

For Immediate Release
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MEDIA RELEASE

GFL Environmental Inc. donates \$1 million to Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation's *love lives here* Campaign in support of residential hospice care.

Newmarket, ON – Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation is honoured to accept a generous \$1 million gift from GFL Environmental Inc., a contribution that will have a tremendous impact in the community.

GFL's gift will support the *love lives here* Campaign to build the **Margaret Bahen Hospice for York Region**, a 10-bed residential hospice located on Queen Street in Newmarket that will provide end-of-life care for as many as 250 patients and their families every year. Doors to the **Margaret Bahen Hospice for York Region** opened to the first residents in November 2017, adding to the only three residential hospice beds previously available to more than a million residents in the region.

This important facility provides a home-like environment with round-the-clock medical and emotional care and support for patients in the final days of an end-stage diagnosis. For people who are facing a choice between spending this time in a busy hospital where space for visitors is limited, or at home where a loved one must act as the primary caregiver, this hospice is a welcome alternative.

"This project truly has been a labour of love for Southlake over the past several years," said President & CEO of Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation, Susan Mullin. "As a campaign that was one hundred per cent community-funded, this facility would simply not have been possible without the tremendous passion, dedication and outstanding generosity of everyone involved."

In addition to the many supporters of this campaign, Southlake Foundation is grateful to leading gifts from donors like GFL Environmental Inc., whose generous \$1 million contribution comes at a crucial time in the campaign and has had a tremendous impact on the project.

"There is no denying the importance of having a facility like the Margaret Bahen Hospice in our back yard to improve access for residents of York Region and create more choices for a dignified, peaceful and comfortable end-of-life experience," said Ms. Mullin. "We are incredibly grateful to GFL Environmental Inc. for understanding the importance of this project, and for sharing in our vision to make the hospice a reality for those in need of compassionate end-of-life services."

As a leading North American provider of waste management solutions with a diverse network of facilities across Canada and in Michigan, GFL Environmental is dedicated to bringing improvements to the communities and regions it serves.

“GFL is proud to be a supporter of the *love lives here* Campaign to build the Margaret Bahen Hospice for York Region,” said Patrick Dovigi, President & CEO of GFL Environmental Inc. “We are all touched by the struggle of families coping with end-of-life care and understand the significant difference that the Hospice can make to those families. We are committed to working with community partners that have a positive impact on the communities we serve.”

“This gift is so telling of the outstanding generosity of our community partners, and we can already see the lasting impact it will have for families in our communities,” said Ms. Mullin. “Although the Margaret Bahen Hospice for York Region has only been open for a short time, we have already heard many heartwarming stories of residents and families who have benefited from it. Along with all of our generous supporters of this campaign, GFL has helped to make this project a reality.”

Fundraising for the campaign is ongoing as Southlake Foundation continues to work with the community to reach the \$12 million goal, which will cover the capital expenses associated with the project, including construction, furniture and equipment, and a portion of the operating costs for the first three years. This incredible contribution from GFL has brought the total raised to \$9.5 million.

“From our volunteer cabinet who were advocates for the campaign, to each and every one of our donors, it is these individuals – our friends and neighbours – who have built this hospice,” said Ms. Mullin. “Together with the community, we’ve made something from nothing, and it’s exactly this generosity that makes Southlake Foundation proud to call this community home.”

About Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation

Since the inception of Southlake Foundation in 1980, over \$100 million dollars has been raised in support of Southlake Regional Health Centre. Working with members of the community, hundreds of volunteers, the Southlake Family and our incredible donors, Southlake Foundation will continue to support life-saving medical equipment, infrastructure upgrades and expansions, patient programs and staff education, all for the goal of transforming the lives of patients and families, close to home. For more information visit: www.southlakefoundation.ca

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