

## **Hospice Care: The “Something Else” that CAN be done**

My wife Nancy had battled a rare form of ovarian cancer for over ten years. In October of 2006 we were told that nothing else could be done. In January of 2007, and after many visits to the ER and hospital stays, we decided it was time to get Hospice involved.

With the help of the Niagara Hospice team, we were able to get Nancy home. Thanks to the expertise of the Niagara Hospice doctors and pharmacist, Nancy was able to get off the Morphine and her quality of life was considerably improved. The hospice nurse came every week to check vitals and to make sure Nancy was comfortable. In fact, there was one month when Nancy felt like there was nothing wrong.

By mid-August of 2007, the progression of the disease had taken its toll. She had symptoms I couldn't control at home. The hospice nurse suggested we admit her to the Hospice House to get her symptoms managed and under control. She was admitted to Niagara Hospice House and spent the last week of her life there.

I thought as her caregiver that I was doing a great job. The care she got at the Hospice House was outstanding. She had a beautiful room and was pampered and made comfortable.

We made the right decision that her final days were spent at Hospice House. They did things for her in her final days that we couldn't have done at home. We, as a family, could spend quality time with her instead of being concerned about caregiver duties. The whole staff at Niagara Hospice House was so caring and compassionate to Nancy and the family.

As her husband, I took advantage of the grief counseling offered by Niagara Hospice which helped me through a very difficult time in my life. Nine years later, I still do some volunteer work at Hospice.

Niagara Hospice is a great organization that helps patients and families deal with and get through a difficult time - when a loved one dies. Looking back, I know that traditional care would have resulted in many more ER visits and hospital stays; with unwanted procedures which would have done nothing to change the outcome. After Nancy started with hospice care, I saw improved quality of life that I believe extended her life and our time together as a family.

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