

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 impacted 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 aspects of Parkinson disease, ALS, Alzheimer disease and schizophrenia, 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 (HSC) with their National Amaryllis campaign (inspirehope.ca). The goal for 2023 is to sell 25,000 Amaryllis, raising over \$150,000 coast-to-coast. To date, the Amaryllis campaign has raised over 6 million dollars. These funds are dedicated to research into treating the root cause of Huntington disease as well as Family Services programs that support individuals, families and youth affected by HD.

HD is a rare disease, often called “the worst disease you’ve never heard of.” Those impacted by HD have a different story to tell. We are all-too-familiar with the disease that challenges generations of family members. It’s a devastating story of caregiving, loss, and hope. HSC represents the thousands of Canadian families committed to creating a future free of HD. This shared goal is at the heart of the help provided by the community. You can help, too. By purchasing an Amaryllis, you help support Canadians who are impacted 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, 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 4 to December 14, 2023. 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 don’t hesitate to contact me at **[INSERT YOUR PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL ADDRESS]**. More information about the Huntington Society’s 2023 Amaryllis Campaign can be found at www.inspirehope.ca.