

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Care, connection and
community impact



2025
2026

MESSAGE FROM CEO

Danielle Zucchet, CEO



This year's Annual Impact Report reflects the people, programs and relationships behind Kemp Care Network's work.

Throughout 2025–2026, individuals and families continued to turn to Dr. Kemp's House for compassionate end-of-life care, and to KCN's grief and bereavement services for support after loss. Children, youth and families found connection through grief counselling, family supports and Camp Keaton. Volunteers gave their time and presence in ways that made each day feel more personal, peaceful and supported.

Behind every number in this report is a person, a family or a moment of care. This year, 167 residents were served at Dr. Kemp's House, 920 people were supported through grief and bereavement counselling, grief groups and other grief programming, and 32 children and youth attended Camp Keaton. Volunteers contributed more than 20,000 hours, and our community came together through three signature events, raising more than \$470,000 in support of care.

This was also a year of continued momentum for Keaton's House – Paul Paletta Children's Hospice. KCN worked with project partners, donors and the community to continue planning, strengthen partnerships and build the foundation for pediatric hospice care closer to home.

With the 2026–2028 Strategic Plan now in place, KCN has a clear path forward: strengthening excellence in care, ensuring long-term sustainability, moving Keaton's House closer to opening and continuing to build a strong, engaged team. Across each priority, our commitment remains the same: to provide care with dignity, compassion and connection.

To our staff, volunteers, donors, families, partners and community, thank you. Because of your time, generosity and trust, this care remains available for individuals and families across our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Zucchet". The signature is fluid and cursive.

MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

Diane Murray, Board Chair



On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support of Kemp Care Network.

This year’s report shows an organization caring for people today while also preparing for a significant next chapter. Alongside the care provided at Dr. Kemp’s House and through grief and bereavement services, KCN continued to build momentum for Keaton’s House – Paul Paletta Children’s Hospice and took an important step forward with the 2026–2028 Strategic Plan.

For the Board, stewardship means helping KCN make thoughtful decisions that protect the quality of care people rely on, strengthen the organization’s long-term sustainability and support responsible growth. It also means keeping the people and families we serve at the centre of those decisions.

The 2026–2028 Strategic Plan gives us a clear framework for that work, with priorities focused on excellence in care, financial sustainability, Keaton’s House and an engaged team. These priorities will help guide KCN as we continue to respond to community needs and prepare for the future of hospice and grief support in our region.

Thank you to everyone who continues to place trust in KCN. Your support helps strengthen care for people and families across our community.

Diane Murray

KCN MISSION & VISION

Our Vision: To establish Kemp Care Network as a regional leader in palliative care in collaboration with partners across our communities.

Our Mission: To care for every individual and their loved ones with dignity, compassion, and attention to their physical, social and psychological well-being during times of serious, life-limiting illness and loss.

YEAR AT A GLANCE



The impact of care, together

This snapshot brings together some of the people, programs and community support behind KCN's work in 2025–2026.

2025–2026 at a glance



167

Residents served



920

People supported through grief and bereavement counselling, grief groups and other programming



489

Adult clients for 1:1 grief counselling



198

Children, youth and families for grief counselling



32

Camp Keaton campers

20,807

Volunteer hours gifted by 177 active volunteers

\$470,363

Total raised in three signature events with a total of 714 attendees

A year in moments

Across the network, care showed up in many ways: at the bedside, in grief groups, through children's programs, around event tables, in volunteer moments and in the continued progress toward Keaton's House.



