

MARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



Ray Kahnert, President of Mary Centre with Gloria Martin, Entertainment Editor, 680 News, who has been M.C. for the past 5 years

The 5th annual Mary Centre Dinner Theatre Event this past November was a tremendous success, raising more than \$50,000 over two sold-out evenings. Once again, the event was held at the Famous People Players Dinner Theatre in Toronto. The special talents of the "Players" drew applause and laughter from the entire audience throughout both performances. A highlight was the fact that one of our own residents, Ginny, who lives at Our

Lady of Victory Supported Independent Living Program was among the cast members of the Famous People Players.

A spirited silent auction added to the excitement of the event. Thanks to the generosity of a number of donors, the silent auction table was filled with unique and attractive items. There was something of interest for everyone ranging from the opportunity to be entertained, at a Leaf game by Darryl Sittler, to

a round of golf with ex-Leaf great #27 (and now Senator) Frank Mahovlich to weekend getaways and evenings on the town. As always, among the most sought after items up for bid were Christmas baskets, crafted by Janet Christensen, our Financial Manager.

A testament to the popularity of this event is the fact that many of our guests and sponsors return year after year. In particular, the corporate community has been most generous in its support as exemplified by Bank of Nova Scotia serving as this year's Platinum Sponsor.

Mary Centre extends its thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success. The money raised helps Mary Centre to fulfill its mission by supporting programs that do not receive Government funding including ***Integrated Seniors Program, Toronto, Parish Outreach and Respite Care, Toronto***. These programs are an integral part of Mary Centre's work as they help connect our residents directly with the communities in which they live.

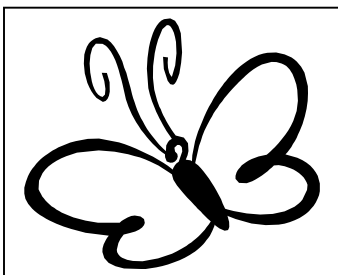
Rest assured that planning is already underway for a repeat performance next ***November!***

LIZ IS A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY!

By Katrina Worrall

In Brampton, Mary Centre runs a Supported Independent Living (SIL) program at St. Mary's. The SIL staff support five residents living in their own apartments, one of whom is Elizabeth 'Liz'. In the past, Liz has lived alone but now she has been in our SIL program for two and a half years. When asked about living at St. Mary's, Liz reports that she especially enjoys the social events that go on in the building. What is most memorable for Liz are those social activities which are held for the holidays such as the Christmas Party, the Easter gathering and even the building BBQ.

Liz does not work, however she is involved with PAR, a day program for adults with mental illness, run by the Canadian Mental Health Association. She attends two days a week and currently works in the administration unit, answering the telephone. Liz says that she particularly likes attending



whenever there is a special event taking place at PAR.

In her spare time, Liz enjoys rug hooking, watching her TV programs, resting, listening to her music and making trips to Tim Horton's. Liz also uses 'a bag of tricks' to help her relax. This is a bag, which contains activities that are known to relax Liz. When she begins feeling anxious, she picks one activity out of the bag.

Although Liz does not belong to any church at this time, she expressed an interest in going. She has attended a couple of services at the local Anglican Church with our Volunteer Coordinator, Carol Chung and mentioned that she really enjoyed this. She hopes to

begin to attend on a regular basis. Liz had also said that she is very pleased with the way the SIL program is structured. She enjoys having one worker and spending time with this staff member. Whenever she feels sick, she feels secure knowing that she will receive as much help as possible *and* as soon as possible. During Liz's mother illness, Liz received valuable support throughout this trying time. She also commented that she feels comfortable with the idea that when her primary worker is away, other staff will be there for her. As she continues to grow as a person, Liz took a moment and sent her regards and best wishes to all other SIL residents as well as her compliments to Mary Centre staff for their hard work.

Mark Your Calendar!

May 27, 2003

4th Annual Golf Tournament
Silver Lakes Golf & Country Club

November 13 & 14, 2003

6th Annual Gala
Famous People Players Dinner Theatre

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

AN EASTER MESSAGE*By Carol Chung*

This is the time when we celebrate and try to fathom the enormity of God's total love for us, His children. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." **John 3:16.** In this verse it says "**THE WORLD**" and "**WHOSOEVER**". This includes all of us, whether or not we have a disability. All persons are meant to have salvation through Jesus Christ.

This Easter, when we think of the Risen Lord, we also think of Springtime with new growth emerging from the earth as He rose from the tomb. We have renewed hope with new visions and dreams as we live our lives to the fullest. We are called to love and serve God in with our fellow men, especially those less fortunate and need a friend.

We rejoice as Easter People, and we eagerly anticipate eternal life with Christ because of His Death and Resurrection, and His undying love for us. **Alleluia!! Happy Easter!**

**MICHAEL!***By A Friend*

Michael came to Whitecap residence by way of the respite program and moved in permanently in 1995. He is a very kind, patient, soft-spoken gentleman and he shares a special closeness with his mother, who lives at Seven Oaks Nursing Home.

Michael finds joy in the simple things in life -- going bowling, having coffee at the mall and people watching! One of his favourite pass times is working on his math with his mother. He attends church on Sundays with his volunteer and looks forward to the Summer, when he goes to Shadow Lake. He loves floating across the pond in the paddle boat.

Michael has many special friends and he values the activities they do together. On Saturday mornings, I pick his mother up on the way to get Michael. Our first stop is Tim Hortons for a chocolate glazed donut! Our next stop is their home, where they can share some special time together. After the visit, it is off to McDonalds for a cheeseburger. Michael is very content and always has a huge smile as he leans over and whispers to me **Whitecap, it is time to go home!**

WE SALUTE MANU!*By Olive Gyebi*

Manu Verma first came to Mary Centre in 1993 through our volunteer program. She would spend time on a weekly basis with one of the residents at our Redcastle location. After proving to be a committed and faithful volunteer for a number of years, Manu then became a valuable employee in 1999.

Manu is a very caring and compassionate employee. Presently she is working a full time contract position at Leyton. Manu supports the residents in all areas of their daily life. One unique contribution Manu makes to Mary Centre is her ability to support a resident in the area of cultural diversity. Twice a week Manu goes with a resident while she attends Mosque.

Manu is married with two children. Her youngest son is known for his culinary skills, and the oldest son is studying to be a Dentist. Manu is a woman who puts others before herself and it shows in the quality of the care and love she shows to her family, friends and the residents.



OUR VOLUNTEER TREASURES

By Carol Chung

Five of Mary Centre's volunteers were honoured in the '2002 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards' Ceremony for five years of service. I watched with tremendous pride as our volunteers received their awards among almost 2000 other volunteers.

Celia Watson, Sarah Silliker, John Brewster, Martie Dorland and Gerry Dorland all received awards for 5 Years of Volunteering with Mary Centre, at two impressive ceremonies. One ceremony was held at the Delta Hotel in Scarborough, the other was at the Toronto Centre of the Arts, North York.

Both of these were gala affairs with the awards distribution followed by exotic refreshments served. I was happy to witness a proud Celia receive her award, at the Scarborough site. I then accompanied a beaming Sarah to the North York event. John, Martie and Gerry were unable to attend so they received their award by mail. As 2002 was the Queen's Golden Jubilee Year, each person also received a gold coloured medal embossed with the Queen's head and a flag with the Jubilee logo.

Our volunteers truly are our 'Treasures'.

Mary Centre Newsletter

Published by

Newsletter Committee

Julie Antal
Carol Chung
Lorna Fryer
Olive Gyebi
Karen Kirk

Shawn Michael Kernaghan

Marion Patterson
Manu Verma

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