



Name: Lisa and Dave Stephenson

Tell us about yourself: Since dancing in SWTS, we retired and are so grateful to have the opportunity to slow down and really enjoy life. Time with friends and family ... especially our adult children Ash and Nick. And time with our new addition to the family, Jax. Our mischievous, energetic, cuddly mini Dachshund. Covid definitely threw a wrench into the retirement travel plans but we've thoroughly enjoyed exploring our own backyard in our "new to us" motorhome!

What year did you dance? 2017

What was your connection to COHA at that time? In August 2013, my momma was a young, healthy, active, outgoing 76 year old ... and she was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer. She passed away 6 short weeks later in the Coquitlam Hospice. Hospice was a life saver for our family and for Mom. Until that time, I don't think the word Hospice had crossed any of our lips. I will forever be grateful to the volunteers at Hospice. What a difference they made.

After a few months of processing Mom's death, I began the journey of researching our local Hospice in Kelowna and what was involved in becoming a volunteer. I completed COHA's necessary training and began my journey as a Companion Volunteer for COHA at Hospice House. What a gift I was given.

Later, I joined the SWTS organizing committee. And then I was asked to dance in the 2017 SWTS. What an honour. And I was so lucky to have my husband by my side.

What was your style of dance and why did you choose that one? Since I was a little girl, I loved the movie Grease. The opportunity to dance to their finale song "You're the One that I Want" made me giddy. And more importantly, the opportunity to honour Mom's memory and raise funds for a cause near and dear to our hearts was incredible. And as the weeks and months went on leading up to the event, our goals and the story changed and grew. Honestly, the dancing took a back burner (although we practiced our butts off! It was hard!) ... the fundraising and the opportunity to raise awareness for COHA became our focus.

Our goal was to raise \$10,000 and through a series of fundraisers, we raised \$25K!

What is your favourite memory from your performance? I have so many fond memories of the entire journey and the event night but the absolute best has to be the Grease Leather Jacket. It all started as a crazy idea and ended up being the best, most heartfelt project I've ever been a part of.

In our dance, Dave (or "Danny") starts the dance in a letterman sweater. Towards the end, he puts on his leather jacket (just like in the movie!) ... this is my favorite memory of the dance. When Dave stepped on the dance floor in that jacket, there wasn't a dry eye in the place who had a connection to that jacket. You see, a few weeks earlier we launched a fundraising campaign called "Dancing for Dianne" (my mom). To all of our friends, family, and colleagues, we offered them the opportunity to



donate to our campaign and they would be able to have their loved one's name who they had lost, written on the leather jacket.

When Dave stepped on the dance floor, in that jacket covered in names, it was surreal. We were dancing for my Mom but also for all of these loved ones we had lost. It was incredible. A moment I will forever remember.

Are you still dancing today? We are not still dancing. Unless you count our living room after a couple glasses of wine!