



MARY POTTER
matters

~
EDITION 1, 2022

For Brad, you turned heartbreak into hope

When Brad heard it was time for his Dad to go to Mary Potter, he felt like he had the weight of the world resting on his shoulders.

Brad could only think about one thing – the trauma of losing his mum in another hospital only a few years ago.

It was one of the worst times in his life and one he did not want to re-live with his Dad, Peter.

But you helped turn a sad and traumatic situation into one of joy – remembered fondly by Brad and his family. It was a complete contrast to his mum's death because you brought the love, care and support that Brad needed.

This is the light that now guides him through.

Brad told us “Dad chose to come to Mary Potter because he knew it would be different”.

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Thank you for helping make this true.

Brad's stress began to melt away as soon as he walked through the Hospice front doors.

“When Dad and I arrived at Mary Potter for the first time, I knew we were in the right place. Seeing the Tree of Love display and the names of loved ones who had been here before us gave me hope. It was a better place compared to where Mum died,” shares Brad.

You made memories that will last a lifetime.

Thanks to you, we were able to give individual care to Peter and create special moments for his family.



You made possible a recording of Peter's life story, now cherished by Brad and his siblings.

You fit the bill for a Canadian themed thanksgiving dinner, the family's last shared meal. It was a welcome distraction for members of Brad's family who helped organise it.

And you gave Peter and his grandchildren time to create ceramic artworks together – now treasured memories and mementoes.

Each of these moments are now so precious.

“It was a privilege to be at Mary Potter. To be with dad right until the end. I am forever grateful this was how we got to say goodbye,” Brad says.

You made life full of meaning right to the very end.

Whilst we couldn't change the outcome, you helped change the experience for this family.

Remembering Peter.

Seeing the difference in care made Brad want to help other families. In November 2021 Brad cycled from Wynn Vale to Port Lincoln to raise funds and awareness for Mary Potter. It was an incredible thing to do – to pay it forward in this way. Thank you so much Brad!

 **Our heartfelt thanks**

to you for giving Brad hope. You were there for his family when they needed you most. And for encouraging Brad to pave the way for families in the future.

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Home Care Service, more than nursing care, thanks to you.

Recently we celebrated 12 months of practical support for patients in the care of Calvary's Palliative Home Care Service (pictured).

Twelve months ago, an anxious call came through from our family counsellor to ask if we could support her patient.

Bill was a well-spoken and gentle 85-year-old man. He had been a policeman all his life, which he was proud to share.

After an unexpected cancer diagnosis, his doctor put him in touch with Calvary's Palliative Home Care Service.

Bill's wish was to go to Mary Potter eventually, but until then, he wanted to stay in his home as long as he could. Through the Home Care Service, Mary Potter nurses visited him on a regular basis.

On one of these visits, Bill's nurse noted that he was becoming quite agitated, so a friendly chat with our family counsellor was arranged.

It was discovered that he was concerned about the amount of yard work he would be leaving his son, who lives in America. His backyard was littered with excess building materials and whilst the lawn had been mowed, the trees and shrubs were overgrown. Once his pride and joy, the garden was now too much for Bill.



Bill was unaware of the government support available to him, so while the counsellor worked through the applications for assistance, the Foundation stepped in, thanks to you.

Without hesitation, a gardener was engaged to work under Bill's precise directions – to clean up the yard, his shed and trim back the overgrown garden.

This brought relief to not only Bill, but to his son who was feeling the strain of being so far from home.

Bill died in Mary Potter in June last year, seven months after receiving your support.

Thank you for giving Bill what he needed at that moment so he could stop worrying and start focusing on the things that brought him joy.

Since that first call for help, there have been many more from the Home Care Service. Because of you, we have been able to say yes to a variety of requests over the last 12 months.

 Thank you

for bringing care in practical and loving ways to patients in the Home Care Service. This is worth celebrating. Happy Anniversary!

