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***Toronto Family Gives Back To Huntington Disease Community***

(TORONTO, ON) March 14, 2017 – Jim Wiswell learned he had the HD gene in 1995. It was tough news to come to terms with, but a healthcare professional suggested that one way to feel better was by getting involved. For more than two decades, Jim and his wife, Ellen Foster, have done just that.

Ellen served on the executive of HSC’s Toronto chapter. Jim led the Gems of Toronto architectural walking tours for 18 years to raise money for the Society. And together, they’ve been monthly donors, Indy organizers and all-star Amaryllis sellers.

For both of them, the advice to volunteer proved bang on. “You feel like you’re contributing, you raise money for a good cause, and you meet some amazing people,” says Jim. So when it came time to update their will, it’s no surprise they chose to leave a gift for the Society as a way to continue contributing after they’re gone.

The couple see it as a way of giving back to an organization that has supported them — and Jim’s family — so much. They point to social workers like Nancy Webb, Rozi Andrejas and Sandra Funk who have provided guidance over the years. They’ve taken advantage of information on HSC’s website and learned about the latest breakthroughs at National Conferences.

Meanwhile, support groups and therapeutic retreats connected them with other families affected by HD. “To have a sense of community is absolutely what it’s all about,” Ellen says. “And the community is deserving of as much support as we can give them.”

That’s why they chose to make a legacy gift. Ultimately, Ellen hopes the day will come when research advances mean we no longer need a Huntington Society of Canada. “But right now,” she says, “they need support.” Jim agrees. “They’ve given a lot to me,” he says. “I’d like to give something back.”

Interested in learning more about legacy giving? Call Jeff Hoffman at 1-800-998-7398 or email [jhoffman@huntingtonsociety.ca](mailto:jhoffman@huntingtonsociety.ca).

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**About Huntington Disease**

Huntington disease (HD) is an inherited, debilitating brain disorder that is fatal and incurable. About one in every 7,000 Canadians has HD and approximately one in every 5,500 is at-risk of developing the disease. Many more are touched by HD whether as a caregiver, a family member, or a friend. Huntington disease is devastating for both the body and the mind. The symptoms, which may include uncontrollable jerking movements and relentless cognitive and emotional impairment, usually present between the ages of 30 and 45, and gradually worsen over the 10-25 year course of the disease. Eventually they lead to total incapacitation and death.

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**About the Huntington Society of Canada**

The Huntington Society of Canada (HSC) is a respected leader in the worldwide effort to end Huntington disease (HD). HSC is the only national health charity dedicated to providing help and hope for families dealing with HD across Canada. HSC aspires to a world free from Huntington disease. For more information about Huntington disease and the Huntington Society of Canada visit [www.huntingtonsociety.ca](http://www.huntingtonsociety.ca).

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