

MARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



Celebrate – and Reflect

By Ray Kahnert, President, Board of Directors



This is a most festive time of year. A time for celebrations and gift giving. A time for family and friends to share and exchange best wishes. In our Christian tradition, we celebrate the birth of Christ, and hope that His peace and love will move the hearts of an uncaring world.

That makes it also a time of reflection.

We can certainly reflect on all the good things that have happened to Mary Centre this year – on the hard work of our staff and volunteers, and the kindness of our supporters and donors. We also recall with sadness the passing of our dear resident Gladys, and of our hard working Board member Stan Wieczorek.

We might also reflect on the challenge of our work, and our need to fulfill the mission of Mary Centre.

A few weeks back, Toronto Star columnist Helen Henderson wrote an article that, among things, discussed society's attitude toward people with disabilities. Helen wrote: "The notion that the life of anyone labelled disabled is less valuable, less worthy, is unfortunately deeply imbedded in the psyche of far too many people."

Let us resolve in the New Year to work to counter such attitudes – to do our part to demonstrate by our example that **all** people have value, and are worthy and deserving of dignity and respect.

On behalf of the Board and staff of Mary Centre, we wish you best wishes for your celebrations – and reflections – during this holiday season.



World Youth Day

By Carol Chung

After a year of anticipation, planning and much preparation for Mary Centre's involvement in World Youth Day, the big event was finally upon us.

Our committee was a flurry of activity, brainstorming for ways to become involved. I approached L' Arch and Faith and Light, but then the committee decided that we needed our own identity and should represent ourselves. Fr. Norm Roberts, Director of Youth Services, encouraged the involvement of any of Mary Centre's individuals within their parishes. As a result, John, Jenny and Angelo registered as pilgrims in their parish, St. Anthony of Padua, in Brampton.

In the meantime, we were asked to become involved in the Service Projects aspect of WYD. We chose to Exhibit our Display at two sites, Providence Centre and Loyolla Arrupe Centre, along with other agencies serving the Catholic communities. The WYD pilgrims would be browsing through the exhibits to get an idea of how they could become involved and serve others in need in their own communities.

World Youth Day (continued from Pg. 1)

Excitement was building while I took pictures of our folks and Mary Centre's events, in the process of revamping our display. With the dedicated help and support of Denyse and Janet, as well as our young volunteers, Jessica Christensen, Sarah Gleason, and Jessica Kershaw, the 'new' display was created. We thank all these folks for all their great ideas and suggestions. Janet and Denyse worked and laughed hard putting together the collage with tons of pictures. Thanks also to my daughter, Karen, had our choice of pictures enlarged, and mounted and she finished them herself.

Jenny, Angelo and I excitedly witnessed the arrival of the WYD Cross at St. Anthony's, along with many parishioners, in its travels across Canada, while John (and John's mom Ellen) assisted in carrying the cross part of the way. John, Jenny and Angelo attended and participated in the Catechesis Sessions at St. Anthony's. John was an Altar Server, while Jenny and Angelo carried up some of the gifts in the mass. They totally enjoyed the singing, camaraderie and all the hype and excitement of this event.

Charles and Honey accompanied our Exhibit at Providence Centre, while Janet, Denyse and Sarah assisted in set-up and greeting pilgrims.

The disappointment of no pilgrims showing up for the event, due to a T.T.C. mix-up, was forgotten when Charles and Honey joined the seniors in a sing along. Charles danced with Sarah and Janet doing the bump; he even shook a pair of moroccas (shakers); what a party guy. To add to the excitement there was a fire alarm; Charles thought this was great. Our second Exhibit was at Loyolla Arrupe Centre. John, Jenny and Angelo accompanied our display, with Janet, Denyse, Jessica and Sarah assisting. The pilgrim turn out was again disappointing. Dominic tried desperately to bring them in off the street, while Jessica and Sarah went up to the Keele Subway to encourage them in. They had fun and the pilgrims thought that they were just being friendly. We managed to attract a group from Holland, who we thoroughly enjoyed despite the language barrier.

All this was just a build up to the highlight of the week, the arrival of our Holy Father, John Paul II. We watched, in awe, his decent down the stairs of the plane, and his appearance at the events following. We hung on his every word eagerly and joyfully, and were thrilled and overwhelmed with the huge attendance at his mass on Sunday. Finally we were sad to see him go, thinking that this may be the last time we would see him here in Canada. What a week! It would be etched in my memory forever!