CARE AT DR. KEMP’S HOUSE

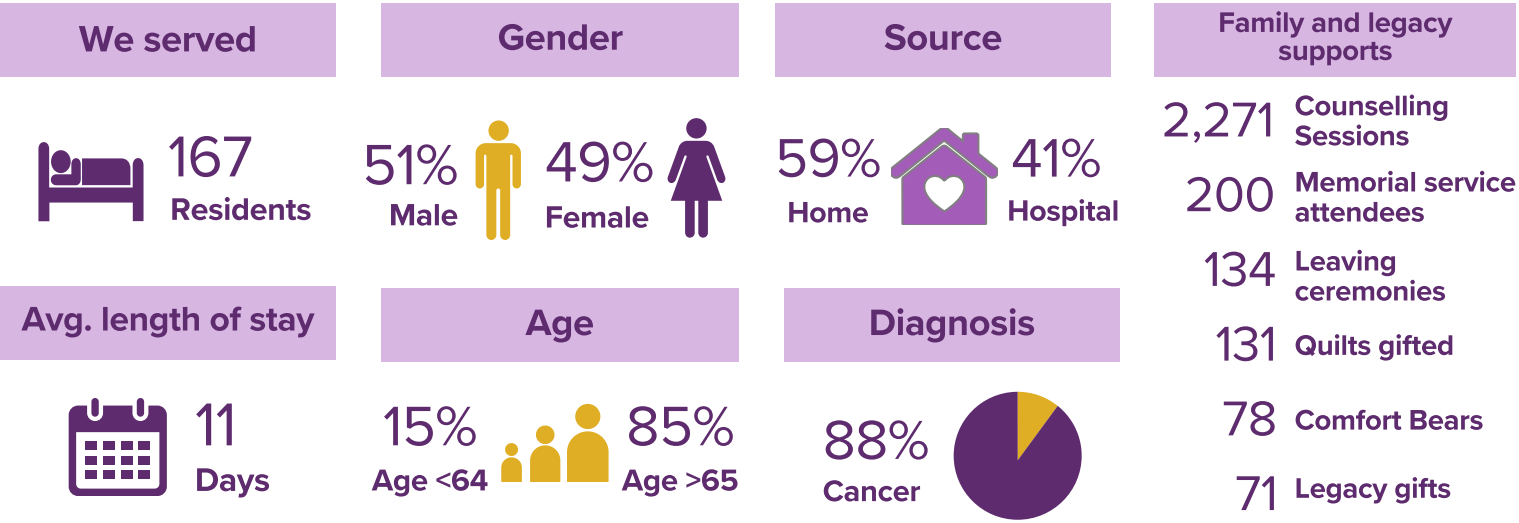


A place of comfort, dignity and support

At Dr. Kemp’s House, care is about more than medical support. It is about creating space for comfort, connection and dignity during one of life’s most difficult times.

This year, our care team, volunteers and support staff walked alongside residents and families with compassion and attention to each person’s needs. From quiet moments at the bedside to family meals, legacy projects, leaving ceremonies and memorial gatherings, every part of the experience was shaped by care.

Residential care this year



Care that honours the whole person

Every resident who comes to Dr. Kemp’s House brings a life story, relationships, routines, memories and hopes for how they want to be cared for. Our role is to honour that whole person, while supporting the family and loved ones around them.

Through nursing care, psychosocial support, spiritual care, volunteer presence and family-centred services, Dr. Kemp’s House continues to provide a home-like environment where people can receive care with dignity.

My aunt spent her final days at Dr. Kemp’s House. Throughout that time, my uncle felt comfortable and supported. I’m so grateful they could access hospice care. Having lost both my parents in hospital, this experience felt worlds away from that trauma.
- Family member of a resident



GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT



Support that continues after loss

Grief does not follow a straight path. For many people, support after a death can make a meaningful difference in how they carry their loss, reconnect with others and find their way forward.

Kemp Care Network’s grief and bereavement services support adults and seniors through counselling, groups and specialized programs. Through programs for adults, seniors, children, youth and families, KCN provides free, focused grief support that is not widely available in the Hamilton community.

Adult grief and bereavement care this year

1:1 Counselling



489
Adult clients

Grief groups and programming

233
Participants

1,228
Total attendees



40
Participants in holiday bereavement workshop (NEW)



15
Clients in Day Wellness Program

14
Clients in Volunteer Visiting Program

Six grief groups ran for eight consecutive weeks along with four additional grief programs.

