



A CENTRE FOR BEREAVEMENT AND HEALING

2024 Annual Report

March 2024 – March 2025

*Support
Partner
Educate*



Message from our Chair

It has been another exciting year for the Oasis Team! I am so pleased to report that this year brought Oasis two new board members. Welcome Jo-Ann McRogers and Helen Vlachoyannacos. Jo-Ann is a Social Worker, director of Grievolution, and an all around supporter and guide to those who grieve. Helen is a teacher and champion for equity and human rights in all areas of life - including grief and bereavement. A warm and joyful welcome to Helen and Jo.

Our website continues to be an invaluable community resource. Christine, our web guiding light, has new additions this year including an RSS feed and a digital concierge. The work on the website continues to aid and make for a smoother and less complicated search for those who are seeking help for themselves and others.

Our Wind Phone project has taken off this year! Thanks to the work of Juliet and Lisa we were proud to unveil three new wind phones in Newmarket, Aurora and East Gwillimbury. The phones have received excellent attention and feedback in each community and were featured on CTV news! Thanks to Vern Cunningham and Brian North for their invaluable support of this project.

We are extremely pleased to report that we have added two new short films to our Journals from the Grief Journey project. Vern Cunningham shared his very moving story of his experience with the loss of multiple family members and his inspiring response to help others in the community. Julie Cryns also graciously shared her story of the death of her husband and navigating this loss with young children.

We hosted our 3rd bi-annual Empty Chair Auction. It was another wonderful auction of 10 absolutely stunning chairs. Many thanks to our sponsors Market Brewing and The Bear Chair Company, and of course our volunteer artists; Rosa Calabrese, Lori Drawetz, Lisa Snow, Joan Armour, Erica Mills, Catherine Farquhar, Cat Bechard, Andrea McLeod, The Mount Albert Group of Artists, and Jeff Nye. Preparations have begun for the next auction in 2026. Deep gratitude to Tony for his work on securing sponsors again for our next auction.

Oasis continues to grow as a known and trusted community resource thanks to the hard work and dedication of our board. I am profoundly indebted to all board members for their belief in Oasis.

In gratitude,
Michelle



Our Officers

Michelle Nye – *Chair*

Christine Glenn – *Treasurer*

Lisa Snow – *Secretary*

Our Directors

Juliet Irish – *Director*

Jo-Ann McRogers - *Director*

Tony Van Bynen – *Honorary Chair*

Helen Vlachoyannacos - *Director*

Connect with Us



www.oasisbereavement.ca



[@oasisbereavement](https://www.facebook.com/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

	As At March 31 2025	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2025/2026 Proposed
Revenue	Fundraising	5,000.00	3,538.42	5,000.00
	Donations	7,000.00	13,158.98	10,000.00
	Sponsorship	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
	Ornaments	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	14,000.00	16,697.40	17,000.00
Expenses	Ads and Promotions	500.00	580.00	1,000.00
	Bank Charges and Interest	80.00	72.00	80.00
	Fundraising Exp.	500.00	0.00	500.00
	Membership Fees - Volunteer Canada	150.00		150.00
	Event Attendance Fees	0.00	0.00	600.00
	Insurance	1,000.00	402.00	1,500.00
	Office and General	100.00	1,058.00	100.00
	Web Design and Maintenance	1,000.00	515.00	2,000.00
	Wind Phone	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
	Professional Fees	7,000.00	5,630.00	3,000.00
	Journals FTGJ	5,000.00	6,413.00	7,000.00
	Total Expenses	17,330.00	16,670.00	17,930.00
	Net Total	-3,330.00	27.40	-930.00

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 the value we set out to deliver to our communities. Thank you!

If you would like to **connect with us as a volunteer**, please email us at info@oasisbereavement.ca.

SUPPORT

PARTNER

EDUCATE

Our **Journals from the Grief Journey** video library has grown with the addition of 2 new videos this year. Journals from the Grief Journey is an atlas and chronicle for deeply personal and beautiful stories of people's experiences with grief and bereavement. In partnership with Boxcar Media, we introduced 2 new installments: Julie Cryn's story of losing a spouse while caring for a young family, and Vern Cunningham's story of compound grief from multiple losses. Vern's story also ties into our Wind Phone program as he is a volunteer who builds our Wind Phone houses. All of our videos can be found on our website at www.oasisbereavement.com/videos/.

