

CASHh encourages support through April residential campaign

By Kathryn Boyle
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April is almost here, and with it comes a big month for one local organization.

For Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills (CASHh), helping those who have been touched by cancer is second nature. There's nothing this group won't do; from driving patients to their appointments to cleaning their house and yard, CASHh wants to help alleviate the stress of living with cancer by making everything they offer free of charge. But to do that, they rely on community support and April is the month they choose to go door-to-door.

By knocking on houses within Halton Hills through the residential campaign, CASHh receives about a third of their total budget for the year. The other two-thirds come from fundraisers hosted by other groups or events in

the community.

Out of their entire budget, about one-third of it goes directly to transporting patients to their appointments and back home.

They phone up and we arrange for transportation, Susan Tupling, president of the organization's board of directors, said. What's unique about CASHh is the trips are one-on-one: one driver, one patient.

I take patients, and any caregiver, to any appointment, Marian Baidacoff said, who has been a driver with CASHh for almost six years. I've been to every single hospital in southern Ontario.

For people who decide to drive themselves to their appointments, CASHh will pick up the tab for daily parking. And in some cases, Tupling says the cheque comes back as an immediate donation.

As for the rest of the budget, the money raised goes towards things like wigs, classes on how to put on make-up, hospital beds, walkers, bathroom aids and other assistances.

According to Tupling, those utilizing the services CASHh offers are amazed over and over again by the amount of support they receive, and most of the time, turn around and help out when they are finished their treatments.

People who have never experienced cancer or that sort of stress in their families don't understand the pressure, she said. But once you've been there, you understand it. I have never met anybody who's used the services who isn't an amazing supporter.

Throughout April, knocking on doors will occur all over Halton Hills with a brief explanation about CASHh's vision. For those who aren't



April is a big month for CASHh, where they receive almost a third of their yearly budget. Above, driver Marian Baidacoff, CEO Sheila Smith and board of directors president Susan Tupling.
Photo by Kathryn Boyle

home, door hangers will be provided with a donation envelope, encouraging people to give where you live.

We're a small community and it's

going back to the olden days where you used to support your own community, Baidacoff said. You're helping your neighbours, you really are.

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