



ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

Introduction

We are pleased to submit the annual report on behalf of the St. Joseph's Health Care Society, (the Society) for the 2022-2023 year.

This annual report lays out the progress we have made as an organization towards our strategic goals and highlights the ways the Society and the organizations we sponsor continue to live the mission, vision, and values of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Our [2021-2023 Strategic Plan](#), which comes to completion at the end of this calendar year, provided us with, not only a strong sense of purpose over the past three years, but laid the foundation for a new round of reflection and discernment that will lead to the launch of a new strategic framework in January 2024.

As with any reflection on the year's achievements, we must send a truly heartfelt thanks to the Society's full-time staff, contracted support specialists and our volunteer Board of Directors - a better world is possible when we come together to make it so. We also express our deepest gratitude to the over 4,800 staff who work within the health care organizations we sponsor. Their dedication inspires us to do more for those in need, to explore possibilities and move towards a world where all are heard, cared for and loved. We also wish to recognize the over nine hundred volunteers who serve in a variety of ways across the sponsored organizations. A sincere thank you for saying "yes" to being involved in the mission of Catholic health care.

History of the St. Joseph's Health Care Society

Founded in 1993, the Society provides sponsorship to health care organizations in three 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.

Sponsor Roles, Relationships and Accountabilities (SRRA)

In the fall of 2020, the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (CHAC) launched the SRRA, an informal self-assessment “accreditation” process for sponsors. The goals of the SRRA process are to standardize the areas wherein a sponsor reports annually to their ecclesial authority and to promote the cross-fertilization of leading practices to strengthen the national ministry of sponsorship.

In each year from 2020, the Society has completed the SRRA self-assessment process and identified key areas of focus under its main categories. The annual cycle of goal setting and self-assessment has enabled the Society to remain focused on its commitments as a Sponsor of Catholic health care. We are pleased to share the [2022-2023 SRRA Self-Assessment](#).

Activities

The six strategic directions in our current 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

- As a Public Juridic Person of Diocesan Right, the Society values its relationship with Bishop Fabbro, CSB. An open and collaborative relationship with the Bishop was maintained this past year through regularly scheduled meetings that address topics in Catholic health care of local importance.
- The Society also encourages each of its sponsored organizations to have dialogue with Bishop Fabbro. This past year it facilitated two meetings of the Bishop with Roy Butler, CEO of St. Joseph’s Health Care London to review the hospital’s strategic priorities and accomplishments.
- The Society’s relationship with its founding congregation, the Sisters of St. Joseph, remains strong and the Board continues to have Sr. Jacqueline Janisse serve as a Director. This past year the Society CEO also continued the practice

of holding regularly scheduled meetings with Sr. Margo Ritchie, CSJ, Congressional Leader, to review activities of mutual interest and concern.

- Since 2021, the Society has partnered with the Spiritual Care department of St. Joseph's Health Care, London, to host educational events in support of Spiritual Care Awareness Week. In October 2023, it organized a cross-sector panel to address the topic of "Compassion in the Community: Exploring the Intersection of Spirituality, Compassion and Community." As in past years, the event received excellent reviews in audience surveys for the high quality of the speakers and discussion of practical topics.
- In the spring of 2023, the Society formed a partnership with the Diocese of London to deliver palliative care education sessions based on the Canadian Bishops' new resource entitled "Horizons of Hope." Sessions were offered in four separate locations across the diocese over the months of May and June. Over 150 people participated in the sessions and feedback through a post-event survey was excellent, with the vast majority commenting that the sessions helped deepen their understanding of palliative care and increase their awareness of palliative and end of life services available in the diocese.
- Over the past year the Society CEO acted as a facilitator for the Fanshawe-Thames Catholic Family of Parishes, London, as it worked to develop a new health ministry. This work was a practical example of responding to SRRA's call for the health care ministry to support the pastoral mission of the local bishop.
- The Society CEO continued 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 critical issues for Catholic health care and the building of trust between sponsors and Bishops.
- The Society's CEO completed his second year as Vice-Chair of the Governing Council of the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada and his third year as the Chair of the Ontario Sponsors Group. These roles provided leadership to the advancement of strategic and relational priorities for both entities.

