



A CENTRE FOR BEREAVEMENT AND HEALING

2023 Annual Report

March 2023 – March 2024

*Support
Partner
Educate*



Message from our Chair

Oasis has had yet another exciting year of growth and outreach!

I am thrilled to report that this year saw two more installments of our storytelling film series - *Journals from the Grief Journey*. In partnership with Ryan Gaynor of Boxcar Media, we created and released two new stories. In the spring, my husband, Jeff, and I told our story of the loss of our infant daughter Angelica, and in December Betty Romanchuk bravely shared her story of grief after the death of her adult son Richard. These films are housed on our website and we have received excellent feedback about how the stories are helping others on their grief journeys.

This year also saw the official start to a project we have been planning for over a year. Wind Phones are an international movement that has been gaining momentum in recent years. I am proud to say that we installed our first wind phone in December in Georgina, bringing this movement to York Region. Many thanks to our volunteer builders, Vern Cunningham and Brian North, for realizing the plans of board members, Juliet Irish and Lisa Snow. We look forward to bringing Wind Phones to each York Region community in the coming year.

Preparations are under way for our third bi-annual Empty Chair Auction. We have secured a major sponsorship of 12 Muskoka chairs from the Bear Chair Company and the chairs are out to artists who are creating amazing works of art. We look forward to another successful auction this coming spring.

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 Search Engine Optimization (SEO) to ensure we are able to reach as many people as we possibly can to support as they grieve. We are seeing the results of the SEO as we are getting inquiries and website traffic not only from Canada but internationally as well.

As always, I am immeasurably grateful for the incredible work of our board of directors; Tony, Christine, Lisa, and Juliet. 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



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.

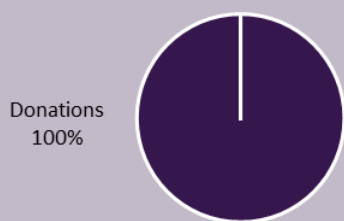
Our Vision: To uncover and honour grief as a normal and healthy process that is vital to living with purpose and meaning after a loved one has died.

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

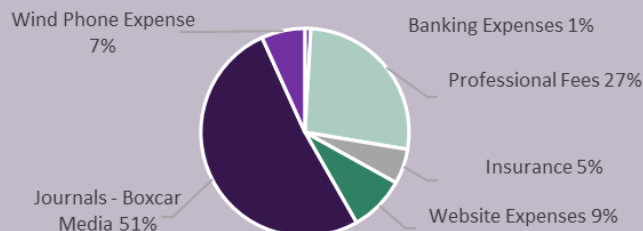
Financials

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

Income: \$20,812



Expenses: \$8,643



End of Year Net Assets
(as of March 31, 2024): \$25,728

2022/2023 Proposed Budget

Revenue	Fundraising	\$8,000
	Donations	\$0
	Ornaments	\$200
	Total Revenue	\$8,200
Expenses	Ads and Promotions	
	Bank Charges and Fees	\$65
	Fundraising Expenses	\$1,000
	Membership Fees	\$150
	Honorarium	\$500
	Insurance	\$500
	Office and General	\$100
	Website Design and Maintenance	\$0
	Professional Fees	\$1,000
	Other	\$5,000
	Total Expenses	\$8,315

Pending 2024/25 data

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

Journals from the Grief Journey



We are thrilled to have delivered 2 new installments in our **Journals from the Grief Journey** video series in partnership with Boxcar Media. Every journey along the path of grief is unique. Journals from the Grief Journey is an atlas and chronicle for deeply personal and beautiful stories of people's experiences with grief and bereavement. The 2nd installment features our own Chair, Michelle Nye, and her husband Jeff sharing their poignant story of perinatal loss following the death of their daughter, Angelica. The 3rd installment follows Betty Romanchuk as she shares the story of the death of her adult son, Richard. All of our videos can be found on our website at www.oasisbereavement.com/videos/.

Additional stories are in the works. We are always welcoming new storytellers to share their experience with grief. If you have a story you are comfortable to share, please contact us at info@oasisbereavement.com.

Bringing Wind Phones to York Region

The Wind Phone concept, originating in Japan and spreading worldwide, is a unique therapeutic tool in the grief journey. Each Wind Phone installation is unique, however the character of the location is the standard – an accessible place in nature offering peace and solitude for the caller to connect on a spiritual level with loved ones who are gone via an unconnected rotary-style telephone. Simply dial their name to begin the connection.



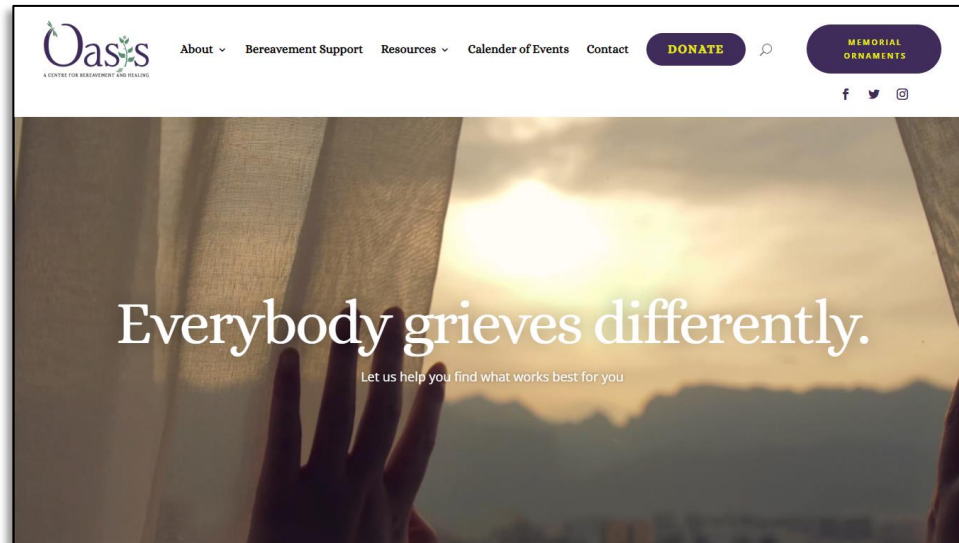
Oasis is proud to have unveiled the first official Wind Phone in York Region with our premiere installation at Keswick Cemetery on Varney Road in Georgina in December 2023. This partnership with the Town of Georgina allows us to share this concept with those who are grieving in our communities. A special thanks to Vern Cunningham and Brian North for their generous time and effort constructing the home for our phone.

More Wind Phones will be coming in 2024! Visit our website at www.oasisbereavement.com for more details.

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

Please join us for our 3rd Empty Chair Auction in May 2024! We have once again engaged a variety of talented artists throughout York Region to transform The Bear Chair Company Muskoka chairs into one-of-a-kind statement pieces for you to take home at our signature fundraising event at Market Brewing Company. Follow us on Facebook for real time updates and previews of the chairs or visit our website to see examples of chairs from previous auctions.



Our Signature Programs

Journals from the Grief Journey.

Our next video is in production now with Boxcar Media and will be published to our website, Facebook, and Instagram later this Spring.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@oasisbereavement) to stay informed about all of our programs.



Our volunteers are actively preparing our next Wind Phone for installation at Fairy Lake in Newmarket early this Summer.



Oasis
A CENTRE FOR BEREAVEMENT AND HEALING

You're Invited to
Positively Purple
Dinner and Silent Auction in
support of Oasis



Oasis
A CENTRE FOR BEREAVEMENT AND HEALING

You're Invited to:
Games for Grief
Games Night Hosted by Oasis

