



September 2024

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, faced with the need for care and a supportive environment I requested a respite stay in The Courtyard at Christie Gardens.

For those of you who aren't familiar with Christie Gardens, or the work of the Foundation that I lead, the Courtyard is our full care floor, and the focus of our culture change initiative some 12 years ago.

Now, my respite accommodation has become my new home, and I want to share this story about how fortunate I feel to have the opportunity to live here.

After a recent visit to the Emergency Room at St. Michael's Hospital, the young physician asked me about one of my favourite subjects: Christie Gardens.

I regaled the physician with an overview of our history and our philosophy. I shared details about where I was currently living, describing both the Courtyard Community and our Courtyard garden. He smiled and gave me a lasting gift:

*"You are so fortunate. Very few people get to sit in the shade of a tree they planted!"*

The neighbourhood, its leaders, staff at every level, and overall environment all surpass my hopes and dreams. Kindness prevails. Care is provided by skilled and dedicated staff in every department. It is truly my privilege to be here.

And so, I am resting in the shade of the tree I planted: Christie Gardens, a respectful and caring community.

I am blessed indeed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grace Sweatman".



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