

# In the spirit of giving, cancer survivors received a special gift for the holidays from Brookstreet Hotel

By Davene Palvetzian

This past December, Brookstreet Hotel welcomed a group of extraordinary cancer survivors and their guests for a special evening with a luxury stay and a holiday dinner.

“The evening is one way that Brookstreet is able to lend support and encouragement to cancer patients in our community,” says Patrice Bastille, the hotel’s executive vice-president. “We wanted to do something that would help energize their fight against the disease and to give them a break from their battle.”

Ten guests arrived to a six-course holiday dinner that was enjoyed by all in the hotel’s four-diamond restaurant. Executive Chef Clifford Lyness prepared a special menu rich with cancer fighting super foods and with health and wellness in mind. Many of the ingredients came from Ottawa’s local suppliers.

The special gift continued when the survivors and their guests were left to enjoy a relaxing evening and were

invited to take advantage of the recreational opportunities that the hotel has to offer. The experience was made complete with breakfast the following morning, and all attendees remarked on how grateful they were for having experienced such an energizing and refreshing getaway.

The Brookstreet ‘Family’ is heavily committed to helping increase cancer survivorship in our region. In the last three years, they have raised in excess of \$105,000 for breast cancer research and their team is active in fundraising throughout the year ensuring continued awareness. In 2008, executive leaders Patrice Basille and Chantal Smitheram were among the top 10 overall personal fundraisers for the Weekend to End Women’s Cancers.

The Cancer Foundation is extremely grateful for their support and wanted to take this opportunity to recognize the difference they are helping to make.



## Volunteer Spotlight

The Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation is honoured to have an army of dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes in our offices, at our events and in the community to ensure cancer care remains a priority in Eastern Ontario.

*Courage* is proud of all the volunteers who donate countless hours a year to the Cancer Foundation, and we are proud to spotlight in *Courage* one of our volunteers who is going above and beyond to make a difference.

It has been a full year of retirement from Transport Canada’s legal services, but local volunteer Sandra Clemen arrives ready for work at the Cancer Foundation office one or two mornings a week.



Sandra Clemen

“I like to come into the office and help out when I can,” Sandra says. “It gives me a reason to come into the city from Kanata and I really feel like I’m doing my part.”

Sandra assists the advancement services team by completing tasks that are essential to administration and always arrives with willingness and a smile. Her work is invaluable and has a direct impact on the team’s ability to accommodate donor requests and ensure receipts are issued in a timely fashion.

Sandra has discovered countless activities that have been filling her retired days. If she’s not chasing after her grandson, she is visiting with friends and has recently decided to re-teach herself to play the piano.

Sandra became a friend of the Foundation after losing her husband to cancer three-and-a-half years ago. He was diagnosed and passed away quickly, but her experiences with care in our region left her feeling supported and taken care of by medical professionals. She views her involvement now as a way of giving back; to offer time that she knows is valued by the Foundation team and the people that are touched by it as she was.

