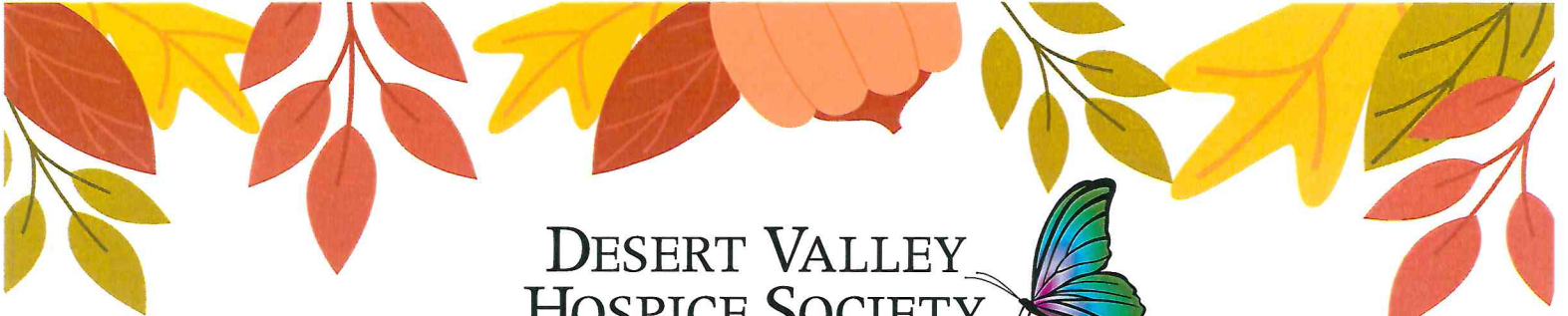




DESERT VALLEY
HOSPICE SOCIETY



FALL 2026

Newsletter

Message from the Administrator

As the warmth of summer begins to fade and the days become a little shorter, September offers us a chance to slow down, reconnect, and look ahead to the season before us. At Desert Valley Hospice Society, we continue to be inspired by the kindness and generosity of our volunteers, donors, community partners, and everyone who supports our work. Your compassion helps us provide comfort, connection, and hope to individuals and families throughout Oliver, Osoyoos, and Okanagan Falls.

This fall, we are looking forward to continuing our programs and services, welcoming new opportunities through our Compassionate Community Volunteer Navigation (CCVN) Project, and connecting with more members of our community. We are also beginning preparations for some of our annual fundraising events, including the Caring Hands Online Auction and our Memory Tree campaign, and we look forward to sharing more with you in the coming months.

Whether you attend one of our programs, volunteer your time, make a donation, or simply help spread the word about Desert Valley Hospice Society, you are making a meaningful difference. Every act of kindness, no matter how small, helps strengthen the compassionate community we are building together.

Thank you for being part of our journey and for helping us support those facing serious illness, caregiving, and grief. We wish you and your family a peaceful and beautiful September.



In Memory of...



