

Letter to the Editor: Amaryllis Campaign helps those affected by Huntington disease

You may not be touched by Huntington disease (HD). I have, in some way, been affected by HD, and that is why I am writing today.

Huntington disease is a hereditary, neurodegenerative illness with physical, cognitive and emotional symptoms said to be like having ALS, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases all at the same time. One in every 7,000 Canadians has HD and approximately one in every 5,500 is at-risk for developing the disease. Many more are touched by HD as a caregiver, family member, or friend. Each child of a parent with HD has a 50 per cent chance of inheriting the disease. There is no cure, but there is hope.

There is hope because the HD community is strong and full of committed volunteers. Every fall we help the Huntington Society of Canada with their **National Amaryllis Campaign (inspirehope.ca)**. The goal for 2021 is to sell 25,000 Amaryllis, raising over \$100,000 coast-to-coast. These funds are dedicated to research into treating the root cause of Huntington disease as well as Family Services programs that support individuals and families affected by HD.

HD is a rare disease. Not many people have heard of it. But if you have been touched by HD, you'll know that it is devastating to families, and that is why the community is so committed to helping. By purchasing an Amaryllis, you can help support Canadians who are affected by Huntington disease. Each kit is packaged in a lovely gift box containing one high-quality Orange Sovereign amaryllis bulb, growing instructions, soil, a planting pot, a plant stake and a saucer. They come in cases of 12 kits and are shipped across Canada. You can order now until they sell out, with delivery dates from October 6 and December 15, 2021. These flowers make a great gift for any occasion and bring beautiful brightness to any room.

It always means so much to our community to see Canadians rally together to help others and to inspire families with hope for a brighter future.

If you would like to purchase an Amaryllis, please contact me at **[INSERT YOUR PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL ADDRESS]**. More information about the Huntington Society's 2021 Amaryllis Campaign can be found at www.inspirehope.ca.