



ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022

Introduction

We are pleased to submit the annual report on behalf of the St. Joseph's Health Care Society, (the Society) for the 2021-2022 year.

During the year, the Society maintained strong relationships with the Catholic organizations we proudly sponsor, Bishop Ronald Fabbro, CSB, our local ecclesial authority, and the Sisters of St. Joseph. Our [2021-2023 strategic plan](#) and annual goals provided us with a strong sense of purpose. Moreover, the completion of our second sponsor self-assessment helped us to ensure we are on a clear path toward fulfilling our mission.

History of the St. Joseph's Health Care Society

The Society was founded in 1993 and provides sponsorship to health care organizations in 3 cities spanning across southwestern Ontario. Consistent with hopes emanating from Vatican II, the Society is governed by a Board of Directors comprised largely of lay individuals, all committed to accepting responsibility to further the legacy and vitality of Catholic health care today and helping the four organizations sponsored by the Society make decisions through the lens of Catholic health care tradition.

The mission of the Society is to sustain the hospitals, hospices, and other ministries it sponsors to further the care that the Sisters of St. Joseph established through their long and honoured history that maintains the healing mission of Jesus and to sponsor and support other initiatives that improve the health of the community within the Diocese of London. As the sponsor of a group of organizations, the Society helps ensure that each organization demonstrates the distinct value of Catholic health care.

Activities

The six strategic directions in our strategic plan have been instrumental in aligning our activities with our mission. This is one of the reasons we know we are headed in the right direction. Each goal supports the next and provides a framework for all that we do. Key activities from the year are grouped below in alignment with each strategic direction.

1. Relationships – Leading and Collaborating Together

- The Society values greatly its relationship with Bishop Fabbro, CSB. An open and collaborative relationship with the Bishop is maintained through semi-annual meetings that address topics in Catholic health care of local importance.

- The Society CEO also continues to participate in the annual forum organized by the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (CHAC) with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. At these national forums there is valuable dialogue, information sharing, the establishment of national approaches to the most important issues for Catholic health care and the building of trust between sponsors and Bishops.
- The Society also encourages each of the organizations it sponsors to have dialogue with Bishop Fabbro, and it supports these relationships where appropriate. The Society facilitated a meeting of Bishop Fabbro with the Executive Directors and leaders of the hospices under its sponsorship. It was an opportunity for the Bishop to receive first-hand updates on the important role of the hospices within the provincial health care system and as a part of the ministry of Catholic health care. Additionally, the group discussed the potential for a collaboration between the hospices and the diocese in support of the Canadian Bishops' new palliative care education initiative, Horizons of Hope. <https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/suffering-and-end-of-life/horizons-of-hope-a-toolkit-for-catholic-parishes-on-palliative-care/>
- The Society also facilitated two meetings between Bishop Fabbro and the CEO/President of St. Joseph's Health Care, London (SJHC). Among the key outcomes of these meetings were mutual support in pandemic planning as well as the sharing of contacts for relationship building with local Indigenous communities.
- The Society's relationship with its founding congregation, the Sisters of St. Joseph, remains strong. The Society Board continues to have a Sister as a Director – Sr. Jacqueline Janisse. The Society CEO also continued the practice of semi-annual meetings with Sr. Margo Ritchie, CSJ, Congressional Leader, to review activities of mutual interest and concern.
- In October 2021, the Society was pleased to launch a partnership with the Spiritual Care department of St. Joseph's Health Care, London, to host a virtual educational event in support of Spiritual Care Awareness Week. Harold Koenig, MD, of Duke University presented on the topic "Overcoming Barriers to Spiritual Health." The event was a tremendous success with 87% of participants rating the event as "high quality" or "very high quality." The partnership will continue with new events planned for 2022-2023.
- An emerging strategic theme has been identification of the connection between social innovation and the Catholic health care mission to care for the vulnerable and those most in need. To this end, The Society's CEO joined John Ruetz, President CHAC in a collaboration with the Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) to develop a joint statement on the need for affordable housing in Canada. The goal is to inspire the broader Catholic community to work together on an issue important to vulnerable Canadians. View the [joint statement](#).
- The Society's CEO completed his first year as Vice-Chair of the Governing Council of the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada and his second year as the Chair of the Ontario Sponsors Group. In these capacities, opportunities presented for him to work with other sponsors to

be a catalyst for strategic advocacy, collaboration and the facilitation of information exchange and promotion of Catholic identity and Church relationships.

- The Society CEO had the honour to serve as the team lead for the first-ever sponsor peer review process. Last year, all 14 sponsors across Canada completed CHAC's Sponsorship Roles, Relationships, and Accountability (SRRA) self-assessment process, which led to the first national scorecard for Catholic health care in Canada. SRRA has now entered the next phase, which is a peer review for all sponsors. Providence Health Care Society, Vancouver, volunteered to be the first sponsor to undergo a peer review. There is a lot of diversity in sponsorship models across the country, and discussions that took place during the peer review process help to develop our collective understanding about sponsorship while continuing to embrace "unity not uniformity."