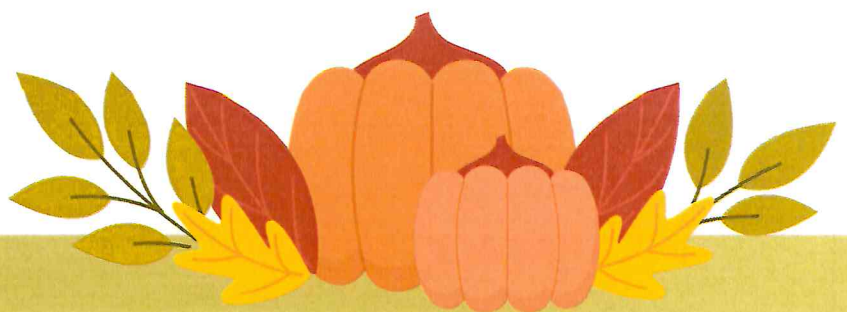
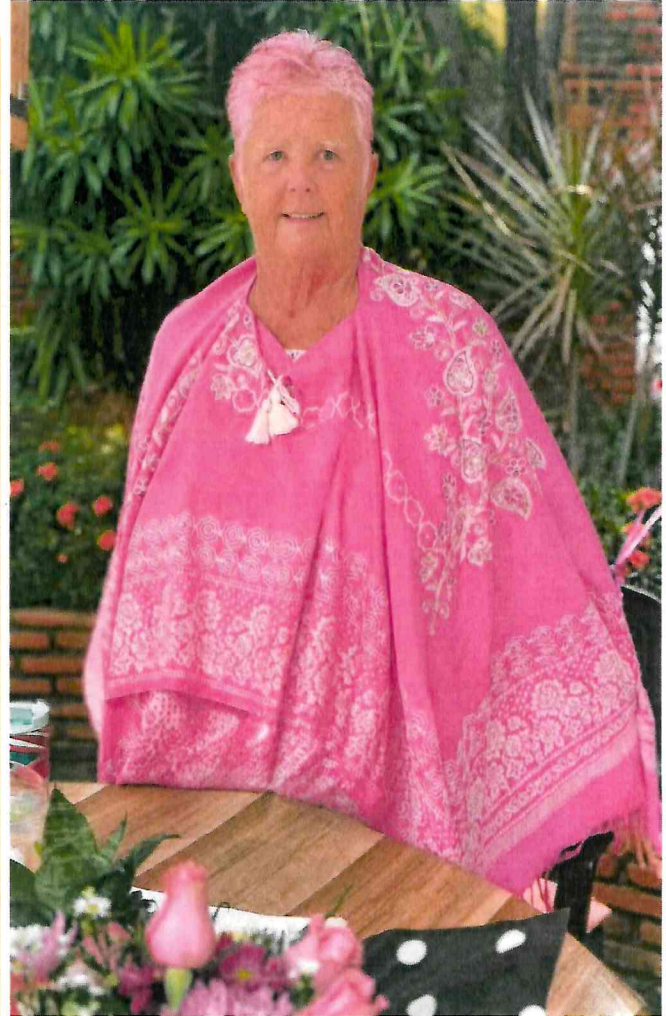
Jocelyn Merit

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of our friend and longtime supporter, Jocelyn Merit. Jocelyn was a valued member of the Desert Valley Hospice Society family, serving as our dedicated bookkeeper for many years. She generously gave her time as a volunteer and quietly worked behind the scenes, always willing to lend a helping hand wherever it was needed. Her kindness, commitment, and gentle presence touched everyone who had the privilege of working alongside her.

Beyond her involvement with Desert Valley Hospice Society, Jocelyn was deeply committed to the Osoyoos community. She believed in giving back and made a positive difference through her many volunteer efforts and community involvement. She also had a love of travel and enjoyed exploring new places, embracing each adventure with the same warmth and curiosity that she brought to those around her.

Jocelyn will be remembered not only for all that she did, but for her generous heart, her quiet dedication, and the friendships she built along the way. She will be greatly missed by our staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, and the many people whose lives she touched.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Jocelyn's family and loved ones during this difficult time. We are grateful for the time we shared with her and will remember her with deep appreciation, gratitude, and affection.



Programs



Art Therapy

We are pleased to announce an **Art Therapy Program** beginning this September.

The Art Therapy Program is designed for individuals who have experienced the loss of someone they love. Art therapy offers a gentle way to express feelings, reflect on memories, and navigate the journey of grief through creativity. Participants do not need any previous art experience - this is a welcoming space where people can come together, share, connect, and find comfort in the healing process.

Several sessions will be planned over the coming year. Each session will provide participants with a chance to gather, connect with others, and enjoy the many benefits that creativity can bring.

Space is limited for each session so registration is required. If you would like to learn more or register, please contact:

Desert Valley Hospice Society at: 250-495-1590 or email info@dvhs.ca

We look forward to creating with you this fall.

Grief Support

Grief can be a difficult journey, and no one should have to walk through it alone.

Desert Valley Hospice Society offers compassionate grief support for individuals who are experiencing the loss of someone special.

We provide both **grief support groups and one-on-one support**, offering a safe and caring space to share, connect with others, and navigate the many emotions that come with loss. Everyone's grief journey is unique, and we are here to provide support in the way that feels most comfortable.

Whether you are seeking support for yourself or know someone who may be struggling with grief, we invite you to reach out to Desert Valley Hospice Society. We are here to walk alongside you and help you find connection, understanding, and support during this difficult time.

