



September 9, 2024

Dear Mayor Thorn,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Foothills Country Hospice Society (FCHS) to introduce our organization and to inquire about the possibility of making a presentation to the council regarding our exciting expansion plans.

FCHS opened our current eight-bed facility in 2008, as a direct effort by community members investment and leadership in support of local end of life care. FCHS has been deeply rooted in rural southern Alberta, serving individuals and families from across the Foothills region. Over the years, we have become an integral part of the community, dedicated to providing exceptional palliative and end-of-life care to our residents and their families. We are grateful for the previous ways in which the **Town of Okotoks** supported the hospice in the past— **a \$50,000 contribution to the original hospice in 2006.**

Not only are we expanding our physical space, growing from 8 to 16 beds to care for more people, we have a vision to extend the reach of our hospice beyond our walls and into the wider community. This aims to ensure that more individuals can access the compassionate care they deserve, regardless of their location. over the past 10 years the hospice has provided around-the-clock, compassionate care to more than 1,400 residents and their loved ones, an estimated 6,500 clients in total. Our commitment to the community is unwavering, and we are constantly striving to meet the growing demand for end-of-life support.

There is no cost to patients for their stay and to receive care at the hospice. Since the publicly funded health system does not cover all our costs, we are compelled to raise funds for operations, programs, and facilities each year. We



do not regularly ask the municipalities for funds. We do receive small grants from FCSS that are used to support our volunteer and grief support programming, and for which we are incredibly grateful.

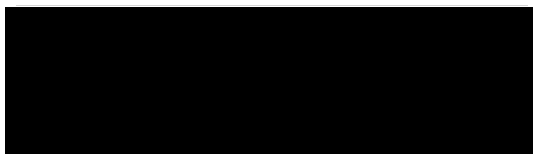
Recently, we received generous support from Foothills County in support of expansion, which has bolstered our efforts and inspired us to seek further support from other local councils. We are hoping that each municipality contributes commensurately with their population base and resources.

It is with this spirit that we hope to present our expansion plans, share the vision, and explore the possibility of your municipality contributing to the ongoing support for outstanding palliative and end of life care in our community. We are confident that with your support, we can make a significant difference in the lives of many.

We kindly request the opportunity to present at an upcoming council meeting. Please let us know a convenient time and date for our presentation. We are eager to discuss our plans in more detail and to explore how we can work together to support our community's needs.

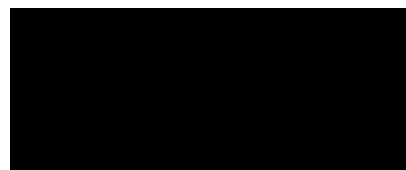
Warm regards,

Allison Bichel PhD



Board Chair
Foothills Country Hospice Society

Shaun Dyer



Executive Director
Foothills Country Hospice Society

Cc: Elaine Vincent, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Okotoks