2. *Animate Mission, Catholic Identity and Ethical Leadership*

- There were many significant accomplishments this year in support of mission integration and ethics. One of our roles as sponsor is to ensure that all our sponsored organizations have a strong understanding of our history, mission, the charisms of our founding Sisters. Presentations by the Society in support of sponsor board orientation and ongoing education were provided in the following areas:
 - Health Ethics Guide and its implications for governance
 - History and purpose of the Society
 - Mission of Catholic health care in Canada
- The Society also worked with the board chairs and leaders of the sponsored organizations to review the CHAC mission fidelity matrix and support the development of a mission integration plan for staff.
- The Society continues to refine and expand its orientation materials. This is a strategic priority. These resources are meant to provide clear expectations of the boards we appoint, as related to the Society's reserved responsibilities, as well as provide useful information and leading practices to help our member organizations do their work. The materials were also used by the sponsored organizations to update the sections on history and mission on their websites and in their board director handbooks.
- In March 2022, the Society CEO hosted CHAC Sponsor Board Formation Workshop: Expressing Our Catholic Identity. John Milloy, former MPP and author of Faith and Politics in a Polarized World (Novalis, 2021), presented with a focus on Pope Francis's encouragement to "cross the street" to reach out to those experiencing disadvantage. This makes it even more important that we meet the world where it is, and not get immediately bogged down in hot button issues. Directors from sponsor boards across Canada attended, including the Society's board.

- The Society facilitated the development of an ethics community of practice pilot to serve as a round table/sounding-board for the hospices under its sponsorship as they explore the role of ethics more deeply within their organizations. The pilot launched in September 2022 and will run for one year.
- The Society continues to participate in Catholic health care's response to new euthanasia legislation in Canada and supporting development of Catholic policy to assist our organizations in talking about physician assisted death with patients, families, board members, staff, physicians, volunteers, and external stakeholders.
- The Society provided financial support to Janet Groen, Executive Director with St. Joseph's Hospice, London, to attend a new multi-module mission leadership program offered by the Catholic Health Sponsors of Ontario. The Society also created an ethics bursary to support enrolment in St. Paul's University's Graduate Diploma in Catholic Bioethics. Candidates for the bursary are identified by the leadership teams of the sponsored organizations with a view toward beginning the program in September 2023.

3. Partner in the Shaping of New Systems and Futures

- The Society is very pleased with the progress of its 10 bed Hospice of Elgin project. Many generous donors have come forward to support this \$13 million project, including the City of St. Thomas with a gift of land. Presently, Elgin County is the only region in southwestern Ontario without a hospice and there are no dedicated palliative care beds at the local hospital. When doors open in spring of 2024, five hundred individuals will receive care, each and every year. Additionally, 30+ new jobs will be created beyond the economic benefits that will come from construction process itself.
- Over the winter and spring of 2022, leaders from all three of the Society's sponsored hospices came together under the banner of HOSPICE 2030 to participate in a series of four fore-sighting sessions to explore the future of hospice care in Ontario. It was the first time the Society had hosted and coordinated such an event. Overlap Associates facilitated the sessions which were held via Zoom. Despite some challenges posed by the virtual format, the sessions generated opportunities to build relationships, spark innovative ideas to inform care, and inform strategy for the future.
- Under the auspices of the Ontario Sponsor Group, the Society participated in a series of collaborative priority-setting exercises with the other three sponsors in the province. Resources were developed and leading practices were shared to strengthen both the sponsor-to-sponsor relationship as well as the sponsor to sponsored organization relationship.
- Across Canada, there continues to be increasing government expectations for health care organizations to look for integration opportunities to improve the client care experience in local communities. In Ontario specifically, the government launched the transition to

Ontario Health Teams. While the pandemic has slowed the transition to the OHT model, Catholic health care is supportive of identifying and acting upon opportunities to improve high quality and integrated local health care systems, including establishing stronger working relationships with secular organizations. At the same time, such opportunities also present some risk for Catholic health care that needs to be appropriately mitigated. The Society is working with partners in Catholic health care to identify and enact mechanisms to preserve Catholic identity and “chain of mission,” while, at the same time, benefit the health of the communities we serve.

4. Learning & Responding with Purpose

- The Society board incorporated education sessions into its meeting agendas for the year. The purpose of the sessions was to increase board learnings about areas of local health and social need with a view toward potential alignment with future Society activities. Presentations included the role of Catholic health care in Canada’s national housing strategy, the work of the Sisters of St. Joseph to develop a new “community hub” of various wraparound supports for individuals living rough in the downtown core and a recently launched centre for justice and ecology by another Ontario sponsor.
- There is incredible and innovative work being done every single day in our sponsored organizations and we are proud to share their stories and accomplishment. Please see the respective annual reports and organization information in the links below.

[St. Joseph’s Health Care, London, Annual Report 2021-2022](#)

[St. Joseph’s Hospice, Sarnia-Lambton, Annual Report 2021-2022](#)

[St. Joseph’s Hospice, London Annual Report 2021-2022](#)

[Hospice of Elgin website](#)

5. Board Renewal and Development

- The Society is blessed to have an excellent Board, comprised of individuals with a diverse set of skills and experience, all committed to furthering the mission of Catholic health care. The board’s focus is governance, and over the coming year will dedicate itself to refreshing policies and ongoing recruitment. We are extremely grateful to Frank Angeletti, Marcella Grail and Susan Ewald who retired from the board this year for their many years of service and dedication. The board was also excited this year to welcome new directors Lissa Regan and Mark Adkinson. See here for the list of [current Society Board of Directors](#).

6. Mission Sustainability

- The Society established a monitoring system to measure progress on both CEO and Board priorities. Additionally, our financial position is strong and allows us to discern a response to studied needs that align with our mission. The Society's audited statements for the year ending March 31, 2022 are enclosed.

Conclusion

We are proud of our achievements and our journey to continue the healing ministry of Jesus and animate the legacy of our founding congregation. Thank you for the trust and confidence you have in our organization. Your comments and feedback would be most appreciated.

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Mike Hanki
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Mike Hanki
President, Board of Directors

DocuSigned by:
RICHARD CORNEIL
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Richard Corneil
Chief Executive Officer

ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH CARE SOCIETY