

Cornerstone

ELDERCARE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

EVERY SENIOR DESERVES THE CHANCE TO AGE WITH DIGNITY

Eldercare contributes to inaugural Distinguished Scholar in Senior's Care



Dr. Amy Salmon
Distinguished Scholar

We are pleased to announce our joint support for critical research that aims to improve quality of life for older adults everywhere. Together with the Conconi Family Foundation, Providence Living, Island Health, Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation, and Nanaimo General Hospital Foundation, Eldercare has contributed to the inaugural **Conconi Family Foundation Distinguished Scholar in Senior's Care**.

We extend our congratulations to **Dr. Amy Salmon**, who has been appointed the Distinguished Scholar. Led by the Centre for Advancing Health Outcomes, Dr. Salmon and her research team will be embedded at The Views, an innovative new long-term care home in Comox, BC based on the concepts of a Dementia village. Their five-year research study will play a key role in providing the tools and knowledge to implement meaningful change across care homes in BC and beyond.

This news follows our announcement of a \$1M contribution to The Views in May 2024. "In our 40 years of experience we've seen that research is vital," says Tom Arnold, Eldercare's Executive Director. "Good ideas come and go, but good ideas backed up by research create new paradigms of care. If the research shows improved quality of life for seniors and reduced or defrayed costs for the health care system, then there's no way that this won't get adopted elsewhere."

Can You Imagine?

This fall, join our campaign to bring comfort, familiarity and support to long-term care residents. Visit gvef.org/can-you-imagine or scan QR to **give today!**



Enhancing long-term care in Nanaimo and Oceanside

Earlier this year the Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation (NDHF) launched a campaign to enhance three long-term care centres in Nanaimo and Oceanside.

We're proud to announce our contribution of over \$46,000 to help brighten the days for residents at Dufferin Place, Eagle Park, and Trillium Lodge.

Eldercare Executive Director Tom Arnold joined NDHF staff and some very excited residents at Eagle Park enjoying their outdoor space upgrades in September.

"We know that seniors in care need more than just medical support, they need experiences that connect them with happy memories, and restore a sense of purpose and meaning in their lives," says Tom Arnold. "That's why we're so excited to support this campaign to help long-term care centres in Nanaimo and Oceanside. Thank you to our donors for making this support possible."



Eldercare donor sees donations in action every day



Allison Patterson is a long-term care Therapy Practice Resource who is deeply committed to seniors' health – this year marks 30 years of dedicated service at Island Health. Incredibly, she has also supported Eldercare for almost two decades, as a staff lotto participant and regular payroll giving donor!

Allison understands the importance of healthcare foundations and is happy to see her donations in action every day in long-term care. "Whether it's a wheelchair cushion to avoid pressure sores, a robotic companion pet, a music therapy session, or an ice cream truck event on a hot summer day – these events and equipment improve lives."

Contributing to Eldercare Foundation is also personal for Allison. "I have made a few donations in memory of my dad. Eldercare will send a letter to my mom acknowledging the gift made in his name. It is meaningful to my mom, and it benefits our long-term care residents. That's a win-win for me."

"That staff contribute their own money to help improve care for residents speaks to how deeply they care," says Tom Arnold, Executive Director, Eldercare Foundation. "Thank you, Allison, and everyone who supports our mission to ensure seniors age with dignity."

Eldercare research award winner presents at medical conference in Europe

Congratulations to **Junko Fukui Innes**, the 2022 recipient of the **Funke-Furber Gerontological Research Award**, who presented at the Medical Informatics Europe Conference in Athens, Greece in August 2024.

Junko presented on *Predicting the Risk of Transition to a Higher Level of Care for Home Support Service Recipients* – the topic of her primary research as a PhD candidate in Health Information Science at the University of Victoria. She aims to conclude her PhD in 2025 and hopes her research will enable individuals to remain at home longer, reduce the burden on home support, and ultimately reduce health system costs.

“I am passionate about improving care for seniors through data-driven research. I know that Eldercare shares my passion, and I am so grateful for their support through this award.”



Door murals enhance space, improve safety

Thanks to Eldercare donors, the hallways at one local long-term care home have been transformed!

These beautiful door murals not only enhance the space, they aim to improve safety and reduce attempts to wander, which is a common behaviour for people with dementia.

Health Care Assistants Alphonsine and Manny were happy to show off this beautiful new addition to **Aberdeen care home**.



Companion pets head up island

Our new partnership with **Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society** and **Our Cowichan Communities Health Network** will distribute robotic pets in the Cowichan community.

Backed by research, the pets are geared for caregiving families who are supporting seniors with dementia and other life-limiting diagnoses.

Tania Fritz, Donor Relations & Project Manager, delivered the pets to Cowichan in September.



Every Gift Makes a Difference



- ☐ Enclosed is my cheque payable to **Eldercare Foundation**
- ☐ I would like to make a single gift of: _____
- ☐ I would like to make a monthly gift of: _____
- Starting on date: _____

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CFA2024

Eldercare's **Can You Imagine** campaign aims to bring comfort, familiarity and support to long-term care residents. **Join us!**

Our **Can You Imagine** campaign will help transform care facilities into supportive homes, filling sterile white hallways with colourful details that are easier to see, and funding new technologies designed to spark personalized, happy memories for seniors with dementia.

Give today at
gvf.org/can-you-imagine
or scan the QR code



Paying Tribute to Someone Special

The individuals listed below have been remembered by friends and loved ones with a donation to Eldercare Foundation, made in memory or in honour, between July 18, 2024 to October 17, 2024. Eldercare is grateful to receive such meaningful gifts that, in paying tribute to someone special, help enhance care and quality of life for other seniors in need.

In Honour: Greta Gladders

In Memory: Arlene J. Boyden, Caroline Howes, Elizabeth Mill, Hector Bussiere, Martha Carlow, Susette Wills, Tina Verheul, Thomas M. Bailey, Vera Beischer, Wai Louie



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