

MARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



REMEMBERING THE TRUE MEANING OF THE SEASON.....

With weather quickly cooling and stores being decorated for the holidays, we are all reminded of the upcoming busy holiday season.

Perhaps you are like me and at this time of year you wearily remember your resolution to better stay in touch with friends, family and those you don't see as often as you wish: The season is fast approaching to acknowledge far-flung friends, family members and associates!

I offer some advice to deal with what can be an overwhelming period of social engagements, frenzied shopping and holiday preparations. This year, embrace a meaningful way to simplify your life, while improving the lives of adults who are living with a developmental disability.

In remembering the true spirit of the holiday season and making a taxable donation, you can also honour and acknowledge family, friends and loved ones by giving to Mary Centre in their name.

In exchange for your kind support, the Centre will acknowledge each honouree with a personalized card, apprising them of your personal message and your kindness toward Mary Centre.



TED AND HIS FRIENDS
CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Your gift will be both convenient and easy for you while also assuring the ongoing excellent care of the residents and program users serviced by Mary Centre.

Just imagine your sense of accomplishment in knowing those important to you will have been thoughtfully apprised of your good wishes for them and their families long before you cross paths with them at holiday functions. (And you won't even have to find a whole weekend between now and mid-December to devote to the task!) Those *impossible-to-buy-for* individuals and clients you feel obligated to acknowledge will have been given a truly meaningful gift and yours will be a more satisfying holiday celebration as a result – and you will even have saved yourself time and energy in the process.

During this special season of giving, consider supporting Mary Centre and contributing to the quality care and the respect and dignity of all the residents and others impacted by Mary Centre.

After all, what better way is there to share the spirit of the holidays than in helping those who need it most?

For more information or to make a *Tribute Gift* today, please call Marion Patterson at (416) 630-5533, ext. 100 or e-mail mpatterson@marycentre.com.

by Caroline van Nostrand

MARY CENTRE "ON THE AIR"!

Thanks to the talent and generosity of some special people, Mary Centre has produced three 30-second radio Public Service Announcements (PSA). The goal of the PSA project is to raise awareness of Mary Centre and the right of people with a developmental disability to lead a full and dignified life. We owe a special word of thanks to Larry MacInnis! Larry – who is Past President of Catholic Charities and a long time supporter of Mary Centre – is also Creative Director of CHUM FM and producer of the Roger, Rick and Marilyn Show.

He enlisted a team of his creative writing partners to work on this “**labour of love**” – Mike Occomore of CHUM and Mike Tennant of **11th Hour Radio**. Mike Tennant pulled all the elements together, including presenting the scripts to the Communications and Government Relations Committee. The PSAs were produced and directed by Terry O’Reilly of **Pirate Radio and Television**. A group of professional actors also donated their time and talent – **Stacey Depass, Peter McCowatt, Kathy Greenwood and Ray Kahnert** (our Past President). And notably,



Mike Occomore, Mike Tennant, Larry MacInnis and Michael



Michael recording the PSA



Terry O'Reilly & Michael Recording

one of our residents, Michael who lives at St. Peter’s, in Woodbridge was featured in one of the PSAs.

It is expected that the PSAs will be distributed early in the New Year for free play on radio stations throughout our area. Be sure to listen for them!

by Ray Kahnert

SMILES ALL AROUND AT OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

You could see the smiles on the faces of guests arriving for the 7th annual Mary Centre Famous **PEOPLE** Players dinner theatre event in early November.

Those who had been to this event before were smiling in anticipation of another memorable evening. Smiling guests greeted friends during the cocktail hour while chatting and browsing among the silent auction items. There were many good reasons to smile and the grins grew larger as the evening unfolded. It was a very festive party atmosphere.

A delicious dinner, prepared and served by the Famous **PEOPLE** Players performers and staff, was enjoyed by all. Honoured guests were introduced and MC Gloria Martin from 680 News, back for her seventh year, conducted a rousing live auction during dinner.



Christian, one of the Famous PEOPLE Players imitating Bill Cosby

Then it was time for the amazing black light show put on by the talented Famous **PEOPLE** Players. You could not help but tap your toes to the 60's tunes laugh at the amusing antics of the performers and their puppets. If you can imagine two fluorescent skunks getting romantic to the music of The Platter's "Only You" you'll understand why there were smiles all around and a standing ovation for the performers.

The two evenings raised \$58,000 for the Mary Centre and the silent auction did \$5,500. So the most heartwarming smiles of all will come when this money is put to good use. Think of a evening out at the movies for Isla. Or an extra pair of warm mittens for Tom. Or a weekend respite for the Dawne's Mom and Dad. These small but important needs are examples of the uses we put to the money raised at the annual dinner and at the golf event in June.

So our big thanks go out to all who attended and especially our Event sponsor **Scotiabank Group**. Gold Sponsors: CIBC, Clover Administration and RBC Financial Group. And Silver Sponsors: Fraser, Milner Casgrain LLP and TD Canada Trust.

We also appreciate and thank those who sponsored a corporate table at the dinner, including: Bank of Montreal, Beayni Group, C.L. & Sons Landscaping & Cleaning, CIT Business Credit Canada Inc, Deloitte & Touche, Enbridge Gas Distribution, Goat Hill Limited, Lawson McGrenere, Ogilvy Renault, Osler Hoskin & Harcourt and Surrey Place Centre .

A special thanks to Maple Leaf Sports who gave us a Live Auction item on Wednesday night that included 2 courtside seats to a Raptors Game with the Miami Heat (Shaque's Team). The winner gets to "Meet and Greet" with the Coach and injured players on the court an hour before the game and refreshments in the Directors Lounge at Half Time. This item went for \$1,000. And, of course, everyone was smiling.

So the smiles were warm and abundant at this year's dinner which only makes us look forward to another great evening next year. See you then!

by Bruce McCallum

FROM AFRICA TO MARY CENTRE

Nasim was born in Tanzania, Africa. She is the eldest of four children. She has two sisters and a brother. Her family immigrated to Canada in 1976. She lived at home with her parents until her father passed away February 1985. Nasim came to Mary Centre on August 12, 1996 at the 8 Whitecap Boulevard Program location. Nasim adjusted herself very well in the new surroundings. Nasim is bright, conversational and has a good sense of humour. She speaks three languages - English, Hindi and Gujarati. She sings very well also. She likes to sing nursery rhymes and Indian songs. She attends Mosque on Mondays, Wednesdays and special occasions.

Nasim visits her mother occasionally. She loves to go for outings such as Caribana and the Canadian National Exhibition in the summer time. She loves to go for shopping in malls. She is fascinated with small purses that she likes to keep with her all day long. She also enjoys going to Indian Movies on weekends. She loves to eat Indian food. Nasim is a very likable and friendly person.

This time of year is special to Nasim. She is Ismaili by religion, being a follower of Aga Khan. She celebrates Aga Khan's birthdate which is on 11th of December and she also celebrates Eid which is 14th of November. Nasim's religion celebrates the full moon which is called Kushali and Ismaili's celebrate New Year on 21st of March.

by Manu Verma, Residential Counsellor

Mary Centre Newsletter

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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
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