



Candice & Cally P.2

Where to begin? There are two sides to this year; the daily care of our residents and the management of the global pandemic. One of these sides brings joy to our days, the other is pretty much just a pain. Or to quote our Prime Minister “this sucks”.

Since mid-March, we have been on our own, with limited contact with our dearly missed families. For our residents, we committed to ensuring

that daily life have been somewhat normal, with activities, celebrations, and care continuing throughout the pandemic. The real changes felt inside the home included ceasing large group activities like entertainment, social distanced dining, and the on again/off again changes in visitor policies. The bright light in all of this was the surge in

Resilience; evident in the “silent generation” that is our residents, and in the staff who have emerged as superheroes.

The business of a pandemic was something we could never plan. From Ministry driven Directives and the endless search for PPE (a herculean effort of time and patience) to never forgetting that the health and safety of the jewels in our vault remains top of mind in everything we do.

The side that brings joy, the care of our residents, is the inspiration behind this newsletter (tons of resident photos) and the appeal for your support to help us purchase Safe Resident Handling equipment. Candice and Cally, who champion the mobility and independence of our residents, have lots to say about lifts and slings, and have NOTHING to say about COVID-19! Because here at Grove, we have more to talk about. As the year comes to a close, we wish you well. We know it is a cliché at this point, but we really are “all in this together”.

The Team @ Grove

savvy seniors go digital and go outside

While restrictions kept families and visitors outside our doors, we got super creative and made all sorts of visits happen. This was joyful and many reunions brought tears to our eyes.

Virtual Visits

still happen many times a day on all units. We were thankful to a project inspired by the City of Barrie, that supplied us with more tablets. Residents quickly learned the fine art of visiting on a screen.



Outdoor Visits

were made possible by the arrival of warm weather. This is still one of our all-time fav photos of our first outdoor visit and loving reunion of mother and son



Indoor Visits

brought lots of familiar and welcome faces into a common visiting area. The café area was transformed into a socially distant visitor lounge.



With each type of visit, and each change in Ministry Directives, we adapted quickly to provide the supplies and equipment necessary to ensure a safe experience for our residents, our families, and even our staff.

testing, testing **ONE TWO THREE**

Active Screening is the “new norm” whenever you enter a healthcare facility. Here at Grove, one step of this process has become easier for us, thanks to a grant from the Barrie Community Foundation and the Federal Government’s Emergency Community Response Fund. With temperature scanners at two entrances, staff and visitors are quickly temp checked before entering the home. This project also allowed us to support a local company; New Lowell based PROVIX. In case you didn't know, anyone with a temp of 37.8 degrees or higher is refused entry to our home.



an uplifting story

Candice and Cally, two long time employees, work together creating a Whole Home approach to improve or maintain a resident’s mobility. “Restorative Care speaks to the safety of moving residents”, says Candice. “Having the right equipment to transfer residents is key to a dignified experience for our residents and a safe task for staff.” Resident assessments and staff training see this team dedicating half of their days to Safe Resident Handling.



Pictured here is a Full Mechanical Lift that we have in-use on two of our home areas. Our goal is to add an additional 6 lifts (\$7950 each) to provide reliable equipment and continuity throughout the home. Nearly half of all residents benefit from the use of these lifts; to transfer from bed to wheelchair, for transferring to the bathroom, to use in the tub rooms to gently and safely lower residents into a warm bath, these lifts are used every single day.



Our beautiful model, Ethyl, shows the comfort and ease of these valued lifts. No jarring movements, effortless adjustments from sitting to reclining position, and comfortable slings, make these models worth the investment. “Staff get the added benefit of an ergonomic design that will greatly reduce injuries. This job is already very physical, so when we have tools that help residents as well as our own bodies, we are excited.” say Candice.

These two veterans, who have been at Grove for a combined 35 years, close with Cally’s statement: “Residents who would otherwise be bedridden due to physical complications will have the ability to live more productively with a higher quality of life directly related to the use of full mechanical lifts. They are able to participate in daily programs, socialize with peers, and come to the dining room for meals (allowing registered staff to better monitor health, abilities and intake). This is an important and exciting project that will mean our residents will be stronger longer, allowing them to engage with activities, stay out of bed and lead better lives here at Grove. Your donations will be greatly appreciated”

Use the form on page 4 to help support the purchase of Safe Resident Handling equipment. Your support of this \$55,000 project will make you a Health Care Hero!

in their opinion

We could not write about this year without talking to our residents. Spending time with residents, just listening to them talk, is inspiring. Their opinions about the pandemic are frank and their strength is genuine.



“Of course I am missing my family, but everyone here at Grove is trying their best to do what we know is right. I know that the government sets the rules that we must follow, but it’s hard when the rules are confusing. But we’re ok. If I was to be completely honest, what I really miss is shopping; I would just love a new pair of shoes right now!”

- Ila



“Really we just have to be conscience of how we treat each other. We have to respect relationships with other people; the staff and people we live with. I have meals with four other women in a quiet area and we have become closer friends. During a few medical appointments out, I notice that people just behave themselves and follow the rules. This is hard, but even my daughter, when she visits, follows all the distancing and mask wearing rules. We just need to respect everyone’s feelings and help each other out as much as possible.”

- Lorna



“In my 90 years I have never seen anything like it. I do remember the Dirty Thirties and hungry men, farms hurt by the weather, would walk up to our door for a handout. My mother always had a bit of bread to share. Legally blind, I listen to a lot of radio. I have to say that right now I feel so bad for small businesses; many who are losing their livelihood. I do like Ford but know that it must be hard to make difficult decisions between protecting people and saving the economy. It’s an unbelievable challenge. Here at Grove, the staff are great. I don’t like the visiting restrictions, but they have no choice. It’s hard, but it’s not the end of the world.”

- Ken



“If you really want to know what I think, here it is. It stinks. Some days I feel so lost and that I am not a part of this world outside. I will say that I am tired of hearing about it all the time. Like no one has anything else to talk about. Since the TV only talks about COVID, I bought a laptop so I would have other things to do. We have to be creative.”

- Debbie



When you support Grove Park Home with a gift, 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 who ask for items such as these Full Mechanical Lifts for each home area. 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”



paddles up!

No Dragon Boat Festival? No problem! We took a plastic boat to the pavement and created our own Dragon Boat fun with paddlers including staff, friends, business partners and board members. Honestly, we could not pass on this incredible fundraiser that has allowed us to purchase resident care items in the past including beds, program supplies, kitchen needs, wound supplies, rehab equipment and so much more. This year, we created more than a dozen short videos that we featured on our YouTube page. Check them out! We thanked last year's partners, asked for much needed support, and got a little water-logged in the process. We are pleased to announce that we raised just over \$20,000 and were



able to purchase equipment including a much desired Bladder Scanner. This item will also ensure our residents get right care, at the right time, and especially now, in the right place. A

huge shout out to dynamic guest paddlers Sally and Mary. These amazing Water View Warriors brought incredible energy and an army of supporters to the team!

what is Resilience?

Executive Director Paul Taylor often speaks to us about the importance of Resilience, reminding us of our strength. Defined as the ability of a person to recover or adjust to adversity, life changes, crisis or disruptive processes, this word deserves a capital R. What has come forward from staff, residents, families and business partners is the overwhelming commitment to push through and to not lose sight of our one and only goal - to protect those in our care and those who provide this care. When we come out of this, it will not be the result of luck, it will be the result of hard work and **Resilience**.

With your support, you build on our strength and our commitment. Welcome to the team.



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