

## Team Tallula Raises More Than \$2,000 for Hospice Care



**Toronto, ON** – Thirty people came together under the banner of “Team Tallula” to raise more than \$2,000 in the 16<sup>th</sup> annual *Toronto Hike for Hospice*. This event on Sunday, May 6, raised a total of \$60,400 for vital programs and services at Emily’s House/Philip Aziz Centre and Hospice Toronto. Hospice assists approximately 1,660 individuals in the GTA and offers much-needed caregiver relief and respite. David Smeriglio is grateful for the exceptional staff and volunteers at Emily’s House and their warm welcome for his daughter Tallula, who visits occasionally. He rallies *Team Tallula* in the *Hike for Hospice* because he knows the importance of these services for all patients and their families.

“The hike went very well. Many people donated to *Team Tallula* including several from my office, Sutton West, which is encouraging and thoughtful. All of the contributions are appreciated,” says David.

Soon after the fundraiser, his daughter went into major surgery because her femur became unhinged from her hip. David notes this is common with children who have complex disorders since they involuntarily sweep their legs in one direction. The joint eventually wears out. Tallula underwent a nearly seven-hour long surgery. It was successful, and she was able to avoid a Spica (body) cast.

“There is only one paediatric convalescence home in all of the Toronto area. It is Bloorview in northeast Toronto, so we got stuck in hospital at McMaster in Hamilton then home care for the six to eight-week recovery.”

As a father of three and a busy REALTOR®, David works hard to balance his responsibilities. When Tallula visits Emily’s House, he is relieved to know she receives wonderful care. His daughter is blind with acute hearing and she particularly enjoys the music therapy program.



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