

# FOCUS

SPRING/SUMMER 2024



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## A Visit with Minister Stan Cho

**W**e were thrilled to host the Honourable Stan Cho, Minister of Long-term Care at Belmont House in the Fall as he made a media announcement and took a tour of our home.

“To the wonderful staff and residents at Belmont House, thank you so much for graciously hosting our October 2023 announcement. It was a privilege to tour your home, hear your stories, and talk about how our government is working hard to deliver a better long-term care experience for all seniors.”

— Minister Stan Cho.



Maria Elias, Joyce Fearnside, Mary Walsh, John Goodwin, Sabir Alvi, Chris Wansbrough, Caterina Gallippi, Minister Stan Cho, and Lisa Levin pose for photo following Minister Cho's new funding announcement.

## Our Butterfly Wings Keep Flapping!

**B**utterfly Lane (formerly known as 2West) has recently undergone its second audit by Meaningful Care Matters and we were excited to maintain our Butterfly Home accreditation and have the opportunity to showcase the transformative work our staff are achieving.

The auditor mentioned how genuine and balanced Butterfly Lane feels. Filled with the “stuff of life”, the floor feels so much like home.

With 2 audits under our belts, we are looking forward to bringing the Butterfly Model of Care to all Long-term Care floors and retirement living at Belmont House! We are also sharing our accomplishments and have welcomed Ministry of Long-term Care staff, and other Long-term Care staff to tour our home.



Angelina Serra and Robert Lent enjoy a laugh together.

## Keeping Us Connected

**W**ith so much happening at Belmont House and so many activities to choose from, it can be difficult to keep up with everything your loved one is participating in. Sagely is a smartphone app that makes it easier for families to stay connected.

“Life is busy,” shared family member Robert Gregory, “I wish we could visit mum everyday. Being able to check the Sagely app every day keeps our family feeling connected and involved. Seeing photos of mum enjoying balloon volleyball, bingo, or visits from the therapy dogs also gives us a touchpoint when we chat. I am always amazed at how much activity happens on her floor and how much energy Azaz brings every day. Our family is so grateful for the experience mum gets at Belmont House, we can tell how much she loves her home!”

Please get in touch with our Recreation team for more information about how you can stay connected always through Sagely!



Betty Gregory smiles for a photo that will be shared with her family via Sagely.



Donna Locke celebrates with Zera Gifford at the long service celebration.

## Staff Spotlight

**E**ach year at our annual staff Holiday party, Belmont House takes the opportunity to celebrate our staff that have dedicated years of service to our home and beloved residents and tenants. From ten years of service, all the way up to forty five, we were thrilled to celebrate so many achievements!

In March we held a celebration for all staff that celebrated 10+ years of service through the pandemic. One of those wonderful staff members, Zera Gifford marked thirty years of service in 2023.

“Working with residents at Belmont House for thirty years has been such a joy. We can learn so much from each other and look forward to spending my days with residents. We’re in a big house with family everywhere. It is an honour to care for our Belmont family.”

We are so grateful to all the Belmont House staff who have served our community so well. Their tireless and loving work is what keeps us moving forward.

## Funding the Best Care

**H**ealth, happiness, and to remain active for as long as possible — these are lifelong goals that most of us hope to achieve.

At Belmont House, we try our best to help everyone who lives here to achieve these goals. In our long-term care home, this requires careful monitoring of each Resident, noting every sign of decline in health and the Resident's response to medical treatment and recreational activities. By catching problems early, our staff do everything possible to help Residents improve or maintain their health or be as comfortable as possible.

Our Personal Support Workers (PSWs) are often the staff most aware of daily changes, since they help Residents getting in and out of bed, dressing, at mealtime, and with personal care. PSWs track their observations throughout each day, to ensure our team always has a current snapshot of each Resident's wellbeing.

To ensure these notes can be viewed from anywhere, PSWs use a computer on their floor to enter the notes into a secure medical tracking program. And of course, if anything is urgent, the appropriate staff person is also immediately notified.

*Today, we are turning to you to help us make this essential process even more effective.*

Because Belmont House is committed to a higher level of one-on-one care, we use donor dollars to employ more care staff. More observation and interactions mean we have more information that must be charted. With so much daily use, our current laptops need to be replaced.

**Please consider** making a donation to help Belmont buy 20 new laptop computers to make sure the monitoring of all of our Residents is always as current as possible?

It takes a village to ensure the health and happiness of all residents, and we would be so grateful for your help! Feel free to use the enclosed postage-paid envelope to make a caring gift or make a secure online gift on the Belmont House website.

*Thank you!*

**“PSWs track their observations throughout each day, to ensure our team always has a current snapshot of each Resident's wellbeing.”**



Tina Keohane and Kereda Campbell help keep all staff on the 5th floor up to date so the very best care can be provided to all residents.

## Introducing a New Lecture Series

**B**elmont House has always valued continuing education and we were thrilled to host the first event of our new lecture series: *Living Well at all Ages* with Dr. Tamara Kung, ND.

Sponsored by the Belmont House Foundation, Dr. Kung presented on the causes of chronic inflammation and what small, impactful steps can be taken to reduce inflammation, feel great, and sleep well.

We are excited to dive into more topics and will announce our next lecture soon! Please visit our website for more information about future lectures.



### Upcoming Special Events

- May 13** Mothers Day Luau
- June 7** Walk and Roll Fundraiser for Belmont House Foundation
- June 12** Strawberry Tea in the North Garden
- June 17** Father's Day BBQ
- July 11** The Band of the Royal Regiment of Canada Concert
- August 14** Summerfest

### Heritage Circle — *an incredible way to be remembered*

Belmont House has been a haven for some of Toronto's most vulnerable people for over 170 years. You can make a memorable gift to ensure Belmont House continues to be a place for seniors to live their lives in joy, dignity and comfort. If you choose to include a donation to Belmont House Foundation in your estate plans, you can stay connected to Belmont House and other like-minded donors by becoming a member of our Heritage Circle and being our guest at our annual Heritage Circle luncheon. For more information, contact Deanna Codner, Fund Development Officer at (416) 964-9231 ext. 238 or [dcodner@belmonthouse.com](mailto:dcodner@belmonthouse.com).

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## 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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