

St. Patrick's Mercy Home Foundation

Newsletter

Spring 2024

SPMHF Purchases two Blanket Warmers



A need was identified to have a “Blanket Warmer” positioned at the main entrance to SPMH to allow residents to stay warm while they are awaiting transportation to doctor’s appointments or other activities outside the home. Staff and residents have acknowledged how cold it can be in the main entrance, especially during the winter months, and the placement of a “Blanket Warmer” in this location will provide additional comfort for our residents. The second blanket warmer was placed on the third floor to complement the existing blanket warmer on that floor. The cost to purchase both items was approximately \$13,000.

Dementia Care Project



As our population ages, dementia is becoming increasingly more prevalent in St. Patrick’s Mercy Home, as well as in society in general. Our aim is to introduce innovative evidence-based and

proven dementia care technology. We plan to purchase two platforms from Ambient Activity called ABBY Platform and GENIE Platform.

ABBY is designed to provide persons who live with dementia opportunities to engage in meaningful activity. Fashioned to look nostalgic and familiar, ABBY is self-accessible and readily available to residents – 24/7, without need for staff involvement. The technology reduces responsive behavior (i.e. wandering, vocalizations, disruptive behavior), promotes independent engagement in meaningful activity, and alleviates staff burn-out often reported in long term care facilities.

GENIE is an easy-to-use messaging platform for seniors in care to use independently, to remain connected to family and friends. Social relationships are important for overall mental health and emotional well-being. Research confirms how an increasing sense of isolation will compound cognitive decline that occurs in normal aging. GENIE reduces feelings of isolation, nourishes independence, pride of accomplishment, reinforces identity, and increases cognitive well-being.

In addition, the project will also include the purchase of “Manipulatives” (see below).



Manipulatives provide self-accessed, purposeful activity to residents who live with dementia. Some of the items we plan to purchase are: Sort the Cupboard, Sort the Tools, Puzzle Blocks, etc.

Entertainment for Residents and Staff



SPMHF was proud to sponsor 2 days of entertainment from local performer Sheila Williams. The audience was regaled with stories of laughter as well as some wonderful sing-alongs. Our Foundation was extremely pleased to fund this event in the aftermath of isolation during the pandemic. All had a marvelous time.

Palliative Care Project is Complete

St. Patrick's Mercy Home Foundation has completed re-furbishing both of our Palliative Care suites, McCauley and the Creedon rooms, with ceiling lifts and cuddle beds.

We have seen tremendous benefits from the creation of these suites regarding end-of-life quality care for our residents. SPMH focuses on providing residents with as much peace of mind and comfort as possible. People approach end-of-life in different ways and being able to provide options is important. Cuddle beds can make an enormous difference. When a bed can be shared, the entire space and environment can be transformed.

The addition of ceiling lifts in both suites provide residents with safe and easy transfer throughout their room, while easing a heavy physical burden on our staff.

This undertaking by the Foundation cost more than \$50,000 to complete. Feedback from residents, families and staff has been extremely positive. Overall, this has been a welcome addition to our "Home."

Humour Corner

What kind of shoes does a lazy person wear?
Answer: Loafers

How is the moon like dentures?
Answer: They both come out at night.

Husbands are like lawn mowers – they're hard to get started, emit foul odors, and don't work half the time.

Upcoming Events in Support of St. Patrick's Mercy Home

September 12, 2024 Golf Tournament

We are hosting a golf tournament at Bally Haly Golf and Country Club. Come join us for a wonderful day of golf, food, and fun. Prizes to be won! To enter a team call 752-8745 or drop by the Foundation Office on First Floor.

About The Foundation

St. Patrick's Mercy Home Foundation was established by the Sisters of Mercy in 1998. The Foundation was created to support the on-going efforts of St. Patrick's Mercy Home in providing a comfortable and home-like atmosphere for its residents. A dedicated Board of Directors run the Foundation, and currently has one part time staff person.

Over \$1,500,000 Contributed

To date St. Patrick's Mercy Home Foundation has contributed \$ **1,553,490.89** to improve the quality of life for the residents of St. Patrick's Mercy Home. These contributions have included, but are not limited to:

- Wheelchair Accessible Bus
- Palliative Care Rooms
- Physiotherapy Equipment
- Bathing Systems
- Third Floor Family Suite
- Multiple Ceiling Lifts
- New Furnishing for all Floors
- Christmas Gifts for all Residents

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." – Nelson Mandela

You can now donate Online

Donations in support of St. Patrick's Mercy Home can now be made online by using the secure website offered by CandaHelps.org.



Visit our website!

<http://www.spmhf.nl.ca>

Why not make St Patrick's Mercy Home

~Your Charity of Choice~

Creating a Home away from Home!