



As the decade closes and cold weather settles in, I am finding joy in sharing news about our Home with you. The year has quickly come to a close, rushed along with many projects and events that united our staff and helped our residents. As a charitable Home, we look to our families and community for support and this year we made a few new friends who made a great

difference. Read along these pages for these, and more, fundraising stories.

The Long-Term Care industry is facing many challenges and changes, and here at Grove Park Home, we look ahead a few years to our own challenges that will see great changes inside our wall. Read more about

this on page 3 from our Executive Director, Paul Taylor.

This is also the time of year when we engage in budget planning. Besides our “operating” budget, we work together with our staff to identify equipment needs and project ideas that would benefit our residents. The result is a Capital Needs 2020 list that needs support. More information on what we do with this list can be found in this newsletter. There is also a special feature inside here that will inspire you to fill out the included donation slip to help with the more than 160,000 meals a year that we serve to our residents.

From all of us here at Grove Park Home, we wish you a very Merry Christmas. We hope to see you in the halls over this holiday season.

Linda

DementiAbility second year update

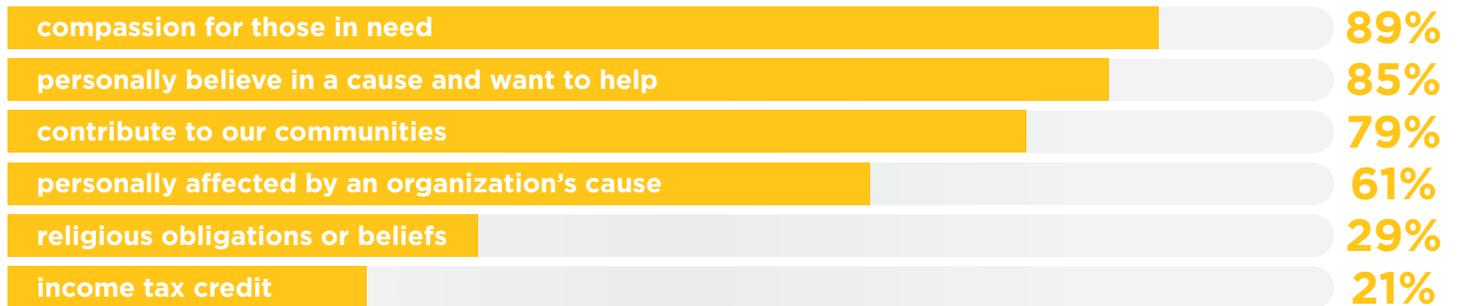
While practicing DementiAbility is a year-long and long-term commitment, we raised \$50,000 at our 50th birthday last year to support this project and promised to use these funds over two years. Here is an update as we close in on our improvement project that will wind down in May.

- ✔ 9 new staff were trained for a total of 30 staff members certified
- ✔ 15 staff serve on the DementiAbility Committee
- ✔ 12 Pet Therapy cats and dogs were purchased
- ✔ A traveling tool cabinet was acquired and tools collected
- ✔ New organizational products purchased and branded
- ✔ 100's of new DementiAbility activities were purchased, packaged and distributed to all 5 Home areas
- ✔ More than a dozen one-to-one activities were created for residents with history related behaviours
- ✔ The program offered financial support to our award-winning vegetable gardens. This offers memory-based activities for residents who enjoy the opportunity to plant/weed/harvest herbs and vegetables from May to September



give local

It is clear that Canadians are motivated to donate because they care for their fellow citizens and the social impact of the various causes organizations represent. The breakdown is as follows:



When you choose to donate to a charity, is it for one of the above reasons? Is “community” important to you? Our Home’s Director of Development and Communication is a member of the local Fund Development Network. Linda Muszynski is inspired by this group’s mandate of GIVE LOCAL. “When you give to local organizations, you help the persons served by the charity, you help to employ local people, and your donation reaches further by supporting services and products that the charities use on a daily basis.”

The impact on the community is substantial and makes our city a better place to live in.

While deciding on your year end giving, please consider our Home.

You will be helping the 143 residents who call us home; the very old and those living with dementia.

the year in review – projects

A majority of our donations are received with specific intent; meaning the donor has directed us to purchase something specific with their donation. This usually happens after discussions with donors about what our needs are, and what impact these needs have on our residents. Without further ado, here are a few of the projects that happened this year *because someone cared to help*:

We’re grateful to have made a new friend and donor who purchased two new beds and trusted us with a big project: renovating the Rehab Room. It now includes new seating space, new office furniture and a huge TV for streaming exercise lessons and more.

\$12,700

The Provincial and Local Legion made donations that allowed us to purchase several specialty surfaces, a leg exercise machine for rehab, a blood pressure tower, and the required accessories.

\$19,400

A resident’s family members made a donation to purchase new chairs for our auditorium. These chairs not only look great, but they are better for our residents, families, staff and volunteers.

\$3,465

Dear friend and supporter Sally directed her own Elston Foundation to donate funds to buy specialty mattresses and pumps and to purchase regular mattresses to replace dated items. This donor continues to humble us with thoughtful gifts such as these.

