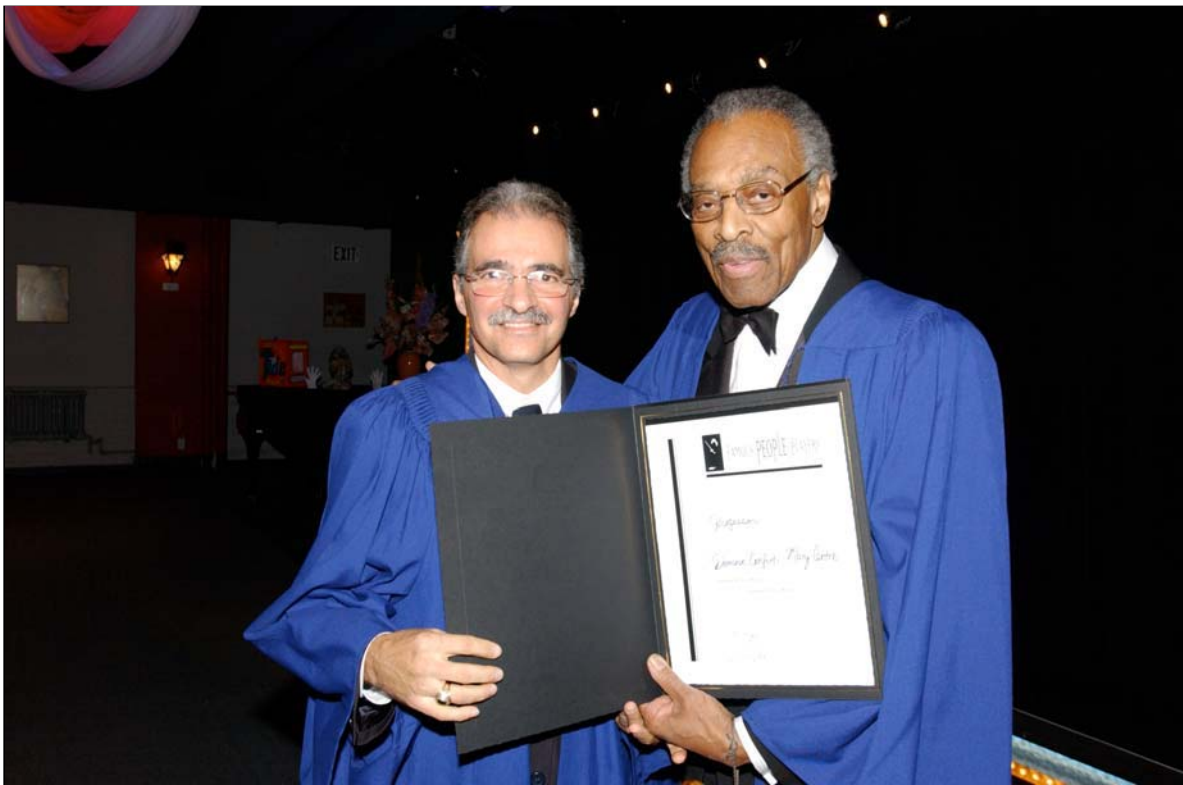


# MARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER

## *PROFESSOR IN THE HUMAN SPIRIT*



On November 16, 2004, Mary Centre was recognized by **Famous PEOPLE Players** at their **Convocation of Gratitude** ceremony held at the dinner theatre where the position of *Professor in the Human Spirit* was conferred upon Mary Centre. Dominic Conforti, Executive Director of Mary Centre accepted the award from Lincoln Alexander, former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

Mary Centre has had a long standing relationship with Famous PEOPLE Players. That relationship includes our annual fundraising event and the support we have provided to several members of the Famous PEOPLE Players troupe. These supports have included housing at Our Lady of Victory Place and in-home community support for individuals living on their own in the community.

Mary Centre values this long-standing relationship and wishes to thank Famous PEOPLE Players for the recognition of "*Professor*".

