

FOCUS



165th Anniversary Cross Mosaic reflects Belmont's commitment to spiritual well-being

At a Christmas cocktail party on December 2nd, Belmont House capped off its 165 anniversary year with Toronto Mayor John Tory unveiling a beautiful Anniversary Cross Mosaic designed and created by Patrizia Brasch, a family member of a Belmont tenant and

Tuck Shop volunteer.

The mosaic reminds us that Belmont's founders were a small group of church women who in the mid-1800s took in women who were shunned by society and homeless after they were released from serving prison sentences for typically petty

matters like stealing bread to feed their starving children.

Today, the multi-layered cross design reflects Belmont's continuing commitment to the spiritual well-being of its residents and tenants, which continues through our donor-funded Pastoral Care program and church services of different denominations that take place in our chapel.



This intricate and beautiful Anniversary Cross Mosaic was created and donated to Belmont House by artist and family member Patrizia Brasch (second from right) who is joined by Toronto Mayor John Tory, Belmont House Board Chair Mary Kardos Burton (left) and CEO Maria Elias (right) at the unveiling.

How donor support makes Belmont House The Seniors' Home of Choice

Last year, our community stepped up once again to help us fund many things that help seniors to really enjoy their life at Belmont House.

Giving more than \$685,000, our donors kindly paid for more nursing staff, which allows staff to spend more time with each resident. We also replaced 60 old beds and 5 medical carts. Supporters also allowed us to buy new physiotherapy equipment and install four more ceiling lifts that help staff transfer residents who are unsure on their feet in and out of bed.

It's the many donor-funded activities that make residents really want to get out of bed, including daily recreation activities, art and

music therapy, and a wide variety of exciting programs and events.

Our most sincere gratitude goes out to our donors – your caring generosity means so much to everyone living at Belmont and their families!



Warm thanks go to our donors who helped us to buy and maintain the Belmont bus, which takes residents and tenants to outings like this friendly lunch at a restaurant.

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Greetings from Deanna Codner, Belmont House Foundation's new Fund Development Officer



Deanna Codner proudly accepted the fundraising mantle at Belmont House Foundation in early December 2017.

By Deanna Codner

My first fundraising job was making calls to donors to raise money for my university. Still a student, I didn't see this as a career. It paid for my schooling, and I was helping out a school I profoundly cared about. I planned to make the world better by entering politics. But by fundraising for non-profits, I found a faster, more grassroots and organic way to help solve some of society's most systemic issues.

Working at The Salvation Army allowed me to support their goal of ending poverty and homelessness – a difficult task considering the underfunding of community-based organizations, which often bear the weight of helping the most fragile on the street.

When I came to Belmont House,

I realized seniors face similar challenges. Our vulnerable seniors can be left to fend for themselves, or make do with a few hours of government-supported homecare, or families without the capacity take on the role of elder care.

Belmont's caring solution has worked for 166 years. We bond together residents, tenants, their families, staff, volunteers and community supporters into an incredible community that cares deeply about one another and this remarkable house we have built. By gathering together community support to invest in things that aren't government-funded like extra nursing staff, recreational therapies, pastoral care and entertainment, my work helps give seniors the gift of fuller and healthier lives. I truly love my job!

Family members appreciate the care offered at Belmont House

By Deanna Codner

In my short four months working at Belmont, I have had the pleasure of meeting so many incredible family members who care so deeply for the work done here at Belmont. I wanted to share one of their stories with you.

I met MaryLenore Arsenault at the 2017 Christmas Cocktail party. Her mother Marie has been in long term care at Belmont House for just under a year. After being diagnosed with dementia, Marie required our help when she was no longer able to live independently in a retirement home.

"After numerous tours of long

term care homes, when I visited Belmont House I knew I had found Mum's final living accommodations," MaryLenore shared.

She is comforted by the level of care and compassion her mother receives at Belmont. "The elegant atmosphere, the mutual respect I've seen between all Belmont House staff, and the dignity and reverence they show to Belmont's residents have clearly proved to me why Belmont has a stellar reputation as The Seniors Home of Choice."

Thank you to all other generous donors whose caring support allows Belmont to deliver the



PHOTO: LISA CRISPO

After touring Belmont House, MaryLenore Arsenault knew this was the perfect home for her mother Marie.

high-quality care our residents deserve, and put families like the Arsenaults at ease.