\$9,000

Most humbling was a gift from a donor who came to us through a referral from a family member. Incredibly, this lovely new friend is purchasing 26 new bed systems for our residents! This represents the largest single gift we have ever received!

\$99,100

If you would like to learn more about these “specified” gifts, please use the contact information on page 6 to get in touch with our Development Office.

from paul taylor – executive director



If your only source of information about Long Term Care is from media sources, you could be forgiven for thinking that LTC Homes are best avoided. Unfortunately, the media tends to focus on sensational and bad-news stories. Certainly, there are areas for improvement in our LTC system, and these areas need to be addressed. What is often

missed are the good news stories that are happening in LTC homes across our province. At Grove Park I am especially proud of the good-news stories that happen in our home every day.

This year Grove Park was awarded the 2019 Mayor's Innovation Award in the Public Institution category. A panel of 19 judges selected Grove Park above four other public institutions, finding that our "commitment to innovation has positively impacted the community". At the Annual X-celerate Summit, our home was recognized for our innovative local food procurement, beehive and honey production, and our vegetable gardens that are tended to by residents and incorporated into our menus. We were also recognized for our DementiAbility programming and the creation of environments that benefit our residents with dementia. The final accolade was for the implementation

of nursing best practices which led to our achievement and designation as a Best Practice Spotlight Organization.

The Innovation Award is a crowning achievement for the home and we are grateful to the panel of judges and the City of Barrie for considering Long Term Care a worthy recipient. Recognition goes to our entire community of staff, residents, volunteers, local service clubs, and individual donors. For all who have supported our home with your time and/or financial support, consider this award yours as well.

Looking to the future we want to continue our relationships with our fantastic partners and we are eager to bring more supporters into our community. In the near future we will be revealing exciting plans for the renovation and re-construction of the Maple and Aspen home areas. Once complete, the redeveloped home areas will contribute to our desire to provide resident-emotionally centered care, and we are looking forward to sharing these plans with our community. Stay tuned!

In the meantime, as you plan your year-end giving please consider supporting our residents. As a small community-based not for profit, your donations make a big impact. I thank you for your support of our home and wish you and yours a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a blessed New Year.

Paul

*"If your heart is in your dream,
no request is too extreme"*

[Our dream is to have new specialty tables in our dining rooms. See the next page for more information on this exciting project PLUS the donation slip so you can help make our dreams come true.](#)



When you complete the reverse side of this slip, know that you are doing great things. Your donation will ensure that we continue to have the most, and the best staff caring for our residents. The very old and those suffering with dementia will benefit from your kindness. Donations also ensure that we have equipment that provides the right care, in the right place, at the right time. Certainly residents benefit

from your gift, but so do staff; those who provide care are also the ones who ask for specialty items for person-centered care. Become part of our team that is "committed to care" by pledging monthly support or making an annual donation. We will reward you with our thanks. Revenue Canada will reward you with the benefits of a charitable tax receipt!

"We shall continuously provide excellent care in a secure environment with family and community support"



multi position tables: a better solution to the resident dining room experience

Check out these “made in Canada” tables that make dining a simpler experience for residents, staff and volunteers. Did you know that our Home serves over 156,000 meals per year in our 5 dining rooms? Did you also know that two-thirds of our residents either require assistance with feeding or remain in a wheelchair for their meals? Well, check out these multi-position tables that will make an incredible difference during meal times. Each table has the ability to serve four residents with different physical or feeding needs at one time and in one place.

This newsletter comes with a donation slip to support the purchase of these tables for use in our dining rooms. It is our hope that each dining room will get two new tables and we know that our generous donors will want to support this project that comes with a price tag of \$1300 per table. Yes, that is \$15,600, but we know we can count on you!



Look Who's Talking:

“These tables will mean that we can put like-minded residents together instead of placement by physicality and feeding needs. The dining experience will be more social and enjoyable.”

Travis Durham, Director of Food Services and Information Technology

“My husband and I volunteer as Assisted Feeders every single day. Having tables that adjust to fit a resident's physical needs will be wonderful. Residents will be able to feed themselves better, and, as volunteers, we will be able to maneuver better without the barrier of table legs.”

Nancy Drury, Volunteer

“Oh, the excitement of what these table could bring to our residents. Improved independence and socialization, old friendships can be renewed and new friendships created. Wow! The resident satisfaction will be huge. The whole dining experience will be better in “their” dining rooms.”

Tammy Jordan, PSW

For 2020, use the slip below to donate and support **dining room enhancements**. Or donate online at groveparkhome.on.ca

DONATE

Yes, I want to help...

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Find enclosed my **one time donation** of \$ _____

I would like to be a monthly donor
Please charge my credit card \$ _____ monthly.
(January 2020 - December 2020)

Please make your cheque payable to **Grove Park Home**. Credit card donations are also accepted. We will mail your credit card transaction slip to you.