## CSI TORONTO IS BACK!!!

In the winter of 2004 Mary Centre and Surrey Place came together to provide a social program named Meet Connect Support Participate or MCSP. It was also referred to as CSI Toronto (Community Supported Integration) not to be confused with the popular CSI TV series. The idea of the program was to provide a social outlet for older adults who are socially isolated and for younger adults not involved in any programs outside of school or work activities. It was held at St. Boniface Catholic Church on Wednesdays. The older adults met from 1-4 and the younger adults met from 6-9 for a block of 8 weeks from January 2004 to March 2004.

Each week the program had a different theme and activities were chosen based on the theme of the week. The participants got involved with cooking, pet therapy; massage therapy, storytelling, games and crafts. Surrey Place hosted a session for each group and provided the program for that day or evening. To celebrate Valentine's Day a **DJ** was hired and the 2 groups came together, brought some friends and had fun dancing the night away. Both groups were also given an opportunity to plan a session and each group decided that they wanted to go out for a meal and see a movie.



The program was a great success. By the end of the program new friendships were formed and there was only one question left to be answered "When would the program run again?" Parents and caregivers also benefited from the MCSP program as it gave them some respite once a week and it also gave them a chance to connect with an agency that could provide services or referrals to services that they might need. The response was overwhelming as caregivers called and asked "when" the next CSI session will begin.

Those that participated went to the restaurant and to the movie. What a great way to spend an afternoon or an evening. It allowed them to engage in similar activities as those in their peer groups and also acquire some appropriate social skills in a very relaxed atmosphere.

Now here we are a year later in January 2005 and I can finally answer the question "When will the program run again"? Well folks I am happy to say that the MCSP/CSI program is up and running and so far seems to be another great success.

We were fortunate enough to acquire some new space and we are now located in North York and are sharing space with Mary Center's new respite program. This is a great advantage to us as we have access to a fully equipped kitchen as well as a living room and dining room. This provides a perfect setting to learn to cook meals. Those who wish to just relax can curl up on one of the cozy couches and watch a movie. It also benefits the respite program as they now have access to a built in social program where their clients only have to go down the hall to find some new friends and fun times!

## Mark Your Calendar!

***November 3 & 4, 2005***

***8<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala***

***Famous People Players Dinner Theatre***

***Tuesday, May 17, 2005***

***7<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament***

***Glencairn Golf Club, Milton***



# Mary Centre 2005 Annual Golf Tournament

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
**LOCATION:** Glencairn Golf Course, Milton, ON  
**SHOT GUN:** 10:00 a.m. Registration 8:30 a.m.  
**COST:** \$1000.00 per 4 some,  
includes: cart, breakfast &  
dinner

*Sponsorship Opportunities Available*



*Mark your calendars  
Book now: call Marion Patterson  
416 630-5533 or  
mpatterson@marycentre.com  
Visit our website at [www.marycentre.com](http://www.marycentre.com)*



**Jane Pekar-Scanga – What a Blessing!**

Reverend Jane Pekar-Scanga has been more than a friend to Jenny, for about 7 years. Jane and her family have welcomed Jenny into their family circle and she is almost like a part of the family. She would go to church with them on Sundays and just hang out with



them for a while. Jane was instrumental in connecting Jenny with the “*Friendship Group*”, a spiritual/social event, and would sometimes take Maria along with them to the gatherings in Georgetown. When Jane became really busy with her pastoral studies she

found a substitute volunteer to accompany Jenny to another “*Friendship Group*” which meets in Brampton and is closer to her home. Overall, Jane has been a wonderful mentor and advocate for Jenny but for Mary Centre as well; Jane has helped to make strong spiritual connections for Jenny and continues to advocate for us in the Peel area.

What a blessing for Jenny and for Mary Centre.

*By Carol Chung, Volunteer and Parish Outreach Coordinator*

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*If you would like more information about Mary Centre and/or you would like to make a donation, please clip out this section and return to our office.*

- 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 Visa/American Express/MasterCard*  
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