



Generous support from caring people like you creates a true home for seniors to live in safety, dignity and joy.

Karen's story tells you how.

November 15, 2019

I am honoured to be granted the privilege of writing to you, to share with you the steadfast, supportive relationship that my family and Belmont House have enjoyed over the last 16 years.

My mother, Ellen Mary Aagaard, moved into Belmont House in late 2003. She had Parkinson's Disease, a failing memory and cognitive decline. Three years before, when we both knew she'd eventually need long-term care, I toured long-term care homes for months, but no home seemed right. A colleague suggested I visit Belmont House.

Mum and I went together. I knew the minute we entered the Lobby that I had finally found the "right" place. There was a calm and serene beauty that lifted my hopes as we waited for the tour to begin. The ceiling to floor windows that let in all the light, the tasteful décor and the wonderful gardens all signaled that Belmont House promised to be a place with exceptional standards. Residents were sitting in the various nooks and lounges, engaged in conversation or reading or playing card games – clearly *at home* in this beautiful space.

I put in the application for Mum the very next day. A few years later, when my mother's sister Lorraine Josephine Emery developed Alzheimer's Disease, we knew Belmont was the right place for her, too because Belmont House was everything our family had hoped for, and much more.

Because of this, I've become part of the caring family of Belmont House donors. I've witnessed how donor support helps to improve the quality of life for every Belmont House Resident. I truly hope you will join me in offering your heartfelt support today! It will mean more than you'll ever know....

For example, as Belmont staff got to know my mother, they realized she loved to socialize, and introduced her to donor-funded art programs. Mum took right away to painting and other crafts – hidden abilities I didn't even know she had! I was so impressed with how the recreation staff were able to pull that out of her, and how much joy it brought her to continue learning and using her creativity.

When my Aunt Lorraine moved into Belmont in 2015, she too greatly benefited from recreational programs. She took many enjoyable outings with her new friends on the Belmont Bus.



55 Belmont Street, Toronto, ON M5R 1R1
P: (416) 964-9231 F: (416) 964-3617
www.belmonthouse.com

Because Lorraine's forgetfulness made us fear for her safety before she moved into Belmont, it was such a pleasure to see her liven up by participating in appropriate and safe activities *that are made possible by the generous support of our community.*

When my husband and I visited Mum and her sister, the generous living spaces and beautiful gardens – *which are also maintained through compassionate gifts made by thoughtful donors like you* – made each visit special.

I appreciated how our family was welcomed when joining my mother and aunt at music performances. Later, when their mobility was restricted, I was so grateful that Music Therapy (accompanied by joyful dancing!) was delivered on their floor.

During Lorraine's last challenging months of life, I saw how staff supported family members as well. This time was especially sorrowful for me because I also lost my soulmate and beloved husband to cancer, and my cousin to a sudden infection. While in India settling my husband's affairs, Belmont staff were flexible, allowing me, as Lorraine's Power of Attorney, to direct my aunt's increased care over the phone. I will always remain so grateful to the incredible staff.

This past April, after Lorraine finally succumbed to complications from late stage dementia, I took solace in many a comforting conversation with the Chaplains.

These wonderful gardens, activities, Chaplaincy services and therapies are all things that wouldn't exist in such abundance if it weren't for the kindness and financial support of compassionate people like you! By lending your thoughtful support today, you will help to create such a wonderful home for seniors, when they most need help with day-to-day living!

I invite you to join me and become part of a caring community that makes Belmont House a very special place. In addition to Belmont's beauty, the Board and staff go to great lengths to create a rich, joyful environment that elevates the spirit of its fortunate residents, and inspires staff to do their best every day – resulting in high standards of care and service.

My story – a common one for Belmont – reflects how your generous support will make life better for hundreds of people, every day. In gratitude, I'll continue to give to Belmont for as long as I can, and I've also included the Belmont House Foundation in my will.

I hope I've inspired you to make a heartfelt donation to Belmont House today and help families like mine continue to enjoy all that life has to offer. Let's make sure Belmont is around to help families for generations to come!

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas season,



Karen Ansari, a grateful daughter and niece



I treasure the care, respect and joy Belmont House gave to my mum (right), Aunt Lorraine and our family!