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Growing Hope for Huntington Disease with Amaryllis

(CALGARY, AB) November 16, 2018 – For over 15 years Karen Koester has been volunteering to sell Amaryllis flowers to raise money for families affected by Huntington disease (HD). She has been the one in charge of organizing the Southern Alberta Chapter of the Huntington Society of Canada’s (HSC) orders and distributing them. For Koester, selling Amaryllis is one of the easiest ways to make her contribution to the cause.

“The flowers sell themselves,” says Koester. “Once you grow one, you’re hooked! It’ll grow practically anywhere by anyone – no green thumb required.”

The Amaryllis is the signature flower of the Huntington Society of Canada. Volunteers sell bulb kits to raise vital funds for programs in HD research, services and education. Each year, around 20,000 amaryllis bulbs bloom coast to coast, across Canada, inspiring hope of a world free of HD. Since the sales began in 1985, HSC volunteers have raised well over five million dollars through Amaryllis sales.

All Amaryllis volunteers have their own reasons for selling and ways to sell the bulbs. “For me, it brings a sense of spring to our dull winter. A sense of life and renewal!” says Koester. “It is also a great gift for Christmas. The young and old alike love the Amaryllis.”

If you would like to help HSC reach their goal of 20,000 amaryllis bulbs blooming coast to coast across Canada, please visit www.inspirehope.ca.

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Huntington disease (HD) is a 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 often described as having the symptoms of Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and ALS – simultaneously. As the disease progresses, a person with Huntington’s become less able to manage movements, recall events, make decisions and control emotions. The disease leads to incapacitation and, eventually, death.

The **Huntington Society of Canada (HSC)** is a respected leader in the worldwide effort to find a meaningful treatment for HD. HSC is the only Canadian health charity dedicated to providing help and hope for families dealing with HD across Canada. HSC aspires for a world free from Huntington disease. For more information about HD and HSC visit www.huntingtonsociety.ca.

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