



Dear

The past 9 months have been challenging for all of us. We have experienced isolation brought about by COVID-19 restrictions. We have celebrated the loosening of those restrictions while remaining careful to protect ourselves and the more vulnerable in our families and social circles. We have learned to live and work differently. It did not come as a surprise that a second wave occurred this fall, and despite having already experienced isolation to slow the spread of the virus, the mandated restrictions were not any easier to deal with. That is the reality each and every day for the clients that we have the privilege of supporting here at the Cancer Assistance Program. Isolation and fear of the unknown; and for many just when it seems something akin to normal is around the corner, a setback occurs that is just as isolating and fearful as the day they heard the dreaded words "it's cancer."

“Towards the end of our trip, my wife started to experience health issues that concerned us both. We returned home and immediately went to the hospital where within two days she was diagnosed with cancer and treatments began. From a semi-retired life of working when we wanted, caring for our grandchildren when needed, traveling, and supporting our faith community, to one focused on drugs and treatments, literally overnight, was truly overwhelming. I knew deep in my heart that our time together was limited. Our children live all over the world. They needed to get home and spend time with their mother. And I needed to get her home so that could happen. But that reality was just as overwhelming as the diagnosis. Her treatments impacted her immune system, so we needed to be very careful, yet I had so little time to prepare for this new normal.” – Allard, CAP Volunteer Driver

Many of our clients and their families are confronted with a new normal they are not prepared for, yet a new normal they must navigate with tremendous strength and determination. That thought drove us to react to the mandated shutdown by seeking ways to continue providing **help when you really need it** to those in our community challenged by a cancer diagnosis. We continued to provide home safety equipment through contactless pick up, because being at home is one of the best ways to offer cancer patients some normalcy, and we increased the number of free parking spaces within walking distance of the Juravinski Cancer Center. Yet we felt that was not enough. The threat of community spread of the virus forced all of us to change our daily habits. Shopping became a challenge with long line ups and fear of being in close contact with others. We knew this had to be an even greater challenge for our clients and their family members, so we launched the **Drive-to-Deliver** program offering free nutritional supplements, incontinence products, and food bags in partnership with Zarky's Find Foods. The success of this program has convinced us that we must continue it. Even without the reality of a second wave and the resulting restrictions, the response to this program has demonstrated that this service is invaluable. The program brings food and supplies to our clients, but just as importantly, it allows us to reach out to them weekly to check in, chat, and get their

(PLEASE TURN OVER)

ONE-TIME DONATION: Yes, I want to make a gift to ensure cancer patients and their families get the help they need.

\$50 \$100 \$150 \$200 Other \$ _____

- I have enclosed my cheque made payable to **Cancer Assistance Program**.
- I authorize CAP to charge my credit card in the amount indicated at left.
- Please sign me up for electronic communications from CAP (be sure to include your email address).
- Visa** **Mastercard**

Card # _____

Expiry _____ CWV _____

Name on Card _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please make cheque payable to Cancer Assistance Program.
To make your gift online please go to www.cancerassist.ca.
Charitable Registration Number 14026 2759 RR0001

order. Since beginning the program, volunteers have made over 1,800 calls and counting. Our community's support of this initiative has been incredibly impactful and appreciated beyond measure.

“I hope as soon as this (COVID) is over, I can get up there to see you and thank you in person, you've done so much for me!” – CAP Drive-to-Deliver Client

Unfortunately, we cannot keep our programs and services going without your continued support. Not only has the virus affected how we live our daily lives, but it has affected how we raise the funds needed to support our community. While we have managed to pivot and do our work differently, our revenues are still down.

“I had little time to prepare for my new normal. Upon diagnosis, the cancer consumed us, all day, every day. When you are in the vortex of the storm, you concentrate only on getting through it. Our church community and friends embraced us all. We did not worry about a meal, household chores, or other daily activities. In retrospect, I wonder how I did it; how I was able to get up every day and do it all over again.” – Allard, CAP Volunteer Driver

Now more than ever, we need your support. **Cancer does not wait, and no one should have to face cancer alone.** We are continuing to provide free equipment and parking. We have our volunteer drivers back on the road with limited capacity to drive clients to appointments in vehicles equipped with safety measures. We are open with reduced hours and by appointment for wig and bra fittings and other personal care supports. Our Cancer Assist Show podcast has continued with episodes dedicated to cancer and the emotional toll that the coronavirus is having on everyone.

There continues to be so many unknowns for all of us because of COVID-19. In the past, we have funded our FREE services for cancer patients through corporate donations, sponsorships, events, and the generosity of individual donors like yourself. Our events have had to change. Sponsorships and corporate donations are more challenging than ever to secure. It is our hope that you, our individual donors who are living daily with knowledge that the virus has changed your life, will continue to support cancer patients in our community who are even more isolated and scared than ever.

“My world today is forever changed. I am trying to create my new normal. I am blessed to have my children, grandchildren, and my faith community to fill my days. I feel deeply indebted to the Cancer Assistance Program for helping me to navigate a path I did not choose to walk. Today I am a volunteer driver for the Cancer Assistance Program. It just seemed fitting that as I tried to reestablish my world without my wife, that I give back to the organization that made such a difference in ours. My message to you as you read this is please make your gift today. Give what you can. As a community we are so much stronger when we take care of each other.”
– Allard, CAP Volunteer Driver

As a community, we must continue to lift one another up and provide help when it is needed most. **This year more than ever, your support is crucial for those who rely on the Cancer Assistance Program to provide practical and tangible supports needed to keep cancer patients safe at home.**

As we come to the final weeks of 2020 and a holiday season that will be very different for everyone, may we continue to be kind to each other and look to the new year for hope.

Warmest wishes,

Debbie Logel Butler
Executive Director

MONTHLY DONATION: Yes, I want to make a gift to ensure cancer patients and their families get the help they need.

I authorize CAP to charge my credit card in the amount of \$_____ on or after the 15th of each month, commencing in the month after I date my request.

Visa Mastercard

Card # _____

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Name on Card _____

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Phone _____ Email _____

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PROGRAM

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Thank You!

An official tax receipt will be issued for all gifts of \$20 and above. Monthly donors receive one tax receipt at the end of the year for the full amount.