



Grounded in the past. Looking to the future.

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*Grace Sweatman, President
The Christie Gardens Foundation*

In 2015, Grace Sweatman retired from her role as CEO of Christie Gardens that she held for 28 years. Grace is a past President of the Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA), and currently serves as a Director of the Durham Christian Homes Society and a Director of Suomi-Koti Toronto.

Letter from the Editor ...

I have had the privilege of leading the Foundation for more than 10 years. This has been both an honour and an invaluable learning experience.

During this time I have noticed with admiration the generosity of folk who “give back” as a lifelong commitment.

Our donors are members of our community, service providers, staff members, estates, and members of our extended families.

Many have caught the vision of the Foundation and have chosen to make it part of their regular giving and philanthropic legacy. Over the past several years we have been privileged to receive generous gifts from 20 estates.

We continue to receive yearly support from Foundations established by former residents.

Many families and friends have expressed their gratitude for the loving care of someone dear to them.

And many have regularly responded to the year-end request for support.

And finally, a dedicated group of donors support the Foundation through monthly giving.

This newsletter documents the areas of activity the Foundation has been privileged to support in the past six months. I encourage you to reflect on this work and choose which speaks to you.

(continues inside ...)

Letter from the Editor ... (continued from cover)

The Benevolent Fund continues to provide support for residents facing financial need.

The Education and Research fund seeks to continue the transformation of eldercare as initiated and practiced at Christie Gardens. In particular, our Inspire Scholarship provides bursaries for staff and their family members who are engaged in study in fields related to eldercare.

Our Capital Campaign was remarkably successful in assisting in the renewal of The Courtyard, and now we have an opportunity to assist in the latest project.

Four years ago we introduced “Let’s Keep Moving”, with a dream to provide an excellent physiotherapy and fitness centre. COVID-19 delayed this valuable initiative, but I am delighted to report that this project is underway once again.

Our Physiotherapy and Fitness team is highly skilled and faithful in their goal to serve our residents with an effective program. At present half our residents are actively engaged in various levels of fitness. The Foundation is anticipating your support in providing specialized equipment.

And so, I encourage you to consider your part in these activities. “Why I Give” can become “Why I Give to the Christie Gardens Foundation”.

Please join us in our commitment to making an invaluable difference in the lives of those we serve, influencing others in the model of provision of respectful service, educating and encouraging staff, and supporting ongoing capital initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration, I am honoured to continue to serve in this vital role.

Capital Campaign: Let’s Keep Moving

In 2018, we held a Spring Gala to celebrate the successful completion of our Courtyard neighbourhoods and to look ahead.

At that event we launched **Let’s Keep Moving**, introducing our next project: a ground-floor **Fitness and Physiotherapy Centre** at Christie Gardens.

Let’s Keep Moving was a slogan intended to encourage physical fitness and to highlight the importance of mobility in health; it also described how the Foundation was not done with its important work.

Let’s Keep Moving also said a lot about Christie Gardens’ philosophy. Christie was established to meet a need, and as that need has changed the organization has continually evolved. This project is the latest step in that ongoing evolution.

The Christie Gardens Foundation will continue to look for opportunities to raise funds for this vital project.



concept images for Christie Gardens Fitness and Physiotherapy Centre

Why I Give: Don Cooper

Recently we had the opportunity to sit down with Don Cooper to talk about philanthropy and why he has donated to The Christie Gardens Foundation. Here is an excerpt from that conversation ...

I think it all started with me and my friend Bill, whom I knew for many years.

Bill lived alone and had many physical issues which made it difficult for him to take care of himself. After his mother died, he was a bit alone in the world.

I didn't live at Christie Gardens at the time, but I was familiar with the community from visiting friends who were already residents.

I thought Christie would be the perfect place for my friend.

I had to do a lot of convincing and basically dragged Bill here. After only a week or two he shared he "thought it was the greatest place ever", and was so thankful he had moved in.

Bill lived at Christie for several years and was an active member of the community and played Bridge all the time. At a certain point, he needed some assistance with his rent and I helped out with that by donating to the Christie Gardens Foundation Benevolent Fund.

I have been a member of Bloor Street United Church for many years and am involved in a variety of charitable activities. As alumni of Queens University, my late wife Ann and I had the opportunity to support a scholarship for Black students (the Robert Sutherland-Harry Jerome Entrance Award) which has been active for more than 10 years.

Don, thank you for sharing your stories and for your contributions to our Benevolent Fund.

The Benevolent Fund is fully supported by The Christie Gardens Foundation and was established in 2009 to assist our residents who have outlived their financial resources and who are unable to cover the full cost of their care. The fund has made disbursements of \$1.3MM since its inception.



"I didn't come from a wealthy family, but my father always taught us to share what we had..."

INSPIRE 2022 Scholars

In September 2022 we launched our scholarship programme: Inspire.

Available exclusively to staff, service providers, and the families of those who serve the community at Christie Gardens, the inspire scholarship was created to promote and encourage continuing education in the field of elder care.

We are pleased to announce our 2022 scholars: Pema Choezom, Olubisi Odeboju, Ashley MacDonald, Maria Smoczyk, and Deborah Namakula.



For more information, visit:
www.christiegardens.org/inspire

inspire
The Christie Gardens Foundation Scholarship

Ways to Give

We accept donations by cheque made payable to The Christie Gardens Foundation, delivered by hand to the Christie Gardens main Reception Desk, or by mail to:

ATTN: The Christie Gardens Foundation
600 Melita Crescent
Toronto, ON M6G 3Z4

One-time or regular monthly donations can be set up through the Canada Helps online service. A "Donate Now" button can be found on our website.



You can arrange to donate shares through your financial institution, usually with no fee nor impact on your taxes. Consult your tax advisor or financial institution for more information.

For Christie Gardens residents: regular monthly donations can be made through pre-authorized payments on resident accounts. Contact the Finance Office to arrange.

For more information on ways to give, visit our website at www.christiegardensfoundation.org

COVID^{IN THE}
HOUSE OF OLD



In our last newsletter we recommended a podcast called COVID in the House of Old, a 6-episode podcast series created and hosted by Megan J. Davies, a historian of health and Professor Emerita at York University.

Dr. Davies has a keen interest in honouring and informing listeners about the tragic realities that so many elders and staff faced in Canadian Nursing Homes, particularly during the first 20 months of the pandemic.

As part of our mission to influence peers and policymakers, the Foundation will be partnering with COVID in the House of Old to bring their travelling exhibit to Toronto in October 2023.

For more information about the podcast, go to www.covidinthehouseofold.ca.

About The Christie Gardens Foundation

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President and Editor-in-Chief:
Grace Sweatman

Design and Production:
Jim Sweatman

Contributors:
Melanie Burton, Michelle Boyd

Photo Credits:
Diana Sweatman

*for more information about
The Christie Gardens Foundation
including how to make a donation
please visit our website at
www.christiegardensfoundation.org*

The Beeton Cupboard Food Bank at St. Michael & All Angels Church

In December 2022 we had the opportunity to make a cash contribution to a local food bank that has served the Wychwood community for over 30 years.

In 2022 the Beeton Cupboard provided an estimated 9,000 bags of groceries to those in need, with no questions asked, and no registration required. Of particular interest, the Beeton Cupboard served between 60 and 90 elders per week, including delivery to their homes.

We greatly respect and appreciate the work of St. Michaels and All Angels Church and hope to have the opportunity to continue to support their work.

