

# FOCUS

SPRING/SUMMER 2023



In this issue...

Update from our CEO & Board Chair	2
Help us put Relaxation at the Center of Senior's Days	3
Good Books and Cozy Spaces	
Upcoming Events	4

## Celebrating the Butterfly Project

**F**rom egg, to caterpillar, to chrysalis, we have now fully emerged as a beautiful butterfly! The Butterfly Project on 2West (now referred to as Butterfly Lane) has been through their final audit performed by Meaningful Care Matters and we are now the very first accredited butterfly home in Toronto!

"The process has been transformative," shared Paige Fernandes, Planning and Community Engagement Coordinator, "all of the training sessions, team building exercises, and family engagement have set a strong foundation of trust and excitement for this new mindset and approach to care."

We believe that connection is one of the purposes of life and the Butterfly model of care puts true person-centered, emotion-focused care at the center. Staff and residents are empowered to live in a more home and family-like setting.



Victoria Fenwick enjoys time in the pet corner. "I love having animals around me."



Sophia Persaud, Kereda Campbell, Filomena Pimentel, and Angelia Serra are all part of the team on Butterfly Lane that have worked so hard to make this transformation possible.

The physical transformation of Butterfly Lane is complete with brightly coloured walls, individualized door decals and memory boxes for each resident, and lots of fun and engaging items all around. There is a pet corner where residents can find life-like animatronic cats and dogs to enjoy. Familiar spaces and hooks full of clothing and accessories all

work to help change the resident's perspective from observers to participants.

As we all know, dementia does not rob one of purpose or strength. We are dedicated to keeping this at the forefront of our care.

"The enhancements on the floor make it feel so welcoming and cozy," shared family member, Helga Schnider, "Butterfly Lane feels like a more positive, home-like and engaging environment for the residents, staff, and families. The environment and emotional differences have made a real impact for our family."

With our accreditation secured, we are looking forward to training all staff and implementing the Butterfly Model on all long-term care floors! We are thankful to the Butterfly Lane staff for their amazing work, all family members that were so encouraging, and everyone who donated to the project to help us transform!

## An Update from our CEO & Chair of the Board of Directors

**2023** has been off to a wonderful start! As life has gone back to normal for most of our communities.

COVID-19 still remains a part of all our lives. The Board of Directors and Management Team at Belmont are committed to mitigating risks as much as possible and maintaining the essential social programs that make Belmont such a special home.

We are excited to share, which you may have read in the 2022 Christmas fundraising appeal, that Belmont House has been approved by the Ministry of Long-Term Care to add an additional 100 long-term care beds on our campus! We have been working towards this goal for several years. This building will include two floors of assisted and memory care retirement living floors to serve those who need some additional support but are unable to enter long-term care.

As you know, Belmont House has been committed to excellence and innovation since our formation over 170 years ago. Our history is full of growth and adaptation as the needs of our community and the city and province have changed. This new construction is the natural next step for us.

We are still in the early days of planning the project, working on both the construction and a robust fundraising effort to support it. We will keep you updated as we go. We thank those who have

participated in consultations, offered advice and ideas, and encouragement so far. Our community has seen us through many transitions, and we rest easier knowing that this remains true.

Belmont House has been blessed to care for thousands of seniors over the past 170 years, we eagerly look to the next 170 of offering care, safety, comfort, and *home*.



Maria Elias, CEO & Don Stewart, Chair of the Belmont House Board of Directors

## An Exciting Visit

**B**elmont House was thrilled to welcome The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Long-term Care and The Honourable Raymond Cho, Minister of Seniors and Accessibility to make an announcement to the media and to join CEO, Maria Elias on a tour of Belmont House, especially the newly updated Butterfly Lane in October, 2023.

After their announcement, the Ministers were greeted by residents and tenants, visited a retirement apartment, our beautiful solarium, and spent time on Butterfly Lane to see how we have implemented the Butterfly Model of Care.

“It was an excellent opportunity to showcase the excellence of Belmont House and how our campus of care works to support seniors,”



# Help us put Relaxation at the Center of Senior's Days

Is there anything better than a relaxing bath or shower? As you know, Belmont House is committed to the best possible care. While we work towards the best every day, sometimes getting back to basics is just that.

A soothing bath or shower is something we all look forward to, and we all have things that make it special. Some eucalyptus hanging from the shower head or a supportive pillow in the tub can help bring some extra relaxation to our days. For seniors unsure on their feet, or unable to lift themselves in and out of a shower or tub, the enjoyment of bath time can disappear. We need to provide more than basic hygiene services, but safe, comforting, and relaxation experiences for residents.

**The Belmont House Foundation relies on our community to help us provide what every resident deserves—the highest quality of care possible.**

Being able to provide a comfortable, and enjoyable bathing experience matters deeply to us and enables us to provide a better resident experience.

Time and again our community has come together and given what they can to help. That is what makes Belmont so special. We need to purchase new shower chairs and bath lifts and your support will make a real difference.

The specialty chairs we use keep residents comfortable and safe, allowing them to stay in

whichever position they need. They also make showering and other personal care simpler for staff to perform, allowing height and position adjustments.

We would be so grateful if you could **make a donation today** and return it to us in the enclosed postage-paid envelope or visit [www.belmonthouse.com](http://www.belmonthouse.com) and make a secure donation online. Yours would be the ultimate gift of comfort to Belmont House residents!



Our goal is to replace a total of eight shower chairs and bath lifts which will cost \$116,000. We know this investment is worth it to continue offering our beloved residents the care and dignity they deserve. If you can support us today, we thank you for your support!

**Donate today at [www.belmonthouse.com](http://www.belmonthouse.com)**



shared Maria Elias, “Both Minister Calandra and Minister Cho have expressed a commitment to investing in long-term care and retirement communities. We were thrilled to show them around our home and discuss with them the future of senior’s care in Ontario.”

## Good Books and Cozy Spaces

Originally set up by a beloved volunteer, the Belmont House library has been a resource for residents and tenants to find both classic and new books and a cozy place to enjoy them. Located right in our home, there is no need to travel to a public library or bookstore—we have curated a diverse selection including many large print books.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, we were no longer able to welcome volunteers to maintain the library. Over the past few months, time has been dedicated to sorting all the books, recycling the ones that were damaged, donating those that had too small print, and replenishing the shelves. We purchased over 300 new titles and several tenants and family members donated some brand-new books.

**“A reader lives a thousand lives”**  
**George R.R. Martin**



Margaret Little enjoys a good book on a rainy day while our wonderful library volunteer, Kathryn Emanuel re-stocks the shelves.

With the shelves now fully stocked and organized, please feel free to stop by! A comprehensive list of available titles can be found alongside the recreation calendars on our website and inside the library (located at the back of the Macdonald Room). We also have multiple copies of several books if you would like to read with a friend!

If you would like to donate any books, please get in contact with Socrates Theophylactou, Director of Human Resources.

## Upcoming Special Events

## Coming Up

We are looking forward to warmer weather and some exciting events this summer at Belmont! Please be on the lookout for information in the **Sagely** app, in your email, and on posters through our home.

**Mother's Day Luau – Friday, May 12**

**Walk and Roll Fundraiser – Friday, June 9**

**Strawberry Tea – Wednesday, June 14**

**Father's Day BBQ – Monday, June 19**

**SummerFest – Wednesday, August 16**

## FOCUS

A newsletter  
for friends of  
Belmont House

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Belmont House is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors licensed by the Ministry of Long Term Care, the Retirement Home Authority, and operates under a service agreement with Ontario Health.

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