

## Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network honours exceptional Caregivers in Niagara

### NEWS

Sept 12, 2017

Twenty five unpaid caregivers from across Niagara region are being honoured today as part of the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network's (HNHB LHIN) Annual *Heroes in the Home* caregiver recognition program. A total of 120 unpaid caregivers have been nominated throughout the HNHB LHIN for 2017.

*Heroes in the Home* honours caregivers who support and care for their loved ones at home and in the community, so they can live fulfilling lives regardless of such limitations as disability, illness or age. Anyone can nominate an unpaid caregiver for a *Heroes* award at any time during the year. The only criteria is that caregivers must reside within the HNHB region and provide care to anyone located in Ontario.

*"Before Parkinson's disease put an end to her caregiving role, my mom cared for my brother Walter who was born with Spina Bifida" says Heroes nominee Lisa Heuvig. "After many years of our entire family managing mom's increasing needs at home, it became clear that Long-Term Care placement options would have to be explored. Through our advocacy on Mom's behalf, she is now living at her preferred facility in her hometown and my father is able to spend time with her every day."*

Lisa is being honoured as a Hero in the Home along with her father William Vermeer, and sisters Anne Yarascavitch and Janet MacLeod.

Statistics Canada figures show approximately 3.3 million unpaid caregivers provide support to their loved ones in Ontario alone, an estimated value of more than \$31 billion annually in our health care system.

### QUOTES

*"Caregivers are an integral and often overlooked part of our health system that make a difference in the lives of tens of thousands of people across our region every day. These unsung heroes provide the essential supports that make it possible for their loved ones to live at home."*

- Janine van den Heuvel, Board Chair HNHB LHIN

*“We are pleased to honour and thank our celebrated caregivers, recognizing their selfless dedication in caring for family members, friends and neighbors. Without these exceptional people, we couldn’t do what we do in the home and community care sector.”*

- Donna Cripps, CEO, HNHB LHIN

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## **QUICK FACTS**

- With a budget of more than \$3 billion, and covering Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand, Brant, Burlington and most of Norfolk, the HNHB LHIN is home to a diverse population of more than 1.4 million people. The HNHB LHIN plans and funds the local health care system by working with more than 185 providers as well as delivering and coordinating home and community care for more than 85,000 people across the LHIN.
- The HNHB LHIN is committed to dramatically improving the patient experience through quality, integration and value while supporting our vision to create a health care system that helps keep people healthy, gets them good care when they are sick, and will be there for our children and grandchildren.

For more information on the HNHB LHIN, please visit: [www.hnhblhin.on.ca](http://www.hnhblhin.on.ca).

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