Mastercard Visa

Card No.: _____

Expiry: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

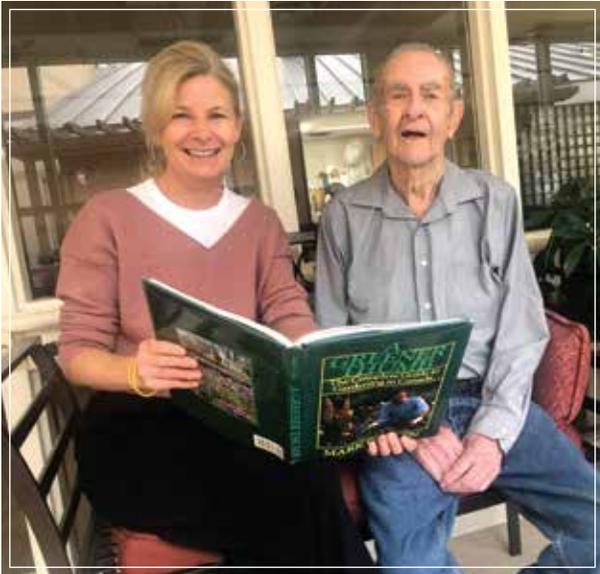
Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$10.00
Monthly supporters will be receipted annually.

**Grove Park Home
Fund Development Office**
234 Cook Street
Barrie, Ontario
L4M 4H5

pages book sale

This year we hosted our first book sale called PAGES.

Inspired by a community book sale in Victoria BC, they encouraged the process of doing first a book “drive” and then a book “sale”. We were absolutely overwhelmed by the book donations. In fact, we likely don’t need to do a book drive in the spring as we have 1000’s of great quality books already sorted and ready for sale. This year’s sale earned just over \$4,000 to support the residents in our care, and we hope to increase that every year as we become the “biggest little book sale” in town.



christmas funny

According to the Department of Natural Resources, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December.

Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl.

We should have known... ONLY women would be able to drag a jolly man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost!



we made the cover

Be sure to check out the OARC Magazine on display in the front lobby. Our submitted photo of Alma in our vegetable garden won the cover of this magazine.

(Photo courtesy of our own Cindy Rossit)



paddles up

Yup, we did it again! The Geri-Antics have captured the “best fundraising team” trophy again this year. The Barrie Dragon Boat Festival presented the four-peat award to the team after a great day of paddling. Our team of staff, volunteers, family and friends enjoyed some races, shared some great food and celebrated the money raised to support our residents.

With great thanks to our generous sponsors, (see banner by our elevators) we were able to acquire some much needed items including mechanical lifts, slings,

wound care supplies, a blood pressure monitor, a communications TV for the front lobby and more.

Want to be on the boat next year or sponsor our team? See the contact information on the back page and get in touch.



what a capital idea!

This fall, as we worked towards our 2020 budget, we also went through a process called Capital Needs. This involves all departments and allows us to thoughtfully plan our non-operational needs for the coming year. While some items we will fund within our means, there are many items that will fall to fundraising to come to fruition. Supporting a project or specific purchase at the Home is a respectful and transparent experience. Here are a few items on our list this coming year. We will share the official list with you early in the New Year.

Mechanical Lifts (2) **\$4500 each**

Blood Pressure Towers (3) **\$6500 each**

Servery Conveyor Toaster (5) **\$1800 each**

Interactive Sensory Boards (5) **\$3000 each**

in lieu of

In times of celebration or times of sadness, charitable donations may be requested in lieu of gifts or flowers. These are family wishes meant to recognize important causes and groups that had an impact on their loved one and perhaps on the community. To recognize a milestone birthday, to offer a meaningful Christmas gift or to celebrate the life of a resident, please consider choosing our Home as the charitable recipient.

All gifts support the care of residents living in our Home.



supporting an award winning home

This has been the year of awards and we finished off the year with two accolades: Readers Choice Award for Best Long Term Care Home, and the Mayors Innovation Award presented at the Excellerate Summit at Georgian College. The esteemed Innovation Award recognized DementiAbility, our Best Practice Spotlight Organization certification, on-campus honey production, and the resident driven vegetable gardens. These programs and accolades come with a cost, but one we manage because we know it better serves the residents in our care. While doing these things that makes us better, we rely on the community and our families to support us through charitable donations. With these donations we are able to acquire medical equipment and program supplies, replace furniture and renovate dated spaces.

If you remember why you chose this Home for your loved one, please consider financially supporting our efforts. Fill out the donation form

in this newsletter with a one-time gift. Become a monthly supporter. Talk to your friends or employers about doing an event that supports our Home.



how sweet it is

From our own beehive, Honey Grove Honey supports our Resident Leadership Team and the good work they do in our Home. This year we are offering creamed honey to our line-up, perfect for all your Christmas gift giving. Regular and Creamed Honey in 375ml jars is now \$8 and is available at the café year-round.

If you have comments or suggestions about this edition of The Care Connection, please contact us. If you are able, please use the cut-out remittance form on page 4, and the enclosed return envelope, to make a donation. It would be sincerely appreciated.

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