



Mary
Centre

20 years
CELEBRATING DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES

NEWSLETTER

Dear Family Members and Friends of Mary Centre

In October 2008 the Ministry of Community and Social Services met with agencies from across the Province to hear details of a new MCSS initiative called *Increasing Community Capacity (I.C.C.)*.

The intent of I.C.C. is to help reduce wait-lists for service by introducing more options for individualized residential and day support. This is a deserving goal.

However, agencies have been directed to increase new services by redirecting funds from current services. We have been told we must reduce our overall Group Home and Day Program Budgets and Administration budgets by 2%. If we choose not to redirect these funds our budgets will be reduced accordingly.

Detailed plans to meet these targets must be submitted to the Regional Offices of MCCS by January 9, 2009.

It was clear after discussion with MCSS, that changes will have to be made that will directly affect people living in Group Homes and attending Day Programs. Consequently, Mary Centre will certainly be forced to reduce the support and services offered to our residents. This will negatively impact many activities such as recreational, faith and medical/dental appointments. It will make it more challenging for our residents to participate in the community.

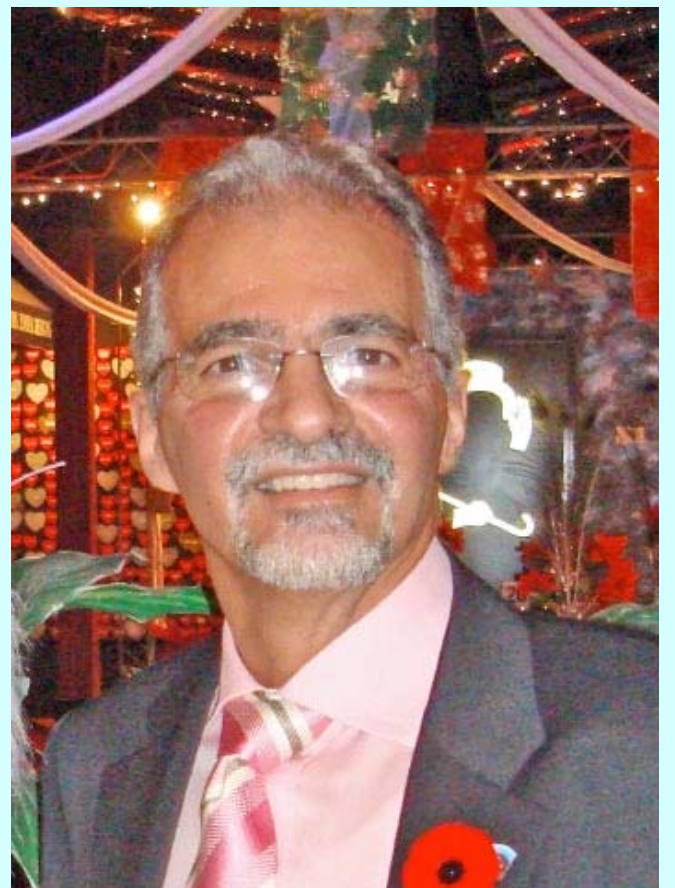
We take exception to the idea that those currently served must have their quality of life compromised to assist persons on a wait-list. There's no denying that those on the list are experiencing tremendous

stress and need help. But the Province should not demand that this help come from those already receiving support.

MCSS has not kept up with the needs of our aging population. This new initiative will further inhibit Mary Centre's ability to respond to their ever increasing needs.

Please call your M.P.P. and let him or her know how this decision will hurt those who need more help, not less.

Dominic Conforti, Executive Director



“Celebrating Developmental Challenges”

GEORGE BISHOP SUCCESS STORY

George is a 63 year old man diagnosed with a developmental disability and mental health problems. He has lived on his own for more than 15 years, flying just below the radar with minimal assistance but always on the verge of homelessness.

George was referred to Mary Centre 5 years ago for the Integrated Seniors Program, at that time his life was in shambles. George was in crisis and on the verge of homelessness. His appearance was unkempt, he was in deep financial difficulty and he was very unhappy. He needed support, in health, social and financial areas of his life, Mary Centre was there to make it happen.

George was assigned a community support worker to assist with his home management, health care, life skills and social skills. The worker was diligent in helping George to address the many different areas of his life and developing a trusting and supportive relationship. His worker advocated for him with different services and supports on several occasions and continues to do so to this day.

George's overall health/physical condition and mobility needed some serious attention. Today George has glasses, hearing aids, and a new scooter. George's appearance improved considerably and in his new suit George is now welcomed and included in the community by others.

George's mental health has also taken a turn for the better with a doctor who understands his needs and has prescribed the right medication. George continues to work part time at Goodwill. He has been employed there for 45 years and has less than 2 years until retirement. George is now accepted and able to cooperate well with his co-workers.

George attends a variety of different social events. He regularly attends Flower City Seniors Centre where he paints ceramics, attends a social at Friends and Advocates, is an active member in his church and well known in his community. He is a much happier and healthier person today.

Way to go George!



“Celebrating Developmental Challenges”

WHAT MARK HAS TAUGHT ME!

Wherever you are and however much of an adventure you are having, it is safe to say that more than likely that you will be faced with challenges and obstacles on a regular basis. This is what life is made up of.

It's even harder for people with disabilities. That's why Mark is so special.

He's been supported by Mary Centre for about 4 years and I have been his respite worker during his tenure. Mark is intelligent, passionate, caring, and hard working. He went through a lot as a child, with many medical procedures. With the help of his family, he has overcome physical challenges and has had the opportunity to live a fun and fulfilling life. You couldn't wipe the smile off his face!

He now holds down two jobs, at Shopper's Drug-mart & at Rogers video, which was rated one of the cleanest in Ontario.

In addition to all of this, Mark is also a member of the Ontario Special Olympics, for baseball and hockey.

I see Mark once a week, on Thursday afternoon. In the summer, we practice baseball, being that I was a student-athlete for baseball, in Louisiana, it was a perfect match. Mark has been one of the most improved players on his team. When the weather is not going our way, we go to the movies, shop around, and bowl, because he loves to be active.

Through his hard work and dedication Mark has showed everybody resilience, when the going gets tough. We have to face life with a positive attitude and see ourselves as winners and Mark has been the best example out there! It's been a privilege to work with him.

by David Quattrociocchi



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

May 13, 2008

9th Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament
Glencairn Golf Club, Milton

November 7, 2009

12th Annual Fundraiser
Famous People Players Dinner Theatre

For information contact Marion Patterson at (416) 630-5533 or mpatterson@marycentre.com

Volunteer BBQ at Redcastle!



What a refreshing, willing and cheerful bunch the U. of T. volunteers were at the 'Year-End BBQ' held for the individuals at our Redcastle residence. There were 10 of them and even the off-and-on rainy weather didn't dampen their spirits.

It was the students' Outreach Day when they do service at agencies and centres in the community, doing hard work, bringing cheer to vulnerable or less fortunate people at these locations. And cheer they did bring to Mary Centre's supported individuals, their family members and volunteers. They were so eager, energetic, and joyful while they cleaned the deck chairs and table, barbecued the hamburgers and hotdogs, prepared and set up trays of condiments, salads and desserts. They also served and had conversation with the individuals, staff and other visitors present.

When it was over, there was no question about doing the clean-up. We'll have them again next year for sure.

Thanks and 'way-to-go' guys!



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Mary Centre of the Archdiocese of Toronto
 530 Wilson Avenue, Suite 210, Toronto, ON M3H 5Y9
Phone (416) 630-5533, Fax (416) 630-5702 www.marycentre.com

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