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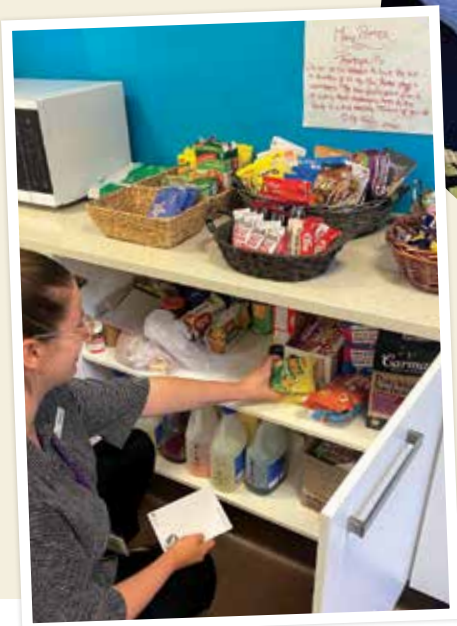
2021 Gratitude Report

Thank you for sharing in our mission to care for people at the end of their lives. Our hearts are full of gratitude for your support over the last 12 months. You ensured there was love, care, and support every day, every hour for over 370 patients and their families – in Mary Potter and in the Home Care Service.

You provided care through programs, additional staff, education, equipment and patient and family support. You also brought some very special moments of joy and normality to the lives of patients and families while they were in our care. Here are some messages of thanks we received from families that we would like to share with you.



“To the wonderful staff of Mary Potter who cared for M, we say thank you. Our dear, husband and grandfather who was diagnosed only 3 months before he died and his journey prior to arriving at Mary Potter had been quite traumatic as his team struggled to get his symptoms under control. That all changed when he began being cared for by your team. Dad was comfortable within a day and therefore at peace. We cannot express our gratitude enough for that. We are so grateful for Michael with such dignity and care, so unobtrusive, always reading his and our family’s needs so well. As a nurse, I was inspired by the level of care and dedication Dad received...thank you. There will never be enough words to express our gratitude to each person who cared for him... thank you”.



“Thank you for the care in our mother’s final days. You not only cared for my mum, but you kept her entertained as she listened to you work. As a former nurse, she taught us that any celebration on the ward, cake was always required, so it’s fitting that we thank you with cake, as we celebrate her life”.

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"We wish to sincerely thank you for the expert care that you provided to our brother. To help make his final days more comfortable. You focussed on his wishes...We know that you were providing similar care to other families but even when you were busy you were able to bring a calm individualised caring manner to us all."



"The love, compassion and empathy shown towards Dad was above and beyond what we could have ever expected and helped make his last week on earth as comfortable as he wanted. We will be forever grateful."



"Thank you so very much for your extremely kind thoughts and well wishes for my 90th Birthday. Thank you also for the beautiful flowers, gifts, and birthday cake. Your support and generosity are very much appreciated. I had a wonderful day with my family. Thank you for making sure I was able to be there."



"Our family is very grateful for all your loving care, kindness and concern for and to our mum and our family. Your attention and anticipation of Mum's needs greatly assisted her transition and gave comfort to all of us."

HOW TO *Get involved*

NOMINATE US FOR A CASUAL DAY OR FOR WORKPLACE GIVING

By nominating the Foundation, you ensure that every day there is care and facilities that are comfortable, individual and meaningful. Please call **Jess** at the Foundation office on **08 8239 0119** to find out more.

2022 WALK FOR LOVE

Save the date:

29 May 2022 – North Adelaide

15 May 2022 – Elizabeth Vale

(subject to the AFL program)



WANTED – WALK FOR LOVE VOLUNTEERS

If you have some spare time in the weeks and months leading up to Walk for Love or on the Walk for Love event days, we are looking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks. Examples include helping with art and craft, packing goody bags, setting up and packing down marquees and giving a friendly welcome to participants at the event.

You will need to be double vaccinated for COVID-19 and have an up-to-date National Police Certificate to volunteer with us. Please contact **Jess** on **08 8239 0119** or jess.george@marpotter.org.au for further information.

THANK YOU

We sincerely thank the following groups, volunteers, and organisations for your recent support.

- SA Power Networks
- Cops for Kids
- Adelaide Symphony Orchestra
- The Order of St John of Jerusalem
- Lauren Bartlett
- Wayne Baxter
- David Bedson
- Claire Blunt
- Helen Burns
- Russell Duncan
- Tony Harford
- Rose Hime
- Jeff Lanyon

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OUR MISSION

Inspiring people to share our belief that caring for people at the end of their lives is an honour and a privilege and to work with us to support living every day, every hour.



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Monday-Thursday 9am to 5pm,
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*The Mary Potter Foundation
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