



Mary Centre 20 years
CELEBRATING DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES

NEWSLETTER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I would like to begin my report by acknowledging our staff and volunteers for their commitment and compassion to the individuals and families supported by Mary Centre. Thank you because you are the reason we continue to leave footprints in the sand.

This year the Developmental Services sector achieved and celebrated the closing of the three remaining institutions in the Province of Ontario. This ended an era of institutionalization for individuals with a developmental challenge. Today we can truly celebrate developmental challenges as over 7,000 individuals who now reside in their community, receiving supports from the over 300 developmental service agencies.

The Ministry of Community and Social Service announced the Increasing Community Capacity Initiative in 2008/2009. All agencies were required to increase the number of individuals they supported without additional funds and to reduce/redirect central administration funds to programs. Although Mary Centre was able to increase the numbers we support, it meant taking supports away from our aging residents to meet the needs of new individuals. This initiative will have far reaching implications as our residents' age and their needs continue to increase. We fully understand the economic environment we are in but it should not be, now or in the future, on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens.

Consumer purchasing of supports from Mary Centre increased in the past year and the expectation is that this will continue into the future.

Through funding sources, such as Passports and Special Services at Home, more families are purchasing directly or directed their funding to us in exchange for staffing hours. The demand is always greater than our ability to respond. The major roadblock is the ability to recruit and retain qualified staff for an employment situation that is part-time with uncertain hours and no benefits. We will, as always, do our best to meet the needs of individuals and families while at the same time balancing the needs of our most important resource – our staff.

Mary Centre's original mandate was to support seniors who are developmentally challenged. Over the past year we have successfully launched and expanded our Transitions into Long Term Care program. Initially implemented in Peel, the program is in three facilities supporting twelve seniors. Our role has been to assist the senior to become a participating member of the facility and enjoying the opportunities available in their residence. An added bonus was that we identified individuals who were inappropriately placed and moved them out of long term care and into the community.



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. I am pleased to inform you that through our partnership with the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood, North York Senior Centre and Surrey Place Centre we have successfully obtained funding from the Ministry of Health. Local Health Integration Network is to launch an integrated seniors program for seniors who have a developmental challenge and seniors in the general population. Stay tuned for more details next year of this exciting venture.

I am honoured this evening to announce the Doreen Cullen Award. The award will be given each year at our Annual General Meeting to a staff member or volunteer who exemplifies the qualities Doreen Cullen brought to the field of social services.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to our staff, volunteers, family members, the Board of Directors and our funders, the Ministries of Community and Social Services and Municipal Affairs and Housing and Catholic Charities for their ongoing commitment to Mary Centre.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

Mary Centre rang in the beginning of the Christmas season on November 5, 2009 by hosting its annual fall fundraising gala at the NEW Famous PEOPLE Players location in Etobicoke, now officially named Famous PEOPLE Players Centre for Exceptional Achievement.

Guests, including Mary Centre's friends, sponsors, donors, past and present board members, founders, and staff, dined on a fabulous two-course dinner prepared and served by the Famous PEOPLE Players. The silent auction tables was a busy area where a wide array fabulous gift items, were bid on, including tickets to performing arts event, CD recordings, books, experience packages, works of art, a morning with CHUM FM's morning team Roger, Marilyn and Darren, and many other wonderful gift ideas for all ages.

Mary Centre was pleased to welcome back its celebrity host for the evening, 680 News/CHFI entertainment reporter Gloria Martin who spoke of her affection to Mary Centre and the good work it does improving the lives of adults with developmental disabilities. She thanked all in attendance for their support of the event and of Mary Centre. She also mentioned her excitement of being in Famous PEOPLE Players brand new home and the wonderful work this company does by assisting adults who are developmentally challenged to dream and have their wishes fulfilled. Gloria was joined by her co-emcee for the evening Larry MacInnis, the incoming president of the board of Mary Centre. He expressed his own enthusiasm to all in attendance for their support, and to Famous PEOPLE Players president and founder Diane Dupuy and her team for the work they've accomplished in building the company in their new location. Following dinner, guests were escorted into the theatre



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for a performance of *The Best of the Best*, the internationally renowned black light theatre company's current production. Diane Dupuy opened the performance portion of the evening by welcoming Mary Centre's guests, sharing her adoration for the organization, especially for taking care of some of her employees who are residents of Mary Centre's independent living program. She shared some anecdotes from the recent struggles she has had, from closing her previous location on Sudbury Street in downtown Toronto to locating and reopening the Dine and Dream Theatre. Following the production, guests returned to the dining room for a dessert and coffee reception and to claim their silent auction prizes.

Mary Centre is pleased to announce that this annual fundraising gala raised \$35,285 this year, with 176 guests in attendance, bringing attendance to near capacity in the new venue. Mary Centre would like to thank all those who attended and supported the evening, especially its sponsors Clover Administration, CIBC, Casels Brock Lawyers, Brown & Burnes Barristers at Law, BMO Nesbitt Burns, Catholic Charities, Fred Guzzini, CIBC Wood Gundy, Franklin Templeton Investments, Scotiabank, SF Partnerships, LLP, Surrey Place Centre, T. Harris Environmental Management Inc., and Willson Lewis, LLP.

by *Vince J. Ciarlo*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

February 12, 2010

Fundraiser

Texas Hold'm Poker Tournament

May 11, 2010

Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Rattlesnake Point Golf & Country Club, Milton

November 6, 2010

Annual Fundraiser

Famous People Players Dinner Theatre

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GENTLE GIANT – PETER TUNE

In 2006 a gentle giant, Peter, then 51 years old, came to Redcastle. Even though he is only 5'11". Peter stands out due to his size. He lived with his mother, Marie, until illness overtook her and she could no longer care for him. His sister, Anna, would help out when she was able.

At first, Peter, was a quiet unassuming man. He would not talk unless he was spoken to. Time and his housemates had gradually changed him. He has opened up and lets everyone know how he is feeling, how his day has gone and whatever his opinions are.

Peter attends his program at Community Living, Monday to Friday. He enjoys his time there as he has made many friends.

Peter enjoys bowling every Saturday and he won a few awards.

He attends the Friday Night dances at Lawson once a month. Peter and his peer, Honey, volunteer at meals-on-Wheels when bowling is over for the year. He visits with his mother and sister once every other month and his mother usually makes plans to go to Rama in Orillia -- he loves those slot machines.

Peter has indicated he likes living at Redcastle because he has friends here.

By Darlene Dowling



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