

Purpose of Spiritual Care

Spiritual care recognizes and responds to the needs of the human spirit when faced with trauma, ill health, loss or sadness. Spiritual care may assist a patient and/or their family in finding meaning in their situation. Spiritual care seeks to assist in the (re)discovery of hope, resilience, and inner strength in times of illness, injury, transition and loss. Active and compassionate listening and support including spiritual and religious practices are some of the healing gifts offered.

Spiritual Care Practitioner Role

A spiritual care practitioner may be professionally educated in a Canadian accredited university program or may be a trained volunteer. We have both types of spiritual care practitioners in the Muskoka hospitals. Our funded Spiritual Care Practitioner is accredited with the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care and the College of Registered Psychotherapist of Ontario. All spiritual care providers have signed the MAHC Confidentiality Agreement.

Professional chaplains (spiritual care practitioners) do not displace local religious leaders, but fill the special requirement involved in intense medical environments.

You are in good hands with our spiritual care team.

History

The Muskoka Chaplaincy Association was incorporated June 13, 2006, but the seed was first planted in 2003 by the Gravenhurst Ministerial Association. By 2004, a working group of both clergy and laity saw the need for a shared chaplaincy position between the two Muskoka hospital sites. A strategic planning and visioning session was held to bring shape and accountability to the vision of a community-funded chaplaincy position. In December of 2004, a proposal was submitted to a joint SMMH and HDMH hospital board. By March 2004 the working group had established a terms of reference, and was incorporated as a non-profit charitable organization in 2006. Our first chaplain was hired in May 2007.

Contact Information

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MUSKOKA CHAPLAINCY ASSOCIATION

Spiritual Care

for patients, families & care providers



Casting Our Vision

To ensure quality, well-trained professional and volunteer spiritual care is accessible to patients, their families and our care providers in both our Muskoka hospitals and our long-term care facilities.

A Model of Partnership

“We Make the Path by Walking” (since 2003)

Muskoka Chaplaincy Association
Mission since 2003

“... Promote, Educate, Facilitate & Advocate for the religious and spiritual care needs of patients and residents in the hospitals, long-term care facilities and the community throughout Muskoka”.

These four initiatives enable a comprehensive approach to ensure the ongoing spiritual care work of a spiritual care professional in our Muskoka hospitals is well supported and well understood.

Caring for the human spirit together



Spiritual Care Practitioner, Karen Hamra

With funding support from the Muskoka Chaplaincy Association, Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare provides the services of a chaplain with scheduled times at both sites, as well as volunteer chaplains who respond to the needs of the human spirit when faced with trauma, ill health, loss, or sadness.

Muskoka Chaplaincy Association Goals

To complete our 2017 strategic plan from which the following are being drawn from

- To continue to strengthen the relationship with the hospital administration and their spiritual care focus group.
- To work collaboratively with the faith communities, Hospice Muskoka, Hospice Huntsville and the people of Muskoka to move our vision forward.
- To stabilize the volunteer structure of our board and make it more reflective of the interfaith and intercultural reality of Muskoka.
- To financially contribute to the spiritual care practitioner position through fundraising efforts and a membership drive.
- To facilitate an ongoing volunteer chaplaincy program to provide a trained pool of competent volunteer spiritual care providers.
- To explore the feasibility of an annual educational conference.
- To build up our membership.
- To remember spiritual care is sacred ground and we are privileged to be invited in.
- To establish an attitude of radical gratitude and appreciation toward all.

Interesting Quotes

“Spiritual care acknowledges that we are more than physical bodies that require medical care. Spiritual care helps to maintain health and to cope with illnesses, traumas, losses and life transitions by integrating mind, body and soul.”

“You don’t have to be religious to benefit from spiritual care. Spiritual practitioners strive to support all types of spiritual expression and religious practices, offering encouragement and solace, support for grief and loss, one-on-one visits, opportunities for prayer, meditation, reflection, and facilitation of religious and spiritual rituals as requested”

“Caring for the human spirit during times of stress and upset is what spiritual care is all about”.

We Give Thanks

Thank you to all those who have supported us thus far; your effort, hard work, and vision are appreciated and will not be forgotten.

Thank you to all those who carried and answered the beeper so faithfully even in the middle of the night.

Thank you to all those who support financially and with their prayers the vision of spiritual care accessible to all.