

Cornerstone

ELDERCARE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

EVERY SENIOR DESERVES THE CHANCE TO AGE WITH DIGNITY

Eldercare donors set the wheels in motion



Glengarry care home residents express gratitude for new accessible buses

Thank you to the incredible donors who enabled Eldercare to purchase new buses for local long-term care residents and adult day program clients earlier this year.

These accessible buses have flip-up seats to easily create more space for residents with wheelchairs, attachments to secure wheelchairs safely, and a front entry ramp so that residents no longer need to gather near the bus' exhaust to access a traditional back-door bus lift.

"The ability to offer bus outings is so important to residents' overall quality of life," says Denese Alexander, a recreation therapist at Glengarry care home (pictured above in the yellow shirt and black vest). "It gives them something to look forward to and a chance to get off the unit and experience the community they live in."

The buses are in service almost daily for residents at Aberdeen, Glengarry, and Summit care homes, as well as the clients at the Summit Adult Day Program. Denese says bus outings help to promote social engagement, reduce loneliness, and improve cognition.

"Seeing familiar sites can also provide a lot of comfort," says Denese. "Sometimes residents even get to enjoy their favourite treats again, like an ice cream cone from Beacon Drive-In!"

Come along for the ride!

Scan the QR code to watch a video of a recent bus outing.



Aberdeen care home social workers express their gratitude



"Being able to offer someone adaptive clothing allows them to live with dignity.

Often the need for adaptive clothing is due to a change in care needs. Being able to provide someone with proper clothing rather than a hospital gown can help make them feel more normal. Adaptive clothing is very expensive causing a barrier for people to have basic access to clothing.

Thanks to Eldercare, we can give dignity back to the people that live at Aberdeen."

- Tallia Brent, Aberdeen social worker

"Our bathing facilities are generously equipped with high-quality, accessible, therapeutic bathtubs thanks to Eldercare donors," says Sasha.

"It's only fitting that residents with financial barriers can access quality shampoos and conditioners. It's amazing how a seemingly small thing can make such a big difference.

We are so grateful to Eldercare donors for helping us restore dignity to some of our most vulnerable residents."

- Sasha Seguin, Aberdeen social worker



Did you know? A growing number of seniors in long-term care cannot afford everyday items not covered by the healthcare system. Sometimes that can be as simple as a \$5 bottle of shampoo. Can you imagine not being able to wash your hair for a month? Or considering chopping off your hair for the want of a bottle of shampoo? That's the reality for some of our local seniors.

Resident at Heritage Woods enjoys caring for her garden



Anne Smyth, a resident at Heritage Woods long-term care home, was always an avid gardener. When Anne's recreational therapist invited her to plant some flowers in the garden's raised beds, her eyes lit up!

Anne's daughter Wendy was grateful to Eldercare for funding the gardening program. "It has been such a joy and comfort to see my Mum engaged in gardening and actively enjoying the caring of her flower beds," she says. "Each time I visit her she takes me out to the garden to have a look.

Thank you so much to Eldercare donors for making this happen."

In June 2024, Eldercare Board President **Jeanette Funke-Furber**, Board Secretary **Mary Ellen Purkis**, and Executive Director **Tom Arnold** enjoyed a tour of the **Eldercare Foundation Village Square** at Providence Living at The Views, which opened this summer in Comox. Eldercare is pleased to support Canada's first public, non-profit, long-term care facility based on the concepts of a dementia village through a \$1M contribution.



"Partnering with Providence Living on this transformational model of care is an exciting step in our evolution. Over the decades we have relied on philanthropic support to improve quality of life for seniors in Greater Victoria. Thanks to the generosity and foresight of our donors, including an unprecedented bequest gift of \$34M we received last year, Eldercare is ready to meet the challenges of our aging population across Vancouver Island." - Tom Arnold, Executive Director



"It was a big confidence booster."
That's how Sarah Humphrey describes feeling when she received Eldercare's Dr. Tom Bailey Memorial Bursary upon graduating from the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) Program at Camosun College.
"The nursing profession can be challenging so to receive the award right off the bat of my nursing career made me think, I can do this," she says.



Scan the QR to read about how Eldercare's gift supports a life-changing model of care, backed and proven by research.

Every Gift Makes a Difference

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CSU2024

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 March 10, 2023 to May 6, 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: Gordon & Linda Jones, 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

Helping you navigate your health and aging journey

Did you know? The **Yakimovich Wellness Centre**, in partnership with Eldercare Foundation and Island Health, offers **FREE health education sessions year-round**, in-person and virtual. Eldercare is proud to support people on their aging journey!

Visit www.islandhealth.ca/our-services/yakimovich-wellness-centre or scan the QR Code for the schedule of events and to register.



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