

Community Matters

Hospice Northwest Helps Youth to Understand Grief

Hospice Northwest is a non-profit community hospice organization that strives to help clients by providing comfort, support, and companionship to those who are dealing with life limiting illnesses or struggling with grief. They provide support for clients in their homes, hospitals, or long-term-care facilities in the Thunder Bay and district communities.

In 2022, Hospice Northwest was granted \$4,763 for their 'Family HUUG Days' program from the Ontario Endowment for Children & Youth in Recreation Fund at the Thunder Bay Community Foundation.

The 'Help Us Understand Grief' (HUUG) program was created to help children process grief after a loved one has died. The program first launched on June 11, 2022 and saw great outcomes for children and caregivers. Participants received Grief Kits and other helpful resources that aid in learning healthy coping strategies and recognizing and identifying emotions.

"Hospice Northwest Services has been a recipient of several Thunder Bay Community Foundation grants over the past several years. This money allows us to deliver services that are not funded by any other means. In December 2022, we held a Children's Grief workshop for grieving children and their families; 13 families were in attendance and one participant wrote in their post training survey that they now have the skills to speak to their child during this very difficult time. Hospice Northwest Services and its clients are very grateful to the Thunder Bay Community Foundation who provide a very meaningful way to obtain funding for important work such as ours," says Cherie Kok, Executive Director of Hospice Northwest.

The Thunder Bay Community Foundation specializes in building Endowment Funds to support the ever-changing needs of Thunder Bay. Every fall, they give grants to local organizations for programs and services that support people of all ages. "No matter how old you are, it is never easy to lose someone, but grief is especially difficult for children to comprehend. Hospice Northwest is making a difference with their Family HUUG Days Program and helping the youth in our community navigate through a difficult time in their lives. On behalf of the Thunder Bay Community Foundation Board of Directors, I would like to thank all our donors that have made this grant possible. Their generous support has enabled Hospice Northwest to help children and families in need during a time of loss," says Mike Belliveau, Chair of the Thunder Bay Community Foundation.

This year, the Thunder Bay Community Foundation will be accepting Grant Applications from September 5 - October 15, 2023. **For more information or to donate, visit their website at tbcf.org or call (807) 475-7279.**



Pictured from left to right: Ann LeBlanc, Thunder Bay Community Foundation Board Director & Cherie Kok, Executive Director at Hospice Northwest

Passionate about our Community?

Consider starting a Fund at the Thunder Bay Community Foundation!

- Support organizations and areas of need you are passionate about.
- Give students the gift of education by establishing a scholarship or bursary.