Mark Your Calendar!

May 27, 2003

4th Annual Golf Tournament
Silver Lakes Golf & Country Club

November 2003

6th Annual Gala
Famous People Players Dinner Theatre

For information regarding these events contact Marion Patterson at (416) 630-5533
or by e-mail mpatterson@marycentre.com

George Experiences the Integrated Seniors Program – Peel
by Tracy Sabean

I'd like to tell you about George. My first meeting with George was on February 11, 2002, at which time I interviewed him for the Integrated Senior's Program. George turned out to be a very friendly man with many interests and it was easy to find him an activity that he enjoyed. He worked at the Goodwill, two days per week and he was looking for some other activities to do during the week.

Two weeks after our initial meeting George was attending a group run through P.A.H.A. (Peel Association for Handicapped Adults) called "On Our Own". There are about 10 members in this social group, where the members meet and discuss what has been happening in their lives. Besides lending each other support, they exercise and play a game of trivia.

George also attends a Monday morning craft group. It is run by P.A.H.A. at Knightsbridge Senior's Centre. At this group George participates in a variety of activities such as ceramics, knitting, crocheting, playing cards, dominoes, checkers, stained glass and cross stitching.

George has found his passion in painting ceramics! He has painted a family of rabbits, a Dalmation, a hawk and a tea set. The tea set was given to friends as a wedding gift.

George has developed a special relationship with one of the volunteers at the senior's centre. Phyllis always greets George with a hug and a smile. She is there to assist him in his painting and always asks how he is feeling. Wally, a member of the group offered to drive George to and from the program each Monday. George is very happy with both of his placements and he feels that it has helped him deal with his depression. He has made many friends and has many new supports in his life!

Yvonne competes in the Winter Olympics in Speed Skating!

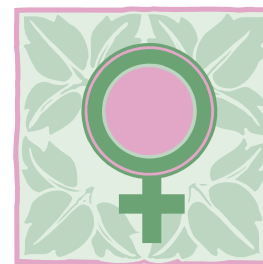
Congratulations to Yvonne who will be competing at the next Ontario Special Olympics Winter Games, February 2003, held in Barrie.

We salute, Maggie!

Maggie Buffery has worked at 15 Aberdeen Crescent, in Brampton, since Mary Centre first opened. She works the overnight shift, full time, during the week. Unfortunately, this means the other staff don't see her much, except at the staff meetings or other staff related training sessions.

The residents see her a lot, though, and they appreciate all that she does to ensure they have the assistance they need to get ready for work on time every morning. They certainly miss her when she's been away. You often hear one of the residents asking, "when will Maggie be back?"

On behalf of Tom, Brenda, Maria, Jenni, and all the staff at Aberdeen, I would like to take this opportunity to say "**Thank you, Maggie**". You are a valued member of our team and all your efforts on our behalf are truly appreciated.



Bud!

By his friends at Leyton Residence

Norman came to live at Mary Centre in 1989, the first year we opened. Since that time, "Bud", as he is better known, has made a lasting impression on everyone who has had the opportunity to meet him.

Those of us who have known Bud for a few years now, fondly remember being entertained while he played his guitar as well as being kicked by the occasional "fake" heart attack. Bud was also known for hiding valuables that were left within his sight and even adding a few souvenirs to your bag or briefcase while you weren't looking.

Sadly, Alzheimer's disease has taken a toll on Bud. Although he's not quite as mischievous as he once was, Bud's spirit and humour still shines through. His genuine warmth never fails to capture the hearts of those who are privileged enough to work with him.

**Mary Centre
Newsletter**

Published by

Newsletter Committee

Lorna Fryer

Olive Gyebi

Karen Kirk

Shawn Michael Kernaghan

Marion Patterson

Manu Verma

Katrina Worrall

Desktop Publisher

Marion Patterson

Printing

Paragon Reproductions

Volunteers

Mary Fotia

Susan Hann

Arline Middup

TuLang Hua

Alexandria Ashbourne

Ted Swinton

Sandra Churcher

Honey Graham

Carolyn Kemmis

Stephen May

Linda Terry



Mary Centre of the Archdiocese of Toronto
530 Wilson Avenue, Suite 210, Toronto, ON 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 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
 Card # _____ Expiry ____/____
 Signature: _____
- I would like to donate a gift in kind.
 Please specify: _____
- I wish to remain an anonymous donor

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Charitable Registration #12892 3737 RR0001