The lasting impact of bereavement support

After losing her husband, Patricia came to Kemp Care Network for grief support. She began with one-on-one bereavement counselling, then joined a spousal loss group where she found connection with others who understood what she was carrying.

Over time, Patricia’s relationship with KCN came full circle. She later spoke at a symposium on palliative care at home and is now volunteering as a group facilitator, offering support to others who are navigating loss.

Her story is one example of how care can continue beyond a single moment. With the right support, people can find connection, meaning and community again.

A photograph of Patricia and her husband. Patricia is on the left, wearing glasses and a light blue top. Her husband is on the right, an older man with a grey beard, wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt. They are both smiling at the camera against a plain, light-colored background.

Patricia and her husband

[Scan to read more](#)

A square QR code located at the bottom right of the page, next to the text "Scan to read more".

“It’s not something you get over. You keep going through it.” -Patricia



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CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY SUPPORTS



Helping children and families feel less alone

Children and youth experience grief in their own ways. They may not always have the words to explain what they are feeling, but with the right support, they can begin to understand their grief, remember their person and connect with others who have experienced loss.

Kemp Care Network's children, youth and family supports create space for young people to ask questions, share memories, build coping tools and feel less alone. This evidence-informed grief care helps support children's emotional well-being, strengthens family support and can help reduce the risk of longer-term challenges after a significant loss.

Children, youth and family support this year

Grief Counselling		Grief groups and other programming	
163		22	
Sessions provided	198*	Group Participants	56
	Children, youth and families		Burger Boxes (grief kits) distributed
			26
			Parent/caregiver grief consultation sessions (NEW)

** Child, youth and family grief services were temporarily paused from November 2025 to February 2026. Parent/caregiver grief consultation sessions began in February 2026.*

Camp Keaton

Camp Keaton gives children and youth a chance to connect with others who understand grief, while also experiencing the joy, play and friendships that are part of being a child.

Each year, campers come together for a weekend of support, remembrance and fun. With the help of trained staff and volunteers, Camp Keaton creates a space where grief is acknowledged, memories are honoured and children are reminded they are not alone.

32 Camp Keaton campers



Camp Keaton gives children and youth space to remember, connect and feel less alone.

VOLUNTEERS



Giving time, presence and care

Every day, volunteers and staff help create the feeling of home across Kemp Care Network. They welcome families, prepare meals, support programs, tend to the gardens, offer companionship, assist with events and bring warmth into countless everyday moments. Their work often happens quietly, but its impact is deeply felt.

Volunteer impact this year

Volunteer Hours

20,807

Volunteer hours gifted

Volunteers

177 Active volunteers

22 New volunteers



Volunteer contributions

41 Volunteers contributed to 3 signature events

21 Volunteers contributed to Camp Keaton

More than time

Volunteers give more than hours. They offer presence, consistency and care. Whether they are greeting someone at the door, sitting with a resident, helping at a community event or supporting a family through a difficult moment, their contribution helps make KCN feel personal and connected.

Volunteer recognition

We are grateful to every volunteer who shared their time and care this year.



[Volunteer service milestones
as of March 31, 2026](#)

*A friend who volunteered at the hospice inspired me to volunteer at KCN. I started in the garden. When I fully retired, I thought more about what I wanted to do and said to myself, "What a wonderful place this would be."
-Deborah, Reception Volunteer*



COMMUNITY EVENTS



Coming together for care

Kemp Care Network’s signature events bring people together in support of compassionate hospice care, grief and bereavement support, and the future of pediatric hospice care in our region.

These events are more than fundraisers. They are moments of remembrance, connection and community. They give families, donors, sponsors, volunteers and friends a way to support care while honouring the people who matter to them.

