



A CENTRE FOR BEREAVEMENT AND HEALING

2022 Annual Report

March 2022 – March 2023

*Support
Partner
Educate*



Message from our Chair



What an exciting year it has been for Oasis! This fiscal year started with welcoming a new member to our board of directors - Michelle Cowan. Michelle has been a wonderful addition to our team adding insight to our board discussions and taking on amazing leadership in the area of fundraising.

This year saw three fantastic community-building fundraising events. Our second bi-annual *Empty Chair Auction* was a smashing success. 11 local artists transformed 12 Muskoka chairs into works of art that were auctioned off at an incredible event that was well attended both in person and online. Folks gathered together for a fun evening of board games at our inaugural *Games for Grief* and our first *Positively Purple* dinner and silent auction was a wonderful evening of food and community. Oasis continues to build meaningful relationships through events such as these to strengthen the grief services community.

We continue to add to and bolster the resources available to the community through our website. Much work has been done this year to make the website a place where folks can find support in a variety of ways 24 hours a day. We are doing work with tools such as SEO optimization to ensure we are able to reach as many people as we possibly can to support them as they grieve.

I am so excited to report the release of our first installment of our storytelling film series - *Journals from the Grief Journey*. This storytelling series has been years in the dreaming and making and it all came together with our first release on the very poignant *Bell Let's Talk Day*. I am very grateful to our first storyteller, Jackie Playter, for her courage and grace to tell her personal story of grief in such a beautiful and public way. I very much look forward to continuing work on this series in the years to come.

As always, I am immeasurably grateful for the incredible work of our Board of Directors; Tony, Christine, Lisa, Juliet, and Michelle. Without their countless hours of hard work and their genuine love of supporting those who grieve none of this would be possible.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Michelle Nye, Chair



Our Officers

Michelle Nye – *Chair*

Christine Glenn – *Treasurer*

Lisa Snow – *Secretary*

Our Directors

Michelle Cowan – *Director*

Juliet Irish – *Director*

Tony Van Bynen – *Honorary Chair*

Connect with Us



www.oasisbereavement.ca



@oasisbereavement



info@oasisbereavement.ca

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.

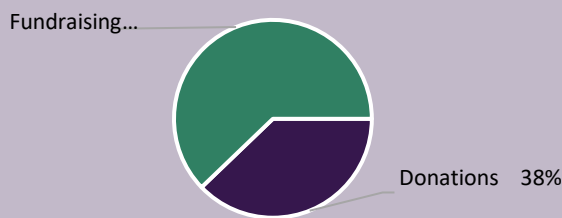
Our Vision: To uncover and honour grief as a normal and healthy process that is vital to living with purpose and meaning after a loved one has died.

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

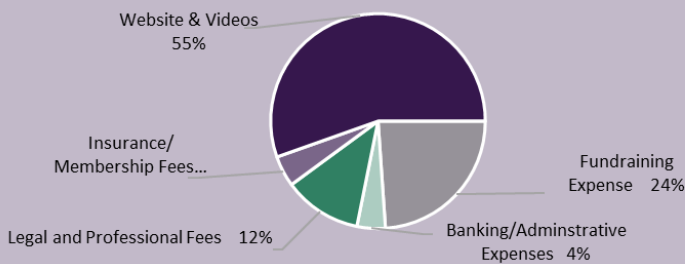
Financials

**Beginning of Year Net Assets
(as of March 31, 2022): \$15,813**

Income: \$20,812



Expenses: \$8,643



**End of Year Net Assets
(as of March 31, 2023): \$27,982**

2023/2024 Proposed Budget

2023/2024 Proposed Budget		
Revenue	Fundraising	\$8,000
	Donations	\$2,000
	Sponsorships - Chairs	\$2,000
	Ornaments	\$200
	Total Revenue	\$12,200
Expenses	Ads and Promotions	\$500
	Bank Charges and Interest	\$65
	Fundraising Expenses	\$500
	Membership Fees	\$150
	Honorarium	\$500
	Insurance	\$500
	Office and General	\$100
	Website Design and Maintenance	\$3,100
	Professional Fees	\$1,000
	Wind Phones	\$2,000
	Storytelling Series	\$5,000
	Total Expenses	\$13,415

Our Volunteers & Donors

As a non-profit organization, **our volunteers and donors are our lifblood**; 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.

SUPPORT

PARTNER

EDUCATE

Our *Empty Chair* fundraising auction honours the difficulty many people experience after losing a loved one. The thought of the now empty chair at the table stands out for its symbolism of both the loss we feel and the memories that sustain us while we grieve. The concept of transforming a blank chair into beautiful artwork represents the transition and transformation through healing we wish to support throughout our community. In our 2nd bi-annual Empty Chair Auction, Muskoka chairs were expertly recrafted by local artists, which we offered for auction at the first *Empty Chair* fundraising auction. A special thank you goes to our partners **Market Brewing**, **The Bear Chair Company**, and the **Sir William Mulock Secondary School Choir** for their generous contributions to this special event.

