



Hospice Happenings

Volume 4 Spring/Summer 2009

Mission Statement

The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice provides unconditional love and acceptance to individuals in need of end of life care.

Agapé is a leader in giving individualized physical, social, emotional and spiritual care. Residents and their loved ones are assured of dignity, respect and hope in a home like, welcoming setting.

Community Spirit - Building On Our Strengths

On April 7th, the Alberta Government unveiled the 2009 Alberta Budget, releasing the news that we all feared to hear. The Province is in serious deficit and significant cuts had been made that will have widespread affect on the corporate, private and charitable sectors. "We are faced with economic challenges that require flexibility," said Iris Evans, Minister of Finance and Enterprise and stressed that in the coming months, we must *build on our strength and focus on vibrant communities.*

While the coming months will be challenging, statistically the charitable sector has weathered past recessions because awareness of the needs of others rises during a recession. Our concern for those in need within our community inspires compassion. It makes us feel grateful for what we have and fills us with a desire to give back, to help others. Our strength is in our enduring *Community Spirit.*

Community spirit can take on many different faces and comes in many different ways that are meaningful to each individual. Agapé Hospice is grateful for the sustaining support of our many loyal supporters and this issue of our newsletter provides us with an opportunity to recognize some of the many corporations, associations and individuals who, coming together as a community, have made a difference in so many various ways.

As we look forward to the coming months, we will continue to ensure that our organization is well focused and to build upon our relationships with our supporters and those we serve. With your help, we will not only weather the recession but will come out a stronger and even more effective organization.

Major Penny Lang



**National
Hospice
Palliative
Care Week
May 3-9th
2009**

According to Statistics Canada, more than 259,000 Canadians die each year, and that number is projected to increase to more than 330,000 by 2020. Almost 75% of those who die each year in Canada would benefit from hospice palliative care. Yet currently, according to the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, a recent study has shown that, at best, no more than 36% of those who need it will have access to hospice palliative care.

Every year, thousands of Canadian residents face the end of their lives in fear and loneliness. Who will care for them in those critical last months and weeks? Will there be lingering and unbearable pain? Will they be able to choose where they will spend their final days, in a palliative care unit, a community hospice or at home? Will they have the support necessary to ensure that their loved ones are not unnecessarily burdened by the additional care they will need?

National Hospice Palliative Care Week is an opportunity for all Canadians to reflect on the importance of accessibility to quality end-of-life care, to celebrate, recognize and share the achievements of hospice palliative care nationally and to consider our own individual wishes for end of life care. For more information visit www.agapehospice.ca or www.chpca.net.



Alberta Beauty Contestants Give A Helping Hand



Agapé's Ardell and Doug Seefried, winning bidders of a fabulous Miss Universe/Toronto Getaway, with Kaley Johnson, the reigning Miss Calgary

On April 26th, The Alberta delegates of Miss Universe Canada held a fundraiser at the renowned Kensington Riverside Inn Chef's table. Guests enjoyed a fabulous 5 course meal, presented by Duncan Ly and his team of award winning chefs, followed by a fashion show of local designer fashions modeled by the beautiful and graceful delegates.

A rousing live auction took place with winning bidders vying for several exciting auction packages such as a romantic stay at the exquisite Kensington Riverside Inn, a unique golf experience at the Banff Springs Golf Course, 2 Calgary Flames playoff tickets for Game 6 with a Kiprusoff Jersey and a Toronto Getaway with tickets to the Miss Universe Pageant.

All of the delegates toured Agapé Hospice in the afternoon and had an opportunity to learn about hospice palliative care and meet some of our residents. The feeling of accomplishment for having raised approximately \$13,000 will be in their minds as they travel to Toronto next week to begin the competition process of the Miss Universe Canada pageant. We thank all of the ladies for their generosity and wish them all the best.

A Special thank you to all who attended, the auction donors and the organizers, Lisa Harrigan and Debbra Hobbs.

It Takes a Team Coming Together To Fulfill A Vision

What better return on your community investment than for individuals, employees or association members to get personally involved in a work project, providing special meals or holding a fundraiser for Agapé. You will be left with a greater knowledge of the benefit of hospice palliative care and be rewarded with a heartwarming feeling of accomplishment for having enriched the lives of those we serve.



Kensington July 19, 2009

Once again, Agapé Hospice is pleased to have been invited to participate in fundraising through the sale of bottled water and salsa chips during the upcoming Sun & Salsa Festival. Volunteer opportunities are still available!



Join Us for the

Progress Club, Calgary Eves

2nd Annual

Mixed Golf Tournament

July 21, 2009

Woodside Golf Club, Airdrie

A Special Thanks To
The Many Corporations
& Associations Who Have
Recently Provided
Proceeds From Their
3rd Party Special Events
& Fundraising Activities
Including



For information about how you or your organization can host a 3rd Party Event for Agapé, hold a team building activity, volunteer or participate in Agapé events, please call Agapé's Development & Communications Manager, Colleen Clancy, 403 282-6588 ext 243 or visit www.agapehospice.ca

Kitchen Renovation 2009

In April 2009, a local contractor discovered that Agapé Hospice had a critical need to improve the facilities in the resident floor kitchen. The kitchen is frequently used by the families of residents as they maintain vigil with their loved ones and was very small and outdated.