Signature events this year

Hike for Hospice	Golf Day for Hospice	Winter Dreams Gala
 260 Attendees	 144 Attendees	 310 Attendees
\$79,116 Raised	\$139,417 Raised	\$251,830 Raised

Event impact this year

Total attendees	Total raised through signature events	Sponsors
714 across 3 events	\$470,363 Raised	91 event sponsors, with additional support from in-kind donors and community contributors

Community makes this possible

Each event reflects the strength of the community around KCN. We are grateful to every participant, sponsor, donor, volunteer and committee member who helped make these moments possible.

“Every person deserves to be surrounded by care, comfort and dignity at the end of life. By raising funds for hospice care, we help make that possible for families in our community.” - Marg Lefler, Old Republic Canada

Sponsor recognition

[Scan the QR code for our sponsor recognition list](#)



WHY WE GIVE

Giving back to the community that supported them



Bill and Denise Johnston

For Denise and Bill Johnston, supporting Kemp Care Network began with a single visit.

Several years ago, Denise became involved through Hamilton Golf and Country Club's Par for a Cause initiative, which was raising funds for Camp Erin, now Camp Keaton. As part of that experience, she visited Dr. Kemp's House for the first time.

"I was blown away," Denise said. "It's homey. It's a little less clinical, but still provides all the care that everybody needs."

That first impression stayed with her. When Bill was later contacted about supporting a KCN event, Denise already knew the organization was one their family could stand behind.

Their connection continued to grow. Their daughter, Kristen, spent two summers helping with the Day Wellness Program while she was a university student. Through the stories Kristen brought home, the family gained an even deeper appreciation for the compassion and relationships that define KCN.

Their family's support also extended to another generation. After hearing about the hospice from Denise and Bill, Bill's parents, Jim and Marlene Johnston, became supporters of Keaton's House.

For the Johnston family, giving back is part of who they are. Johnston Motors has served the Hamilton community for more than 100 years, with Bill representing the fourth generation of the family business.

"The community has been good to us," Denise said. "We feel we should be giving something back to the community."

"You don't get to be fourth generation without the community that supports you. So it makes sense to support them back." -Denise Johnston

Donor recognition

Thank you to every donor who supported Kemp Care Network this year.

[Scan the QR code to view the full list of donors who helped make this work possible.](#)



KEATON'S HOUSE – PAUL PALETTA CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



Building momentum

Keaton's House – Paul Paletta Children's Hospice continued to move forward this year as KCN worked with project partners to advance planning for pediatric hospice care closer to home.

This work included campaign planning, partnership development, architectural planning and continued development of pediatric-specific models of care.



At the site of Keaton's House

Campaign snapshot as of April 2026

Keaton's House is being made possible by families, donors, foundations, businesses, community groups and partners who believe children and families deserve more options for comfort, care and support.

Looking ahead, KCN will continue working with the City and project partners on the next steps toward construction.

 **57%** of the goal reached



Campaign supporters



[Scan the QR code to view the full list of Keaton's House campaign supporters.](#)

Learn more



[Scan the QR code to learn more about Keaton's House](#)



Exterior rendering (left) and 3D model (right)

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE



Stewarding support with care

Kemp Care Network is committed to using resources responsibly and transparently. Every donation, grant, sponsorship and fundraising dollar helps support care, programs, people and the long-term sustainability of the organization.

This financial snapshot provides a high-level view of the year. Full audited financial statements are available through the QR code on this page.

