

Toronto Hike for Hospice on Sunday May 7th



Toronto, O.N. – The *Hike for Hospice* on Sunday May 7, 2017 features music, prizes, a barbeque and the choice of a 2 km or 5 km route through scenic Cabbagetown in Toronto. Proceeds will help to fund hospices throughout the metro area including Emily’s House, the first hospice in Toronto designed specifically for children. A frequent guest at Emily’s House is Tallula. Her father, David Smeriglio, is passionate about supporting the important work of hospices for all patients and their families.

David created “Team Tallula” and gathered a group of 40 participants who raised an impressive \$3,000 for the *Toronto Hike for Hospice* in 2016. This year, he is hoping to expand the team and boost their contribution.

David knows firsthand how vital hospice is for many people. (Toronto hospices provided end of life care to 1,782 patients in 2016 and supported family members with services such as caregiver relief and counselling.) Hospice provides quality care in comforting surroundings. At Emily’s House, staff also strive to make precious moments for the children through music therapy, a sensory room, movies, games, etc. while they enjoy the company of other children going through a similar experience.

His daughter Tallula is a fighter who has visited Emily’s House hospice since it opened nearly four years ago. She is partially blind and particularly appreciates the hospice’s music therapy program.

“Emily’s House is a century home updated with modern components; it is incredibly warm and inviting. It feels comfortable instead of institutional,” says David. “Most of the staff at Emily’s House have been there since it opened, so they know us. As a parent, it reduces anxiety to know my child is safe and happy. They do an amazing job.”

To learn more about the 15th Annual Toronto Hike for Hospice, please visit David’s Team Tallula Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1884569651761780/> or <http://www.philipazizcentre.ca/toronto-hike-for-hospice-partners-join-team-emilys-house-pac-sunday-may-7-2017/> The hike starts at 201 Winchester Street in Toronto at 11 a.m. The registration fee is \$25. Additional donations are welcome.

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