden.





This year, I was honoured to present the staff at Agapé Hospice with a plaque acknowledging and recognizing their extraordinary and exemplary care to residents and families during the pandemic on behalf of the Canadian territory and leadership.

Their devotion and care for the residents went above and beyond as they navigated through changes and continued to provide care as families dealt with limiting restrictions on visits and time spent with loved ones. I am grateful to everyone who showed up and put the safety of our residents first.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Agapé Hospice. With your generosity, we can provide care and compassion to every family who enters our doors.

-Major Brian Venables
Divisional Commander for
Alberta and Northern Territories



Please consider making a donation at [AgapéHospice.ca](https://www.AgapeHospice.ca)
or by mail at:

The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice
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Calgary, AB
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