Financial Snapshot

	2026	2025
Revenues		
Grants	\$ 2,253,600	\$ 2,439,769
Donations	1,382,407	1,512,362
Special events	495,561	467,819
	<u>4,131,568</u>	<u>4,419,950</u>
Expenses		
Wages and benefits	3,386,545	3,361,289
Programs and services	151,003	155,466
Consulting and professional fees	126,757	251,548
Special events	125,458	128,882
Office and general	84,113	76,517
Repairs and maintenance	80,178	181,593
Utilities	54,806	55,455
Advertising and promotion	48,270	51,794
Interest and bank charges	41,995	32,394
Insurance	28,247	30,122
Rent	23,720	8,991
Professional development	21,975	19,509
	<u>4,173,067</u>	<u>4,353,560</u>
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses from operations	<u>(41,499)</u>	<u>66,390</u>
Other income (expenses)		
Realized gain on investments	122,224	82,107
Interest and dividends	119,854	81,654
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	92,548	94,448
Interest on loan payable	(6,583)	(13,275)
Unrealized (loss) gain on investments	(34,444)	67,246
Amortization of property and equipment	(126,396)	(134,197)
	<u>167,203</u>	<u>177,983</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	<u>\$ 125,704</u>	<u>\$ 244,373</u>

Audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2026

[Scan the QR code to read the full statement](#)



Government Funders



Government of Canada



Ontario Trillium Foundation



Hamilton

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE



Leadership governance

Kemp Care Network is guided by a volunteer Board of Directors and supported by an Executive Leadership Team and Medical Directors who help steward the organization’s mission, operations and long-term direction.

Board of Directors	Executive Leadership Team	Medical Directors
• Diane Murray, Chair • Janice Shearer, Vice-Chair • Teresa Smith, Secretary • Anna Filice, Board Member • Dr. Gerard Cox, Board Member • Joe Khan, Board Member • Joe Mercanti, Board Member • Lisa Burnside, Board Member • Dr. Lynne Norman, Board Member • Jeff Cabral, Board Member • Brady Wood, Board Member	• Danielle Zuchet, CEO • Maggie Meng, Senior Director, Operations • Robyn Knickle, Senior Director, Development Strategy • Martina Rozsa, Senior Director, Operations Pediatric Hospice • Cindy van Halderen, Manager, Psychosocial Grief and Bereavement Care and Director, Camp Keaton • Deborah Robinson, Director of Nursing Services • Aldo DiMarcantonio, Director of Finance • Claudia Cacador, Manager, Corporate and Administrative Services	• Dr. David Chan • Dr. Jane Dobson • Dr. Phil Drijber • Dr. Sumeet Khanna • Dr. Dave Lysecki, Pediatric Hospice

Strategic priorities 2026-2028

DELIVER EXCELLENCE IN CARE	LAUNCH REGIONAL PEDIATRIC HOSPICE	ENSURE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	FOSTER A VIBRANT ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE AND ENGAGED TEAM
Excellence in care is at the heart of why Kemp Care Network exists. We will advance our ability to consistently achieve exceptional outcomes by having a defined and measurable roadmap for improvement, clarifying and strengthening our models and frameworks, and thoughtfully evaluating and improving the systems and processes we use.	We will successfully complete the project to launch Keaton’s House. This transformational initiative will include raising funds, developing and deploying the operating model, completing the physical facility, and engaging key interested parties to establish Keaton’s House as a trusted resource across our region.	We will modernize our approach to pursuing fundraising, grants, and diverse funding streams to ensure a sustainable and robust financial framework. This will be accomplished through greater internal capacity, disciplined execution, and strengthened collaboration with our partners, supporters, stakeholders, and community.	We will intentionally build a thriving organizational culture where staff, board, and other contributors are highly engaged and empowered to help advance our mission. This includes planning, professional development, and a thoughtful approach to EDIB (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging)

THANK YOU

To our staff, volunteers, donors, families, partners, supporters and community: thank you.

Your time, generosity and commitment help strengthen care for people and families across our community.







www.kempcarenetwork.org

Follow Kemp Care Network for stories of care, grief support programs, community events and Keaton's House updates.

Stay connected:

KCN Facebook @ [Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice \(Kemp Care Network\)](#)

KH Facebook @ [Keaton's House Paul Paletta Children's Hospice](#)

KCN Instagram @ [kempcarenetwork](#)

KH Instagram @ [keatonshouse](#)

LinkedIn @ [Kemp Care Network](#)

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