Realizing that there was little budget to undertake the project, Richard Bahan of RP Ventures Ltd. proceeded to contact various trades and building supply friends. Within days Richard had donations of all the materials he needed to transform the drab and inefficient space into a warm and welcoming room in which to enjoy quiet respite, a supportive conversation with others or a late evening meal. The new kitchen *will be dedicated in honour of the memory of our friend & colleague Ross Dubber.*

We are most grateful for the support and donation of materials by Cabinet Solutions, Prestige Granite & Stone Ltd., Wolseley Mechanical Group Kitchen and Bath Classics, End of the Roll and Julian Ceramic Tile Inc. and to Bev and Gord Phillips for their generous donation.

Build An Agapé Giving Circle

Are you one of the growing numbers of Generation 2.0, daily Twittering your thoughts, blogging about topics you are passionate about, making new friends on Facebook and chatting on IM? **Then welcome to the new age of philanthropy!**



ThruYou™ is built on the belief that individuals are the most powerful force in society and the ThruYou™ Giving Circles allow members to easily reach out into their social and professional spheres and *engage other like-minded souls in supporting worthwhile causes.* Visit www.thruyou.com to learn more about how you can create a Giving Circle for the benefit of Agapé Hospice or to blog about your interest in hospice palliative care.

If you would like to lend your support to Agapé Hospice by helping to set up an Agapé blog please phone (403) 282-6588 ext 243 or send an email to colleen.clancy@agapehospice.ca.

You can also learn more about Agapé Hospice by watching our video on YouTube at www.youtube.com/salvationarmy.

Did You Know?

As part of the Alberta Government's commitment to community spirit, in 2007 Alberta's tax credit was increased by more than 60 per cent for total annual charitable donations over \$200. Including the federal tax credit, Albertans now receive a 50-cent tax credit for every dollar donated over the \$200 threshold. How do you take advantage of this new enhanced tax credit? Simply send your donation to Agapé Hospice and then claim your total charitable donations on your next income tax return.

Agapé Hospice Volunteers of the Year

Congratulations to Jean & Norman Senn, who were recently awarded Agapé Hospice's Volunteer of the Year Award.

Tirelessly devoting their time several days each week for more than 10 years, Norman and Jean have become an integral part of the heart and soul of Agapé.

Jean writes bereavement cards to the families of those who have lost a loved one and coordinates the Comfort Cookie Program. She also picks up the weekly donation of flowers from Flowers in Bloom for rearrangement and placement in the resident rooms.

As Agapé's Tour Coordinator Norman is responsible to conduct tours and to train other volunteers who also provide tours for prospective residents and their loved ones.

Married for 55 years, Norman and Jean are always ready to help out with special events and regularly bless residents with their caring and compassionate hearts and gentle English humour, leaving all who have met them with a warm feeling and a smile on their faces.

Thank you Jean and Norman!

We also congratulate Peta Collings, Manager of the Year and Ashley Blackwood, Employee of the Year, for their continued dedication to Agapé Hospice and our residents.



Norman & Jean Senn



Penn West Employees & Canadian Tire Making A Difference In Their Community

For several years now, residents and guests have generously deposited Canadian Tire money in a box on display at Agapé Hospice. From time to time, when enough has been accumulated, the money is used to purchase items necessary for the care and comfort of those we serve, such as folding chairs for visitors.

We were very pleased to be informed recently that a family member of a former resident had taken the information to her management and fellow employees at **Penn West Energy Trust**, who then came together in collecting Canadian Tire money for Agapé.

When informed that these generous employees had recently provided Agapé with this money, and that we had a need to provide new televisions in the resident rooms, the owner of **Canadian Tire Dalhousie**, Mr. Dave Davenport, determined that he would match what was raised in order that our money would enable us to purchase more.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the management and employees of Canadian Tire Dalhousie and Penn West Energy Trust. Another great case of our community working as a team to make a difference!

The Smiles & Chuckles Club

Agapé's Community Of Resident's & Their Families Supporting Each Other

Always on the cutting edge and seeking ways to improve the quality of service, Agapé's inter-disciplinary team has established various "Dignity" programs and activities to lessen the depersonalization of hospice palliative care and to ensure the utmost dignity of all residents.



One of those programs is the *Smiles & Chuckles Club*, which provides social support for residents and their families through Sunday dinners, special movie screenings and other events at Agapé, such as the recent *Oktoberfest in February*, held for a resident of Austrian descent. Agapé's residents and family members joined forces to enjoy an authentic musical presentation including a performance on the Austrian Bells performed by the resident's son in law, Hans Harb. The festive theme continued through the evening with a delicious bratwurst & sauerkraut dinner. *A special thanks to Hans and the kind people of the Austrian Club of Calgary for their support in making a wish come true!*

A Special Thanks To Our Generous Donors

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Lisa Nyget Tran * Jaqcues Van Dijk * Joyce Woycneko

Agapé Hospice is extremely grateful for each and every donation. Unfortunately, the availability of space limits recognition to donations of \$1,000 or more received since the last newsletter.



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