

Care and Services

at the Lighthouse

Services Available

At The Lighthouse, Children and Families, we offer children in need of palliative care the full spectrum of services and care they require for their medical condition throughout their illness. They stay with us for specialized respite when complicated care is required, transitions between the hospital and home, psychosocial emergencies as needed, as well as symptom management and end of life, including grieving support services. In addition to stays in the palliative care centre, the Lighthouse offers home support visits to families through a dedicated team of volunteers.

Our services at The Lighthouse, Children and Families are designed to complement those provided by our partners in the healthcare system. For example, transition stays at the Lighthouse reduce time spent at the hospital for families who need to learn how to administer specialized care to their child. We also share our expertise with volunteers from the community by offering them training on palliative pediatric care.

At the palliative pediatric care centre, a team of activity leaders and volunteers offers the children a host of daily activities. Artistic, cognitive, motor, sensory, and relaxation activities are available, along with cultural and play outings. Additional professionals offer children sessions in music therapy, pet therapy, and massage therapy and even visits from therapeutic clowns.

This year once again, Lighthouse families benefited from the generosity of our partners such as Hotel Monfort, which offers families a stay at their facility in Nicolet, and the Altermed Clinic, which offers massage, acupuncture, and osteopathic treatments to name just a few.

New Staff in the Care and Services Department

In 2015, the Lighthouse had the pleasure of welcoming aboard H el ene L evesque as Director of Health and Allied Health, and Antoinette Petti as Nursing Clinical Practice and Development Advisor. Both women come to us from CHU Sainte-Justine and bring with them a wealth of experience in palliative pediatric care.

Training and Teaching

In order to improve access to specialized expertise in palliative pediatric care, and with a view to training trainers, we have opened the door this year to sharing our knowledge and learning from others.

In 2015-2016 various interns from abroad visited the Lighthouse:

- Four university nursing students through the French Red Cross
- One special educator through Office franco-qu eb ecois pour la jeunesse
- One senior nurse from Brussels for a shadowing internship at the Lighthouse to learn about and share different work methods and protocols

In addition, the Lighthouse welcomed students from various teaching programs at the secondary, college, and university levels:

- Licenced practical nurses ( cole des Faubourgs)
- Master's nursing students (McGill University)
- Facilitator (C EGEP du Vieux Montr al)

Professional development presentations were also given to Lighthouse doctors and nurses by a pediatrician from CHU Sainte-Justine specialized in palliative pediatric care.

Care and Services Committee

Over the course of the year, the first milestones of the Parent Partner approach were established by resuming the Program Committee, now called the Care and Services Committee. With this name change comes a new direction for the committee, which now includes parents in the Lighthouse leadership team in order to benefit from their involvement and commitment. The parents who sit on this committee also helped develop an evaluation tool for the patient experience, a novel approach in the field of palliative care.



2016–2021 Strategic Plan

The Lighthouse team's commitment to supporting children and their families is fundamental. We are driven by a desire and a passion to always do better. So everybody—our care and services teams, our medical team, parent groups, Lighthouse employees and volunteers, and representatives of the public healthcare and social services network—sat down together and developed our 2016–2021 Strategic Plan. It is now ready to be rolled out.

Volunteerism

Volunteers are critical to a facility like the Lighthouse. They help in a variety of ways, the most visible being events and activities, support services, accompaniment for children and families, administrative assistance, and in-home support. Over the coming months, a focus group will thoroughly study the role and crucial importance of volunteers at the Lighthouse.

Of course, the work of our volunteers goes hand in hand with the unerring support of our generous partners. Their commitment goes beyond dollars and cents—it embraces values like dedication and giving, it is pivotal in our ongoing ability to take action, and it enhances the human side to our work, our distinctive difference at the Lighthouse.