Nav-CARE (Navigation: Connecting , Advocating, Resourcing & Engaging)

Desert Valley Hospice Society's **NavCare Program** is designed to provide support, connection, and guidance for individuals who may be experiencing declining health, social isolation, or challenges navigating community resources.

Through trained volunteers, NavCare helps individuals and families feel less alone by offering compassionate companionship, helping connect them with available services, and supporting them in finding the resources they need to live well in their community.

If you know someone who may benefit from this service, we encourage you to reach out to Desert Valley Hospice Society. Together, we can help ensure that individuals in our community feel supported, connected, and cared for.

We look forward to continuing to grow this program and building stronger connections throughout Oliver, Osoyoos, and Okanagan Falls.



Fundraisers



Caring Hands

Desert Valley Hospice Society
ONLINE AUCTION
October 16-30, 2026

We are excited to announce that the **Caring Hands Online Auction** will be returning this fall.

This annual fundraiser is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together while supporting the programs and services offered by Desert Valley Hospice Society.

Funds raised through the auction helps us continue providing compassionate support, grief programs, education, and resources to individuals and families throughout the South Okanagan.

We are currently looking for donations of new items, gift certificates, experiences, and services from local businesses and community members to help make this year's auction a success. Whether it's a product, a special experience, or a service you would like to share, your contribution helps make a meaningful difference.

Keep an eye out for more information on how to participate, and please consider supporting the auction by donating, bidding, and sharing it with friends and family. Together, we can make this year's Caring Hands Online Auction a great success!



Fundraisers



Honouring Our Loved Ones - Our Community

Memory Tree

December 1 – 31, 2026

As we approach the holiday season, Desert Valley Hospice Society is pleased to once again bring back our Memory Tree - special opportunity to honour and remember loved ones during this meaningful time of year.

Community members are invited to make a donation in memory of someone special and share a heartfelt message that will be placed on a star and hung on one of our Memory Trees. Each star becomes a meaningful tribute, offering a beautiful way to celebrate the lives of those we have lost and keep their memories shining throughout the holiday season.

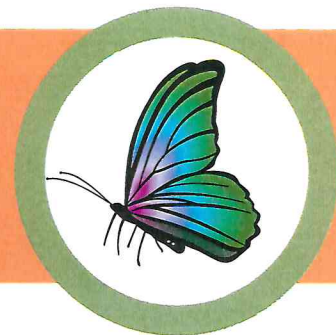
This year, we are honoured to have two Memory Trees in our community - one located in Oliver and one in Osoyoos - providing more opportunities for people to participate and create a special tribute in memory of their loved ones. The trees will serve as places of reflection, connection, and remembrance for our community.

Whether you are remembering a family member, friend, pet, or someone who has made a difference in your life, your donation and message help create a lasting tribute while supporting the compassionate programs and services provided by Desert Valley Hospice Society.

More details about how to participate will be shared soon. We invite you to be part of this special tradition as we come together to honor and remember those who continue to hold a special place in our hearts.



Make an Impact: Become a Member of DVHS



Membership with Desert Valley Hospice Society

is just one of the ways individuals can stay involved and help support the ongoing work of our organization. It reflects a shared commitment to ensuring that hospice palliative care, support services, and community programs remain available and accessible for those who need them.

By Becoming a Member,

you are helping to strengthen the foundation of our society and sustain the programs that make a real difference in people's lives. Membership is more than just a contribution—it's a way of showing care, connection, and commitment in our community.

2026–27 Membership Is Now Open!

For \$20 per year, you can join a dedicated and caring network of like-minded members. Every membership contributes to the stability and growth of our programs, and additional donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

Membership Forms...

are available on our website at www.dvhs.ca, or you can contact our office directly and we will be happy to provide one for you. We invite you to join us in making a difference!

Desert Valley Hospice Society

22 Jonagold Place, Osoyoos

Mail: Box 308, Osoyoos, BC V0H 1V0

Phone: 250-495-1590 / email: info@dvhs.ca

website: www.dvhs.ca



Meet our Board



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PRESIDENT



Sarita Zugazaga
SECRETARY



Cheryl Groves
TREASURER



Maureen (Mo) Doerr
DIRECTOR



Rita Crone
VICE PRESIDENT



Deanne Gray
DIRECTOR



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DIRECTOR



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Sandra Elke
BOOKKEEPER