Our Signature Event: The 2nd Bi-Annual *EMPTY CHAIR AUCTION Fundraiser*



Karen Bowen



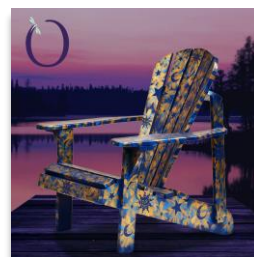
Lori Drawetz



Vaughan Dues-Greenwood



Cat Bechard



Lerryn Pitcher



Catherine Farquhar



Market Brewing

Thank you to each of our artists for their transformation of these chairs into these beautiful work of art.



Sir. W. Mulock Choir



Jeff Nye



Jeff Nye



Sheila Vriesen-Stewart



Maia Jonker



Mahtab Abdollahi



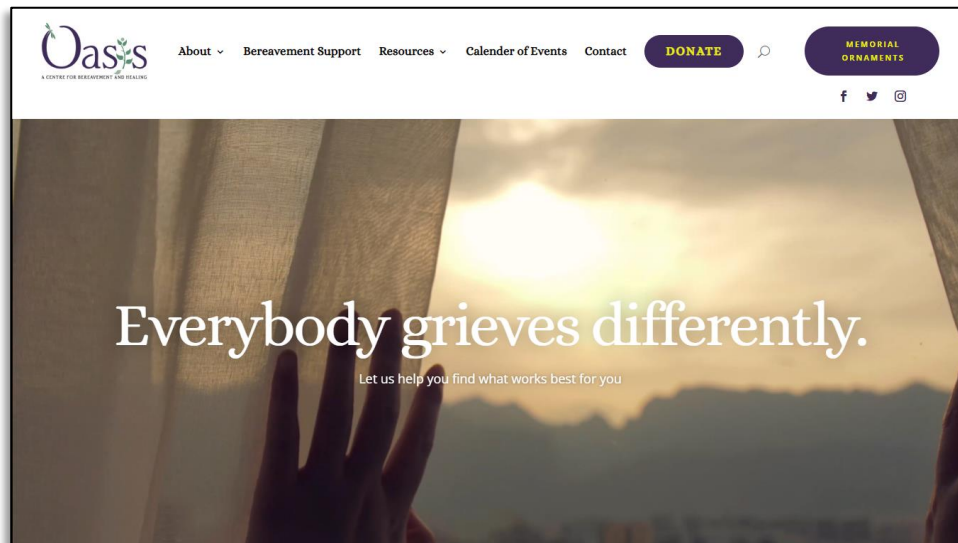
Bill Lunshof

In this year's auction, 12 brand new Muskoka chairs were donated by a generous community member. 11 completed chairs and one consignment chair were purchased by auction participants, helping us to raise \$x for key projects Oasis is undertaking. This event is a fundraiser, and so much more. In the process of designing the chairs, the artists invariably tell us that the process is therapeutic, helping them navigate their own grief experiences. It also brought approximately 75 people to Market Brewing to learn more about Oasis's purpose and programs. Community members who purchased chairs at our auctions have shared that the chairs have become meaningful pieces of art in their homes that have opened many discussions around grief and bereavement. We look forward to our next auction in the Spring of 2024.

Our Hub

Our website continues to be the central point for information and resources to support community members in navigating their grief journey. The website continues to be updated frequently with quick access to **partner events** through a central calendar and a wide variety of **bereavement support resources** organized by category.

Visit us at www.oasisbereavement.com to access resources relevant to your experience on demand, when you need them.



www.oasisbereavement.com

Looking Forward

Fundraising

Empty Chair Auction

We are pleased to announce that our exciting Empty Chair Auction will be returning in the Spring of 2022! We have engaged with a variety of talented artists throughout York Region to put their stamp on brand new Muskoka chairs that will be available for bidding at our signature fundraising event. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for stories and pictures from our artists as the chairs are transformed.



Legacy Ornaments

Oasis, in partnership with Michelle Cowen, will be offering handmade, customizable clay ornaments for sale, in support of the individual bereavement journey. Michelle is donating her time, skills, and profits from these ornaments to Oasis as an ongoing fundraiser. More examples of available ornaments can be found at <https://michellesmusings.ca/>.



Webinar Series



Oasis kicked off our **virtual webinar series** in March 2021 with a fun and therapeutic **Laughter Yoga** session with our friend Cathy Nesbitt, and an educational **Grief and the Pandemic** session with Jo-Ann McRogers of The Heart Collective in April 2021. We continue to explore additional information and support sessions to offer the community.

In addition to events offered by Oasis, we provide details of our partner-led events on the calendar on our website (<https://oasisbereavement.com>) and on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/oasisbereavement>).

Follow us to stay up to date on all of these important events intended to support our community in their bereavement journey.