Additional stories are in the works. We have recently recorded our next installment focusing on disenfranchised grief which will be published later this year. 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.



**Jackie's Story -
Loss of a Spouse**



**Michelle & Jeff's Story -
Perinatal Loss**



**Betty's Story -
Loss of an Adult Son**



**Julie's Story - Loss of a
Spouse with a Young Family**



**Vern's Story of Multiple
Losses**

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.

We are pleased to have been able to expand our Wind Phone program to 3 more locations across York Region this year, in partnership with the municipalities of Newmarket, Aurora, and East Gwillimbury.

Keswick Cemetery, Georgina



Tom Taylor Trail, Newmarket



Sheppard's Bush, Aurora



Nokiidaa Trail, East Gwillimbury

A special thanks to Vern Cunningham and Brian North for their generous time and effort constructing the homes for our phone. If you wish to contribute to this valuable program, old rotary phones and financial donations are appreciated.

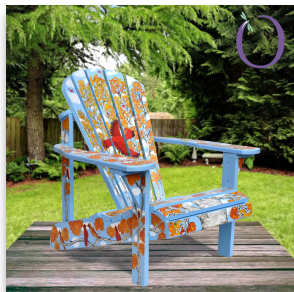
We are also in final stages with additional municipalities to have Wind Phones installed later this year. Visit our website at www.oasisbereavement.com for a map of all of our Wind Phone locations.

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 3rd 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**, and **The Bear Chair Company** for their generous contributions to this special event.

Our Signature Event: The 3rd Bi-Annual *EMPTY CHAIR AUCTION Fundraiser*



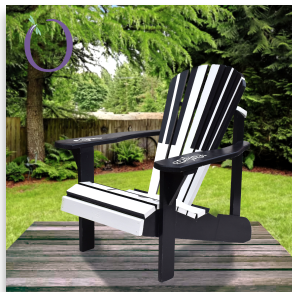
Rosa Calabrese



Cat Bechard



Andrea McLeod



Lisa Snow



Erika Mills

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



Mount Albert Group of
Artists



Catherine Farquhar



Jeff Nye



Lori Drawetz

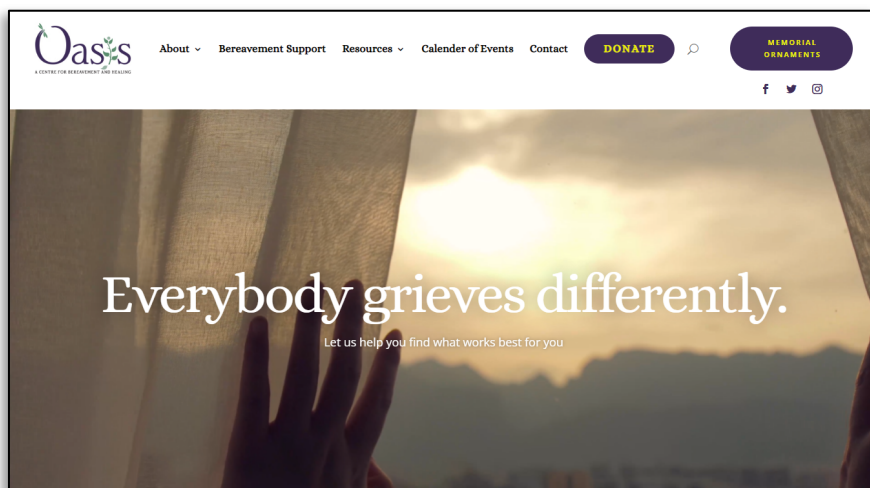


Joan Armour

In this year's auction, 10 brand new Muskoka chairs were donated by a generous community member. 9 completed chairs and one consignment chair were purchased by auction participants, helping us to raise more than \$4000 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 a crowd 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

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. In 2024 we achieved 2600 active website users, demonstrating the impact of our content. Visit us at www.oasisbereavement.com to access resources relevant to your experience on demand, when you need them.

Looking Forward



www.oasisbereavement.com

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. This impactful story, featuring Devonna, will highlight the challenges that come with disenfranchised grief.



Our volunteers are actively preparing our next Wind Phones for installation at Cold Creek in King City and at Scanlon Creek in Bradford. Please stay tuned for notification of our unveiling ceremonies later this year.

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