2. Animate Mission, Catholic Identity and Ethical Leadership

- Ensuring that the sponsored organizations have a clear understanding of the purpose of sponsorship and the history of our founding Sisters is of central importance to strengthening the chain of mission in Catholic health care. To that end, the Society delivered the following presentations this past year for the sponsored organizations:
 - Health Ethics Guide and its Implications for Governance
 - History and Purpose of the Society
 - Mission of Catholic Health Care in Canada

- In September 2022, the Society launched an Ethics Community of Practice pilot to address the ethics needs of the hospices under its sponsorship. Membership included the Executive Directors and Directors of Residence Care with the hospices as well as SJHC's Clinical Ethicist and the Society CEO. The pilot concluded in June 2023 with tremendous success and positive feedback from the members. They said the pilot deepened their understanding of ethics and contributed to building the capacity for using ethical decision-making in their organizations. Additionally, the group was invited to present its learnings from the pilot at the Hospice Palliative Care Ontario Annual Conference in June 2023.
 - The group unanimously agreed to extend the pilot for an additional year to continue to learn together and solidify plans for how to sustain the building of ethics capacity in the hospices in the long term.

- Over the summer of 2023, the BC government actively applied pressure on St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, to amend its MAID policy and allow the provision of MAID on-site. The possibility that any health care organization with Catholic identity could be legislated to violate its religious beliefs poses an imminent risk that could threaten the continuation of the healing ministry in Canada. As a result, the Society CEO served on a National Strategy Working Group mobilized by CHAC to attend to the wider potential risks and implications of the BC situation. The group remains active as the events in BC continue to unfold.

3. Partner in the Shaping of New Systems and Futures

- The Society's new Hospice of Elgin project reached significant milestones in 2022-2023. After securing a location for the hospice, thanks to a generous gift of land from the City of St Thomas, the building campaign reached 88% of the \$17 million target by November 2023. Also in November, the building design was launched at a special event to an invited group of top donors, media, board directors, committees, health system partners, and municipal politicians. Construction of the hospice is set to begin late 2023/early 2024. Once open, the 8-bed hospice residence and palliative care clinic will serve five hundred clients annually thus relieving significant pressures on the local health system.
- The Society CEO was pleased to be invited to participate in the London Health & Homeless summits that took place this past winter. It was a tremendous experience to witness over two hundred people from seventy organizations come together at the summits and produce a comprehensive plan to provide housing and care to the most vulnerable people in the city. In October 2023, London City Council approved the establishment of three initial hubs for winter 2023/2024. The Society is especially proud of the strong leadership provided in the planning process by one of its sponsored organizations, St. Joseph's Health Care London, which has also provided space at its Parkwood Institute for one of the initial hubs.
- Members of the Society board gained knowledge about Catholic health care's potential to positively impact future models of care both provincially and nationally through attendance at the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada conference "*Getting to the Heart of it: Awakening Our Capacity to be Present in a Broken World*" in May 2023 and the Catholic Health Association of Ontario conference "*Catholic Healthcare: Catholic Identity in Partnership for System Transformation*" held in October 2023.

4. Learning & Responding with Purpose

- The Society board continued to incorporate education sessions wherever possible into its meeting agendas. In November 2022, Hazel Markwell, Ethics, Theology and Policy Advisor with CHAC, provided the board with an overview of recent developments in MAID legislation.

- Incredible and innovative work is done every single day in our sponsored organizations, and we are proud to share their stories and accomplishments. Check out the most current annual reports or organizational information by clicking on the logos below.



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 following Directors served in 2022-2023:

- Mike Hanki, President
 - David Nash, Vice-President
 - Sr. Jacqueline Janisse, CSJ, Secretary
 - John Iannozzi, Treasurer
 - Fr. Eugene Roy
 - Lissa Regan
 - Mark Adkinson
- Profiles of [current Society Board Directors](#) are also available.
 - Board Director succession status and the recruitment of new members was regularly reviewed by the Board's Governance Committee in keeping with good governance practice.

6. **Mission Sustainability:**

- As the Corporate Members of the organizations that it sponsors, the Society's Board of Directors has important duties to fulfill in both civil law and canon law. These duties were successfully exercised at the respective Annual General Meetings held in June 2023 for the sponsored organizations.

- CEO and organizational priorities were regularly monitored and measured by the Board throughout the year, primarily through reporting methods at Board meetings.
- The Society has an annual operating budget of approximately \$550,000 and holds sufficient endowment funds to secure the future of its mission for years to come. The audited statements for the year ending March 31, 2023, 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.

Mike Hanki
President, Board of Directors

Richard Corneil
Chief Executive Officer

ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH CARE SOCIETY

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