The simple touches that make our House a *home*

When asking our residents and tenants what drew them to living in Belmont House's apartments or our long-term care residence, they often express how home-like Belmont is. They talk about the peaceful gardens, the beautiful donated antique furniture in common spaces, and the delight and joy offered by the donated art that enlivens our hallways and dining rooms.

There is a *coziness* about Belmont that truly makes people feel at home.

When residents move into long-term care, we encourage them to personalize their room. Many bring family photos, handcrafted blankets, and some bring a few treasured furnishings. Others make use of the furnishings that we supply – an adjustable electric bed, chair, dresser and nightstand.

“There is a *coziness* about Belmont that truly makes people feel at home.”

Our dressers and tables have served residents well since they were purchased in 1969. Belmont's 2018 priority is to replace those pieces and other tired furniture in



“I love living at Belmont House,” says resident Mrs. Gertrude De Haan. “We appreciate the upgrades like this new nightstand that make our rooms really feel like *home*.”

our residents' rooms to ensure we can continue to provide everyone with both a homelike and safe space to live in.

Could you make a thoughtful donation today to give our current and future residents the gift of comfort by helping us to pay for sturdy and essential furniture for their rooms? There are 140 rooms, and the cost to equip one is \$1,000.

With your donation, you'd be following in footsteps of generous

individuals from our community who have kindly lent their support to Belmont throughout our 166-year history. Last year, our community helped us replace 60 beds. Today, you can etch your name on the future of Belmont House and strengthen its legacy of providing the wonderful care our seniors deserve, in a cozy, homelike environment. *In advance, please accept our warmest gratitude for your help!*

Heritage Circle – an incredible way to be remembered

Belmont House has been a haven for some of Toronto's most vulnerable people for 166 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.

Charitable Registration # 89048 9867 RR0001

Walking is good for the body, mind and soul...

and for Belmont House residents and tenants

Every year since 2013, a caring tradition takes place at Belmont House. Our residents and tenants ask friends and family members to sponsor them to walk or roll around Belmont's block. The money they raise covers the cost of new beds, medical and physiotherapy equipment, and recreational and therapeutic programs. Thoughtful companies including Achieva Health and Home Instead Senior Care have generously sponsored past Belmont Walk-a-Thons.

Every donation is so appreciated because government funding combined with resident and tenant fees don't cover all the costs of many things that make life at Belmont House so special. Those who live here created the Walk-a-Thon to give them a chance to chip in, and give everyone here a higher quality of life.

You can join in the fun!

Our next Walk-a-Thon takes place June 8th. If we raise more than \$22,000, it will be our most successful walk ever!

If you are close to one of our residents or tenants, please consider walking with them. You can invite your friends and colleagues to sponsor you by setting up your own fundraising page. Go to www.bit.ly/bhwalkathon. Under "Donate To This Charity Now", select the "Fundraise" tab, click on the red "Fundraise for this Charity Now" button, set up an account, and then your page. It's easy to invite others to support you, and their donations go directly to Belmont House Foundation.

If you have a business and want to become a sponsor with a



Belmont House tenant Mr. John Lewis joined in the fun at our 2017 Walk-a-Thon.

minimum gift of \$1,000, we will happily offer you public recognition for your generosity.

Questions or need help setting up your fundraising page? Belmont's new, cheerful Fund Development Officer Deanna Codner would love to help. Contact her at (416) 964-9231 ext. 238 or dcodner@belmonthouse.com. We hope you'll join us on June 8th!

New life for Belmont's older beds

Thanks to our generous donors, we were able to purchase 60 brand new electric beds, which are now being used by our residents in the Senator Walker Wing. With new features, our residents are able to have more control over their own comfort and safety, at the touch of a button.

"I don't have to worry about falling out of the bed thanks to my bed railings and new mattress. I get a much more restful sleep in my new bed," said Mrs. Diane Smith.

Belmont House is also pleased that beds we replaced are being donated to Susila Dharma Canada for use in health care centers in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo. "We couldn't be happier about making this donation," says CEO Maria Elias. "We're excited that these beds will provide others in need with the rest they need during their recovery."

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A newsletter for donors and friends of Belmont House

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