



Paul Sugar
Palliative Support
Foundation

3743 Delbrook Ave, North Vancouver, BC, V7N 3Z4
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charitable # 81281 5439

13 Dec 2023

Dear Mayor Sager, Jim Bailey and Lisa Berg,

Re: District approval for proposed use of residential property for charitable purposes
Address: 4613 Woodburn Rd, West Vancouver

Our organization

The Paul Sugar Palliative Support Foundation (PSPS Foundation), established in 2013, provides non-medical supportive care to those living with serious illness, as well as to their families and caregivers.

We are a registered charity, with a volunteer board of directors, a small staff and a dedicated group of volunteers who bring time, experience, love and compassion to those in need in our community.

The public health approach to palliative care includes the community as a partner. Our model, which is funded exclusively by the community, uses the community as a resource and develops community capacity to help with the human needs of the terminally ill. Our model of care is patient-directed, family focused and community supported. It integrates non-medical supports into existing patient care, aimed at addressing the emotional and other unmet needs of those living with a serious illness, facing death or dealing with a loss.

As an independent organization with a compassionate community model, we respond to the needs of the local community and we empower individuals to provide compassionate care to those in need.

Our approach

To meet the needs of our community in a respectful, compassionate and caring way. We believe that every life matters.

Our work in the community

The Palliative Support Centre, currently in North Vancouver's Delbrook Plaza, provides individuals with a community 'home'. A place where individuals are accepted and heard. Supportive personal relationships are established. Our trained volunteers are available to accompany individuals through illness, death and loss. We provide information on and connection to available resources. We help navigate the complex medical system. We provide much needed guidance and advocacy. No matter where patients are in their journey, what they feel, what they need and what they want, matters.

Those living with, and dying from, a serious illness have many varied and individual needs. Our health-care system focuses more on the medical needs. The non-medical needs are not always adequately addressed. People often find themselves adrift in the system, not knowing which way to turn, not knowing what supports and resources are available to them and feeling isolated and alone. **We listen, we guide, we support, we respect, we care.**

We are looking to relocate our programs and services to a permanent location in a residential setting. We believe it is important for patients to feel “at home” in a “home like” setting, where they can access the supports that they need.

Intended use of property

We would like to use a residential property for carrying out the charitable purposes of the PSPS Foundation. Our purposes include guidance, advice, assistance, connection, information about available resources, education, help with navigating the complex health care system and the provision of important physical, emotional, social, spiritual and practical support to patients, families and caregivers.

These take the form of individual counselling sessions, art therapy, music therapy, therapeutic touch, support groups, individual consultations and informal conversations and discussions.

Our programs, services and supports are volunteer driven, patient focused and family supported.

All of our programs, services and supports are free.

Our intention is to provide a place where patients and their families feel safe, loved, respected and cared for, regardless of their circumstances.

A residential home will provide dedicated rooms for specific programs or consultations. The number of participants at any given time will be monitored and restricted by way of appointments, so that participants can receive the attention they need and as well to ensure adequate social distancing. All our participants are dealing with serious illness, are immunocompromised, so are extra cautious and mindful of covid related precautions. Limiting the number of participants at any given time will minimize traffic and parking related issues.

The users of our programs and services are North Shore residents diagnosed with a serious illness, as well as their families. The patients that attend our programs are mobile and independent; some recently diagnosed with cancer, and others with progressing disease. The patients who are at end-of-life and are no longer mobile do not attend “our home” – we visit them in their own home instead.

In summary, the property will be used to provide a listening ear, a loving heart and a helpful hand to those dealing with a serious, life altering illness.



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What is a Compassionate Community?

- **A community where people support** each other during experiences of serious illness, when facing death, or dealing with grief.
- **A community where people understand** that these experiences can touch any one of us at any time.
- **A community where people plan** in advance for the way they want to be treated and cared for during illness and near end of life.
- **A community that helps** us to live well until the end, surrounded by the people who care about us.

A Compassionate Community benefits us all

At its core, a Compassionate Community is about improving the quality of life for people with a life limiting illness and their families by encouraging people to advocate and to provide assistance and practical support within their community.

Living in a community that cares for others enables us to cope better with our health challenges, keeps us connected and helps us find meaning in life.

Benefits to the District of West Vancouver

This is an opportunity for the District of West Vancouver to benefit from the leadership and work of the PSPS Foundation in driving social change and creating a Compassionate Community in the heart of West Vancouver.

We would like to see the District of West Vancouver value the merits of this proposal, and thereby grant us approval to use a residential property for charitable purposes and for the benefit of the community.

Benefits to the community

A Testimonial from a North Vancouver resident who recently passed away

"I was diagnosed with advanced cancer out of the blue in June of 2019. I was 53 years young, was extremely fit, had a very busy career, very happily married, mother to 3 and was weeks away from becoming a grandmother for the first time. We were all devastated.

I am now at a very challenging point in my journey and Dr. Sugar and Dr. Marylene have been by my side in a way that I just don't think exists anywhere else in our medical system. I am at home and Dr. Sugar, Marylene and Frankie are supporting me with home visits, getting me everything I need, speaking with me numerous times a day, leaving no stone unturned to try to

help me. They are with me. With me with me. There's no price or value you can assign to what it is that they offer. They are truly, angels on Earth.

Inside the Palliative Support Centre you are met with real life angels. The practitioners who donate their services are among some of the loveliest, most loving human beings I've ever met. Frankie, the center's coordinator is a tireless firecracker of love and energy and pure kindness,

Dr. Sugar, Marylene, Frankie and the volunteers need to keep doing what they do. If you can donate, please do but more importantly, if you or someone you love are dealing with cancer on any level, please reach out to them. They are there, waiting, caring, continuing to add programs to help transform your journey or your loved one's journey on a level there really are no words for."

Thank you for believing in and supporting our mission - together we can make a difference to the lives of North Shore residents.

We look forward to next steps

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Kyriazis'.

Dr Marylene Kyriazis
Co-Founder, President and CEO
Paul Sugar Palliative Support Foundation