



Victoria Hospice

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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VICTORIA HOSPICE *Celebrate-A-Life* LAUNCHED TODAY

Victoria, B. C. – The 24th annual Victoria Hospice Celebrate-A-Life event launched this afternoon at Hillside Centre. Staffed by volunteers, the Celebrate-A-Life display is an annual tradition running until December 20th and provides individuals and families in the community with a unique way to remember their loved ones during the holiday season.

By stepping aside from the busy holiday rush for a few moments, people can turn on a tree light in memory of someone who has died. They can also write a special message in a memorial book or on a tribute ornament that can be hung on one of the trees. All of these opportunities are available at no charge to anyone visiting the display, although donations in support of patient care and programs at Victoria Hospice will also be accepted.

“The holiday season is difficult for many bereaved people,” notes Victoria Hospice Bereavement Counsellor Marney Thompson. “Those who have experienced a loss may feel especially alone and out of step with friends and family who aren't grieving. Carrying on with familiar traditions may not feel possible. As years go by friends and family may stop talking about people who've died, and it can be difficult to speak up and say, "I'm still feeling really lonely and sad.”

“Celebrate-A-Life gives grieving people a gentle, personal way to pay tribute to people who've died,” continues Thompson. “It's a discreet and meaningful gesture that helps bereaved people to remember and acknowledge the memory of loved ones. The volunteers present at the display have chosen to be there, with open hearts, available to listen, provide comfort and share information.”

Since 1980, Victoria Hospice has provided end-of-life care focused on palliative treatment. Hospice nurses, counsellors, spiritual caregivers, physicians and trained volunteers provide comfort for patients and support for their families, rather than a cure for progressive and life-limiting illness.

Generous support from individuals, businesses and organizations in our community help to fund roughly half of Victoria Hospice's program costs. The Victoria Hospice and Palliative Care Foundation provides stewardship and growth for the funds raised to help ensure a stable financial future for Victoria Hospice. To make a donation, visit www.victoriahospicefoundation.org online, or call the Foundation at 250-952-5720.

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