

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.”
— Mahatma Gandhi

SHARING THE VISION

Tri-County Mennonite Homes Monthly Newsletter

December 2015

A Christmas Message

To: The TCMH Residents,
Clients, Staff and
Your Families

From: Steve Lichty,
TCMH CEO



For most of us, Christmas is the most blessed and joyous time of year. We visit with family and friends; we exchange gifts; and we celebrate the birth of our Lord.

But Christmas is not a happy time for everyone. There are those who have lost loved ones. The things that once brought happiness are now things that bring sadness, because they evoke memories of times spent together.

There are those who are needy and not able to provide presents, or even food for their loved ones. For them, this is a particularly difficult time of the year, because so much emphasis is placed on a merry Christmas being a materialistic one.

For the hurting person, the needy person, the lonely person, the sorrowing person, this is the time of year to bring the gift of encouragement and hope to them. Please look for opportunities to share with them. Share the love of God, the joy of fellowship, and the comfort of material things with someone who is struggling. There is no better time than Christmas to share. Who needs your encouragement today?

May you and yours be blessed!
Warmly, Steve

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- 4) TCMH—The Next 50 Years

Contact Us

Do you want more information about something in this newsletter?

Do you have a suggestion for a future topic?

Please send your suggestions, ideas, comments, opinions, questions or complaints to stevlichty@tcmhomes.com.

A Message to our Unsung Heroes

It is customary for a CEO to prepare a message to staff, around Christmas time, to thank them for all that they have done over the past year. This message is intended to thank you, not only for what you do, but for who you are.



An “unsung hero” is defined as someone who makes a substantive, but generally unrecognized contribution. The more time that I spend at TCMH, the more examples I see of staff who do the little things each day, that usually go unnoticed, but which mean so much to our residents and clients. Here are some examples that I have been privileged to witness in just the last week:

The staff, at their Aldaview Christmas party, who are not there as supervisors, but as friends of the clients. These “friends” went out of their way to ensure that each client became engaged in the music and dancing. It was heartening to see a client who is aging “come back to life” as he took the microphone and sang several of his favourite songs. He looked, and probably felt like a young rock star.

The staff, at Greenwood Court, who sing Christmas carols to all of their residents and make it a joyous, family affair. Even residents who finds the Christmas season challenging love to see the children singing and, yes, they even enjoy the “silent temper tantrum” of one of the younger ones who runs out of energy before the choir has run out of dining rooms in which to entertain. It probably brings back memories of their own children and grandchildren.

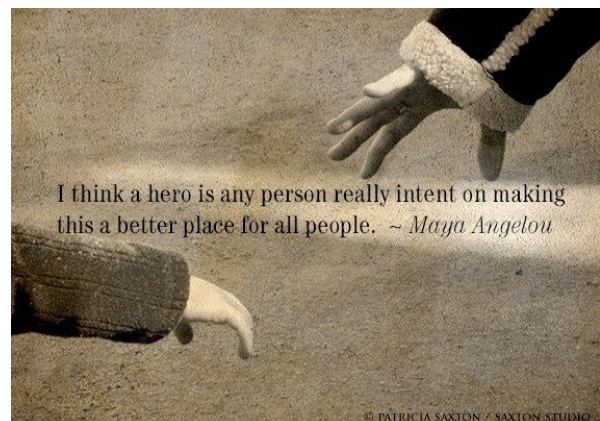
The staff at Nithview Community who, while engaged in a mundane activity like a fire drill, demonstrate that they know so many of our residents on a personal basis. Whether from the nursing, dietary, recreation or administration department, each staff member knew about the triggers and stressors, abilities and limitations, and likes and dislikes of each resident. It is clear that what our staff do each day is more than just a job to them.

And finally, the maintenance staff who go well above and beyond what is expected. When a senior has a fall and, as she recovers, is unable to take care of her dog, maintenance staff step in. They take Sparky to one of their homes overnight and bring him back each morning. The resident is comforted to know that Sparky is not only being cared for, but loved.

Of course, there are countless more examples of the unsung heroes in our midst. But that is why you are an unsung hero. Most of the time, your contributions goes unnoticed, or unrecognized. But you are the reason why Aldaview, Greenwood and Nithview are exceptional places for our clients and residents to live, and exceptional places for each of us to work.

Thank you so much for who you are and what you do each day.

Steve



I think a hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for all people. ~ *Maya Angelou*

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What Makes Nithview “Home”

by Gerald Schwartzentruber, Nithview Tower resident

My memories go back forty three years ago when Nithview opened as a “Home” for Older Adults who wanted to live in a supportive and caring environment . (Please see our twenty five year history of resident life coffee table book entitled, “A Legacy of Life” still available at the Nithview office.)

It is significant that the term “Home” was coined in its early beginnings. As a result persons from our surrounding communities chose to live in what became their *new home* , some stating very realistically that for them it also became their *home away from home* .

So, ever since, the challenge for administration, volunteers, staff, residents, families and friends has been to make Nithview Community a *Home* for everyone. There are those of us who now are saying, with gratefulness, “this is **my** home”. The testimonies of residents, past and present become an authentic voice :

A quote from the past:

“Had I not come to Nithview, I would have missed out on some very meaningful friendships, interesting personalities, in short, a warm caring family.” - Ida Rosenberger, 1991

Quotes from present residents:

“When I came to live in Nithview I made it my goal to welcome everyone who entered our doors, as I tried to do in my previous home. This includes the visitors who ride the elevator or have a meal with us in the dining room. With a gracious attitude I hope to show a sense of ownership and personal responsibility, in maintaining a friendly and accepting environment.”

“I appreciate the homey atmosphere we have and that our administration does not refer to our Home as an institution. It is a friendly place to live.”

“It feels good to be called by my first name and not being patronized or spoken down too. I am a “resident” rather than a patient, client, or for that matter a customer.”

“I value team work . To see staff complimenting each other in their work environment feels good to me. I am glad to see this happening in our Nithview Community.”

“To hear someone say , I have a good neighbour, is special to say the least. Our neighbours in the larger communities are not always as well known.”

“The choice to join a larger FAMILY provides opportunities to socialize, informally and in structured settings. This is an antidote to loneliness and the proneness toward isolation, which can become a temptation for older adults experiencing difficult changes in life.”

WE PRAY: *Bless this house O Lord we pray, Make it safe by night and Day*

These are some commendable qualities of life which make Nithview a HOME! WELCOME!

thank you!

We wish to thank Gerald for his contribution to “Share the Vision” We would welcome articles from residents and clients of all divisions for publication in future issues..

YEAR END REVIEW OF BORING STUFF

In many ways, 2015 has been an exciting year for Aldaview, Greenwood and Nithview. But 2015 has also had its share of boredom. Here is a summary of the year's most boring accomplishments:

Greenwood

- Replacement of pot lights
- Installation of a new chiller
- Installation of three new boilers
- Installation of three new rooftop units
- Installation of two new water transfer tanks
- Replacement of roofs
- Replacement of walk-in freezer
- Driveway repairs
- Replacement of the flooring in the multi-purpose room
- New tub room

Nithview

- Replacement of pot lights
- Replacement of exterior lights
- Installation of a new chiller
- Replacement of roofs over north wing and tea room
- Installation of rooftop units
- New tub room
- Installation of railings in the apartments in Nithview Village
- Installation of door openers for the apartment buildings in Nithview Village
- Driveway repairs
- Remediation of 42 trip hazards on Nithview Village sidewalks

Aldaview

- Replacement of kitchen at 220 Hamilton Road
- Installation of new fencing at 220 Hamilton Road

WINTER CHALLENGES

