

Nurses Go Above and Beyond for Victoria Hospice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (VICTORIA – July 7, 2016) – On July 23rd and 24th, the fourth annual Cycle of Life Tour presented by Think Communications will take place. The nearly 200km two-day cycling tour aims to raise funds and awareness for quality palliative care across Vancouver Island. Since 2011, the tour has raised more than \$230,000. This year’s tour has so far reached just over 50% of its fundraising goal.

Of the eighty riders participating many see the direct impact that quality palliative care can have on patients and their families on a day-to-day basis. Individuals like Jamie Linstead, one of several tireless Victoria Hospice nurses raising funds (and cycling a great distance!) to support quality end-of-life care.

Jamie says her participation is a natural extension of her commitment to provide excellent palliative care and one of many hospice fundraisers she takes part in throughout the year. “When I came to work at Victoria Hospice, it was the first time I ever saw patient-centred care in action,” she says. “It’s such rewarding work. I think I get as much out of it as our patients do.”

Fellow Victoria Hospice nurse and Cycle of Life Tour rider, Amber Aleksich, concurs. Her mother’s cancer diagnosis and subsequent eight-year journey through chemo, pain, and uncertainty motivated Amber to become a palliative care nurse. Ultimately, she was able to help provide care for her mother as she approached the end.

“Two and a half years after her death I continue to strive to make my mother proud,” says Amber. “I now work at Victoria Hospice, and I’m excited to be part of a team of doctors, nurses, counselors, and volunteers who support hundreds of patients like my mom (and their families) each year. We can’t choose when someone close to us will need support in their end-of-life care, but we can ensure quality care for all those who find themselves in that position. Supporting riders like me makes a big difference.”

Did you know? Donations fund almost half of Victoria Hospice’s annual operating costs and are critical for the ongoing operation of programs for patients and families and for education and research. Over the past year, Victoria Hospice has raised over \$3 million dollars. This remarkable accomplishment was made possible by generous donors and community events like the Cycle of Life Tour. To learn more about any of these events or how you can support end-of-life care in our community visit www.victoriahospice.org.

VICTORIA HOSPICE

Event Details: www.cycleoflifetour.ca

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Pictured: Victoria Hospice Nurse Amber Aleksich
Photo credit: Valerie Hider