

MARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



An Interview With Reverend Jane Pekar

Volunteering her time to be with others less fortunate is for Jane Pekar “a reality check and a lesson in humility.” Jane has been a volunteer for the last 40 years and with the Mary Centre for the last eight years.

“What brought me to the Mary Centre was a pastoral question regarding the spiritual experience of the developmentally challenged adult,” says Jane. She was introduced to Jenny and they have become good friends and meet at least once a month.

“I see Jenny whenever I can. Most visits of late involve attending church and the social time after. I attend a variety of churches so she has the opportunity to worship in different styles and meet many people.”

The learning has been mutual, says Jane. Since they have been attending social and religious events together, Jenny has become more patient during the service and in interacting with others during the event. “She rarely cowers or pouts as she used to when I first started taking her out. She now joins in the hymns when she recognizes them and enjoys finding hymn pages.”

“For the past few years, she has been involved with Friendship Group, an outreach ministry of the Immanuel Reformed Church. Her social growth here has been phenomenal. From an



angel in the back row in her first Christmas pageant to a shepherd and this last year she was Mary holding baby Jesus.”

“She integrates well with new communities and is learning to wait before rushing to introduce herself to new people. She adjusts to the different worship styles easily.”

How has it been a learning experience for the mentor? “Every time I’m with Jenny, I learn something about the biases and limitations of standard liturgy, especially for those who cannot read or speak easily. But more importantly, I learn about myself, how precious life is every moment and how vulnerable we all are. That basic acceptance and forgiveness and a smile go a lot further than any complex sermon or textbook. It is important to get the message of right relationship across.”

Interview by Cheryl Xavier

Honey & Margaret Volunteer with Meals On Wheels

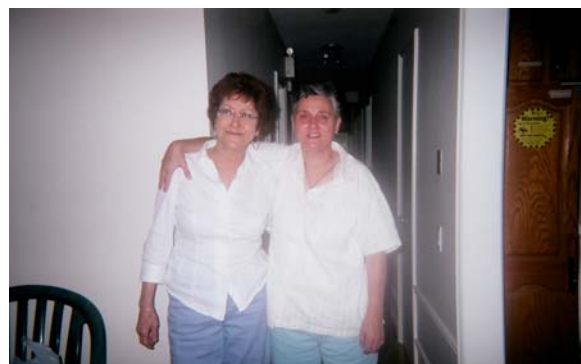
As a Residential Counsellor at Redcastle, it has been my honour to assist Honey and Margaret with Meals-On-Wheels delivery. They always look forward to Saturday mornings when they volunteer at the Scarborough Support Services Meals-On-Wheels program. They usually stop at Bendale Acres' Kitchen to pick up the meals.

Honey and Margaret like to socialize with other volunteers or kitchen staff. They feel privileged and honoured when they head out into the community to assist in this program. The warm reception by most of the meal recipients is encouraging.

Delivery of Meals-On-Wheels is a wonderful weekend program that allows Honey and Margaret to be integrated into and socialized with the community. They will be able to continue to serve as long as there is a driver available.

More grease to your elbows Honey and Margaret!

By Dora Iwenofu



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

November 8, 2007

10th Annual Fundraiser
Famous People Players Dinner Theatre

May 13, 2008

9th Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament
Glencairn Golf Club, Milton

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

U of T Volunteers at Spa & Games Day



A group of eager and fun-loving volunteer students from the University of Toronto did a 'Spa and Games Day' for our residents, for their Community Outreach Day.

Dragana did the ladies' hair and nails, to their ultimate delight, while Paul and Dempster organized and conducted the Bingo, assisting the individuals to find the numbers and hand out the prizes to the winners. Mary Centre's volunteers were also invited to join in the fun. Rainy weather couldn't dampen everyone's spirits; even though we couldn't do a B B Q as planned, pizza and wings were ordered, to go along with the delicious salads, fruit and sweets. Everyone totally enjoyed the day; the U of T volunteers said it was a great experience and they would do it again next year.



Dragana, Dempsters & Paul with Margaret

"Celebrating Developmental Challenges"

Summer At St. Bernard's

It was a very hot and busy summer at St Bernard's Respite Home. Over the 9 weeks period St. Bernard's provided respite service to approximately 49 individuals. Many of them were old friends who use the service through out the year, along with a lot of new faces.

The hot weather gave the individuals the opportunity to participate in a variety of community activities, such as, trips to the local community swimming, Center Island, bowling, Greenwood beaches, Sunday movie matinees, afternoon lunches in the park, going to the Caribana Parade. Needless to say, it was a very busy and wonderful 9 weeks.



Grounds at our St. Bernard's Respite Home

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If you would like more information about Mary Centre and/or you would like to make a donation, clip out this and we will provide you with a Charitable Tax Deductible Donation.

- I would like more information about the agency
- I would like information on becoming a volunteer
- I enclose a cheque in the amount of: _____ or charge to my Credit Card
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“Celebrating Developmental Challenges”