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Lights On Stratford Illuminates the Holiday Season with Charity Focus on Wellspring Cancer Support Centres

Stratford, Ontario, November 20, 2023 – This year, Stratford's annual festive spectacle, Lights On Stratford, shines a spotlight on Wellspring Cancer Support Centres. What makes Lights On Stratford truly special is its commitment to supporting local charities by raising both awareness and funds for the charity of choice.

Wellspring Cancer Support Centre in Stratford is dedicated to providing emotional, psychological, and educational support to anyone affected by cancer through their NO-COST programs and services. This partnership with Lights On Stratford brings awareness to the challenges faced by those who are going through the cancer journey.

Wellspring Stratford's Office Manager, Lisa Stacey, says, "By supporting Wellspring, Lights On Stratford will contribute to the vital NO-COST programs and services that the centre provides to anyone affected by cancer, fostering hope and healing within the community. I am also excited that poems written by our members from our series of poetry workshops will be displayed at each of the installations this year." The poetry workshops, led by local award-winning poet Heidi Sander, have helped members find healing, comfort, and self-discovery within the safe space of Wellspring. "Heidi's workshop is the most powerful group therapy I have ever encountered," says Wellspring member, Geri.

The poems, written by Wellspring members, will be highlighted during Lights On Stratford at each installation from December 15th, 2023 to January 13th, 2024. Wellspring receives no funding from government resources, or non-governmental organizations. This organization depends on the support from our community to continue offering NO-COST programs to families directly impacted by a cancer diagnosis.

Festival patrons are encouraged to consider donating at any of the tap-to-pay stations located at each of the main Lights On Stratford locations. The first 200 donations of \$10 or more made at the Destination Stratford office will receive a Rhéo Thompson Candies Chocolate Mint Smoothie!

"Destination Stratford takes a community-first approach to all of our destination development efforts, and on behalf of our entire organization, it is a privilege for this winter's Lights On Stratford to focus its charitable fundraising efforts to benefit the local Wellspring Cancer Support Centre and help support the incredibly meaningful work being



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done there for our community", says Zac Gribble, Executive Director, Destination Stratford and Festival Director, Lights On Stratford.

Prepare to be mesmerized this winter with interactive displays up nightly Thursday through Sunday from 5-10pm. The 4th annual Lights On Stratford is free to the public and set to launch on December 15th, 2023 until January 13th, 2024. Visit <u>lightsonstratford.ca</u> for more details. For more information about Wellspring Cancer Support Centres, visit <u>wellspring.ca</u>.

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For more information, please email hello@visitstratford.ca.