

## My Experience as a Volunteer for The Mary Centre

By Marg Eisnor

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I sometimes get myself talked into doing things where I regretted it, but when my dear friend

Janet Christensen asked me to volunteer at the Leyton Residence I came away with regret being the last thing on my mind. I was proud to be part of a group, made up of friends where we tidied and cleaned the garden. We worked well together on that warm October Saturday. I was appalled at the state of the gardens appearance, however we all pulled together and worked hard at trimming trees, hedges, pulling weeds, cleaning the garden shed, bagging the refuse

and finally planting beautiful fall flowers and bulbs for next spring. "Margaret" one of the residents, who was closely watching the whole process, was thrilled with the discovery of a little bird-house found under an overgrown mulberry bush.

It was hard work. The crew were dirty, exhausted, hungry and a bit sore in places, but it was all worth while. I felt satisfied with what we accomplished on that day and what made it memorable for me was the fact that it was a fun day spent with friends. Most importantly I felt by volunteering made a small difference towards the well-being,



*Marg Eisnor receiving her volunteer certificate from Mary Centre's Executive Director, Dominic Conforti*

and brought, happiness to the residents and staff of Leyton.

# Famous People Players fundraiser a success!

Once again this year, we are glad to report that our annual fundraiser raised \$35,000 to help Mary Centre carry on with its programs. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those individuals who have come back year after year and supported us.

Thank you...

Stan and Nora Wieczorek  
Al Dilworth's Family  
Tom & Mary Joe McNulty  
Marilyn Dumaresq  
Darcy McNeill  
Stephanie MacDonald  
Ron Dodds  
Brenda Schacht  
Dominic &  
Frances Conforti  
Paul & Janet Christensen  
Irene Jacobs  
Marg & Jim Eisnor  
Tom McGrenere  
Joe Walker  
Pat McDonald &  
Brenda Clarke  
Doreen Cullen

Tony Mizgala  
Patricia Gawen  
Joanne Turner  
Fran Knoll  
Nancy Foster

Marjorie Eder  
Patricia O'Brien  
Camilla Todesco  
Susan Knights  
Marion McClure



*Board Member, Frank McAuley speaking at the Famous People Players Fundraiser*

## Annual Golf Tournament 2002!

May 28, 2002 is fast approaching when we will be holding our 3rd Annual Golf Tournament. This year we have "bitten the bullet" and have committed to a "shot gun" start. This means

we have to double the number of people attending this year. With your help I know we can do it. Please e-mail Marion at [mpatterson@marycentre.com](mailto:mpatterson@marycentre.com) or call (416) 630-5533 to book your space.

## Upcoming Events

Mary Centre Annual Golf Tournament      May 28, 2002

Sharelife Walkathon at High Park      April 28, 2002

# "Parable of the Candy Cane"

by Justine Vogenthaler

A little old man came in to a grocery store one day, carrying a stick with a hook at the top. Some stopped and stared as he struggled with a chair, where he sat and rested a spell before moving on with his shopping. He kept dropping this and that, always saying the most courteous, "I'm sorry, will you help me please", to the nearest stranger. They would huff and puff and hand him what he had dropped, moving away with an exaggerated scurry. Around the corner of the isle, I come, very weary from my own day's trials. I see him, with his long white hair and beard; I just had to smile. He reaches with his cane to fetch a can off the highest shelf. I touch him on the shoulder, while reaching for the can saying, "you mind if I get that for you?and adding thank you for bringing a smile to my face by just being you. I really needed that." As I hand him the item, he places it in his cart; when he turns back around to say "thank you", his cane has turned red and white, as has his suit. His cheeks have turned up and he laughs as he hands

me the candied cane, saying 'for someone so sweet, as to help a stranger without gruffness or anger. May you always be blessed for being so sweet.' That is how the first candy cane came to be. The next time you eat this little sweet, remember the story of the little old man, the cane, and

remember to extend a hand to help, whenever you can.

(used with the author's permission)

The author, Justine Vogenthaler is a young woman who is hearing impaired. If you would like to read more of her work, check out the website [www.shadowpoems.com](http://www.shadowpoems.com)

## A Quiet and Dynamic Leader: A Salute To Our Executive Director

Dominic has been with Mary Centre since 1994. Since that time the Agency has seen a lot of positive changes. Dominic is very dedicated and he has played an important role in advocating for the residents and staff while representing Mary Centre on numerous community and government committees.

Dominic is an excellent negotiator, listener and an able administrator. As many would agree Dominic has been a great boss. He is very even tempered, has a great sense of humour and is an expert at handling difficult situations. He has been instrumental in developing profitable fundraisers such as Famous People Players Event and our Annual Golf Tournament.

Dominic's life does not solely consist of work; he has other interests. He is a jogger, holds an advanced brown belt in Karate, practices Yoga and can take you on in a game of golf, no questions asked. He also enjoys photography, and has a fabulous antique fountain pen collection. Above and beyond all of this he has a wonderful family life; he and his wife, Frances are dedicated to Sean and Andrea.

Thank you, Dominic, we appreciate all your support.

# Message of Thanks

By Carol Chung

Let me take this time to reflect on the past year and all that we've accomplished, and resolve to do new and better things in the next 12 months.

In 2001, our Volunteer Program flourished. We said goodbye to Louise Hills, who moved away. We welcomed Mary Spafford, Marlene Sampson,

Pat Mackie, Derek Keltie and Avninder Pal as well as Jay Berman along with his dog, Cosmo. We are happy to have them on board and thank all our other wonderful volunteers.

To acknowledge The International Year Of The Volunteer, we hosted a scrumptious lunch at The Old Mill for all our volunteers and they were awarded for a great job. Everyone, including all of us from Mary Centre who attended thoroughly

enjoyed the gathering.

Thank you to all our terrific staff that has been very helpful and accommodating when I'm setting up connections for the residents, sometimes at short notice. I look forward to seeing, working and having fun with you in 2002!!



Mailing Address: Mary Centre, 530 Wilson Avenue, Suite 200  
Toronto, Ontario, M3H 5Y9, Phone [416] 630-5533, Fax [416] 630-5702  
WWW.MARYCENTRE.COM

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

- I would like more information about the agency
- I would like information on becoming a volunteer

I enclose a donation of: \$200.00  \$100.00  \$50.00  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed. I wish to use my Visa Card  Amex

Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to donate a gift in kind. Please specify \_\_\_\_\_
- I wish to remain an anonymous donor.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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