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***Growing Hope for Huntington Disease with Amaryllis***

(Edmonton, AB) November 12, 2018 – Tabatha Heppleston has only been volunteering to sell Amaryllis flowers to raise money for families affected by Huntington disease (HD) for the past 2 years. For Heppleston, selling Amaryllis is one of the easiest ways to make her contribution to the cause that affects so many people she knows.

“One of my brother’s friends from high school recently got a diagnosis of HD, I was friends with a girl in high school whose mom also had a positive diagnosis and my mom has a friend whose wife has HD,” says Heppleston. “Seeing all these unrelated families affected by HD in such a small area and realizing how far reaching it is, I knew I had to do something.”

But standard fundraising events didn’t interest her family.

“We’re not runners,” she says. “But Amaryllis is something I can maintain, so now I sell them every year.”

The Amaryllis is the signature flower of the Huntington Society of Canada (HSC). Volunteers sell bulb kits to raise vital funds for programs in 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 ways of selling the bulbs. “Last year I sold at 3 markets and through word of mouth,” says Tabatha’s mother April. “At the markets, we all wore very bright coloured aprons and my five-year-old granddaughter would stop people walking past and ask ‘have you got your Amaryllis yet?’ No one could say no.”

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](http://www.inspirehope.ca).

– 30 –

**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](http://www.huntingtonsociety.ca).