



A CENTRE FOR BEREAVEMENT AND HEALING

# 2018 Annual Report

March 2018 – March 2019

*Support  
Partner  
Educate*



# Message from our Chair

2018 was a wonderful year of growth and learning for Oasis. We have been busy building a name for ourselves through community outreach and building relationships with our community partners in grief services. We have seen our operational model evolve as we establish our three organizational pillars; Support, Educate and Partner.

I am proud of the inroads Oasis has made into the community as a known organization in grief services. Outreach efforts, including our time at the farmer's market, our online presence, and our Empty Chair auction have been rewarded with comments such as; "Oasis - I've heard good things about what you are doing" and, "A friend of mine recommended that I call you." We will continue to work toward being a household name in grief services.

I am equally proud of the relationships that we have been forging with our community partners in the grief services industry. Meeting with individual organizations and hosting networking meetings have resulted in increased community building and communication amongst participating grief services providers. We will continue to take a leading role in strengthening this network.

Our outreach with both community members and organizational partners has informed our operational model. We have learned that we can be more effective in filling the community gaps and needs as a navigator through the grief services landscape, rather than as another counselling provider. Over the course of the year we have grown to understand that there are many wonderful supports already available in York Region. What the community needs is an organization to gather these resources into one big picture and then help grieving people find what they need. That is the role of Oasis.

I look forward to challenges and successes in the year to come as we continue to strive to be the central source for grief and bereavement resources in York Region.

Michelle Nye, Chair



## Our Officers

Michelle Nye – *Chair*

Christine Glenn – *Treasurer*

Lisa Snow – *Secretary*

## Our Directors

Christine Stewart – *Director*

Pat Noble – *Director*

Sean McCloskey – *Director*

Tony Van Bynen – *Honorary Chair*

## Connect with Us



[www.oasisbereavement.ca](http://www.oasisbereavement.ca)



[@oasisbereavement](https://twitter.com/oasisbereavement)



[info@oasisbereavement.ca](mailto:info@oasisbereavement.ca)



(289)934-0106

**Our Mission:** To help all members of the York Region community navigate their grief journey by providing a central network of safe and valuable resources and support.

**Our Vision:** To uncover and honour grief as a normal and healthy process that is vital to living with purpose and meaning after a loved one has died.

**How we succeed:** Leveraging partnerships with community groups and organizations, we solve for existing challenges in the grief services landscape and enable successful individual outcomes

## Strategic Priorities & Initiatives

- Delivered Bereavement Support Group in September 2018
- Provided 1:1 support to 4 individuals between August and November 2018
- Hosted 9 individuals at a labyrinth workshop led by Vicky Cousins of Spiritual Knapsack
- Designed a pilot project with LOFT/Crosslinks to offer financial aid for 1:1 bereavement counselling for low income individuals
- Through online engagement (website and Facebook), connected more than 2000 individuals to support resources, including an international request

- Hosted a community focus group to gather direct feedback about user and provider experiences, best practices, and gaps in service
- Board members have connected with grief service providers and other community organizations to create a full picture of the grief and bereavement services landscape in Northern York Region
- Hosted our first community building lunch and learn with grief services providers and community partners to begin developing a community calendar and build on collaboration to better fill community bereavement needs

- Hosted our *Hope for the Holidays* seminar series, led by local service providers Laura Higgins, Bri-Anne Swan, Vicky Cousins, and supported by the East Gwillimbury Public Library
- Made use of Facebook and our website to continuously offer access to online resources – articles, local bereavement services events, and research
- Hosted a booth at the Newmarket Farmers' Market to raise awareness of Oasis and access to bereavement services in the community.



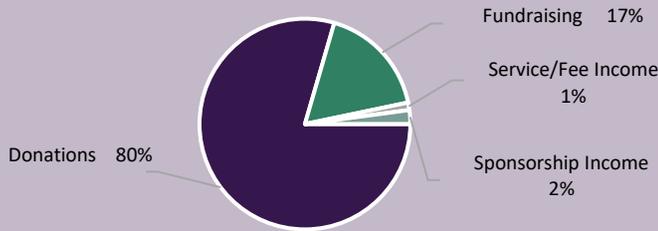
**SUPPORT**

**PARTNER**

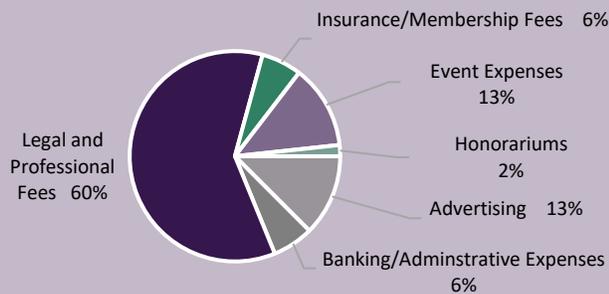
**EDUCATE**

## Financials

**Income: \$23,507**



**Expenses: \$11,643**



**Year End Net Assets  
(as of March 31, 2019): \$11,864**

## Impact

In our first year of operation, Oasis has been able to offer **direct service or support to 16 community members**, and has provided considerable indirect support through access to resources and referrals to service providers. Through our online presence, we have achieved an average reach of **99 viewers of each of the 113 resources** we have shared, in some cases connecting with as many as 400 when sharing articles discussing how to support others who are grieving. We have raised all of our operating funds through **charitable donations and fundraising**, which included being the recipient of a grant from a local organization and delivering our first major fundraiser and community engagement event: **The Empty Chair Fundraiser**. We were also the lucky recipients of funds raised through two local private events: **The Great Cake Off** and **Holly and Thijs's Hot Chocolate Stand**.

## Testimonials

*"Through the Hope for the Holidays sessions I was able to connect with my sister again, who I had been afraid to grieve for. I now have tools to help me incorporate her memory back into my life without the profound sadness I was avoiding."*

*"The Labyrinth event helped us think through the grief we individually needed to address before we had the opportunity to explore the labyrinth. I came out of the session with some necessary introspection that helped me make some decisions about challenges I've been experiencing. Thank you."*

## Our Volunteers & Donors

As a non-profit organization, our volunteers and donors are our lifeblood; from our board of directors to the students that help out at our events, to community members who support us financially. Without them and their dedication we would not be able to achieve everything we set out to do. Thank you!

If you would like to connect with us as a volunteer, please email us at [info@oasisbereavement.ca](mailto:info@oasisbereavement.ca)



