

Donor Impact Update from Eldercare Foundation

Eldercare donors make a difference for residents in long-term care

Because of donors like you, Eldercare Foundation is able to support seniors on Vancouver Island, focusing on three key areas: aging in place, long-term care, and education. In this issue of Cornerstone, we are sharing stories about how small changes in long-term care can make a big impact.

Your support makes mealtime easier for residents and caregivers

Gathering together to share a meal is a simple, time-honoured way to connect. Fostering this connection for residents at The Priory, a long-term care home in Langford, is now easier, thanks to Eldercare Foundation and our donors.

Standard dining tables don't take into account the unique needs of residents in long-term care. While some residents are able to walk, to feed themselves and generally experience few barriers to eating, other residents may not have the same abilities. For residents who use wheelchairs, or need assistance with feeding, a regular dining table can disrupt the comfort and ease of mealtime.



Mae McSorley helps her mom, Bea with mealtimes at the Priory.

The new tables look like a detached cloverleaf, connected in the middle but with four separate surfaces that can each be easily raised or lowered to meet the unique needs of each diner.

“Accessible dining tables that accommodate a variety of needs is the kind of project that Eldercare Foundation loves to support: it's a simple intervention that makes a big difference in the quality of life and comfort of residents in long-term care,” says Eldercare Executive Director Tom Arnold.

Mae McSorley is a family caregiver for her mom, Bea, a resident of the Priory for just over three years. “The old dining tables had no way to customize them for each person,” says Mae. “The new tables make a world of difference not just for my mom's comfort, but for me too – I can more easily help my mom with feeding, and everyone at the table is just more physically comfortable, which makes coming together so much more enjoyable.”

Our heartfelt thanks for your support. Your generosity has made a real difference in the lives of long-term care residents like Bea, as well as their family caregivers, like Mae.

Long-term care quality of life tools provided by donors like you

On a summer day at the Gorge Road Health Centre, Maryl, her husband Don who is a resident there, and their daughter Meghan visited in an activity room. Don was sitting at a large mobile board with a screen, buttons, levers and simple instructions. The board, called an ABBY, had captured his attention, and he turned the wheel as the screen played a point-of-view shot of a long, sun-dappled Sunday drive. He would turn along with the corners, his mind and body syncing with the memories of driving.

Don has been on a dementia journey for a few years now and has lived at the Gorge for about a year and a half.

Don isn't alone in his journey. Long-term care homes on Vancouver Island have the highest proportion of residents diagnosed with dementia in the province at 63%. When funding programs and equipment for long-term care, Eldercare Foundation makes sure to consider residents with dementia.

This is where the ABBY comes in. ABBY is a made-in-Canada technology designed especially for people with dementia. With soft, calming video and music, as well as multiple options for the user to engage with the board, the ABBY has turned out to be incredibly popular with residents, families and staff alike. They arrive pre-programmed and ready to use but also have options for staff to load it with songs, videos and photos personalized for residents.



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Recreation Therapist Marielle sits with Don at an ABBY at Gorge Road Health Centre. The ABBY is a made-in-Canada dementia care intervention that can be used 24/7, with or without assistance.

With the generous support of donors like you, Eldercare Foundation has purchased six ABBYs and distributed them amongst south Island long-term care homes.

"They are just incredible," says Marielle Schultz, a recreation therapist at both Gorge Road Health Centre and Glengarry Long-Term Care. "The pace and level of stimulation is so ideal for people with dementia, and residents are willing to engage on their own, which we don't see with many other activities here."

Maryl sat next to Don as he pets the soft fur of a cat shown on the board, bringing up the sound of purrs and kitten videos on the screen. "I love to see him enjoying the ABBY," says Maryl. "He doesn't watch television anymore, and this is something that keeps him busy and works perfectly for where he is at right now."

Don goes back to turning the wheel on the ABBY, and Maryl says, "It's just like when we used to drive the kids to Sylvan Lake. Do you remember, Don?"

Don is a man of few words these days. But he watches the screen, turns the wheel, nods, and says "yes."

Join Eldercare Foundation on October 21 to see the ABBY and more technologies in action! To register, visit eldercarefoundation.org/RSVP or call 250-370-5609

Your generosity makes this (and more) possible



Summer means ice cream days! Thanks to your support, seniors in long-term care got to experience the joy of a sweet treat to beat the heat. One nurse at Aberdeen Long-Term Care Home sent a note of gratitude reading **“Residents who rarely get out of bed agreed to go out to get ice cream. Much chaos ensued on the unit, but every face was smiling, and for a while everyone was a healthy, carefree child again.”**

Gorge Road Health Centre and **The Summit** got big upgrades recently, with murals and door covers for their resident living areas. In addition to looking great, they really bring a home-like feeling and help residents with wayfinding - each door cover is unique, and the murals help to identify different areas of each floor. We are grateful to each and every donor for supporting this initiative!



Our team is growing!

Please join us in welcoming Eldercare’s newest team members: Alison, Louise, Marleigh and Cassie. Our expanded team will allow us to grow our capacity to serve Vancouver Island seniors, and build an even stronger foundation.



Tom Arnold
Executive Director



Tania Fritz
Program Manager



Alison Terpenning
Communications Manager



Kaitlyn Mowatt
Finance Coordinator



Louise Pelissier
Events Coordinator



Marleigh MacLaren
Program Coordinator



Cassie Holcomb
Database Coordinator

Every Gift Makes a Difference

☐ I would like to make a single gift to Eldercare, in the amount of: \$ _____

☐ I would like to make a monthly gift of: \$ _____

Starting on date: _____

☐ Enclosed is my cheque payable to Eldercare Foundation, or

☐ Please charge my credit card:

Card number: _____

Expiry: _____ CVV: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Please send my tax receipt to:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Would you like to be added to our eNewsletter list? ☐ yes ☐ no

If yes, please include your email address: _____

CSU2026



No senior left behind – supporting long-term care residents

Did you know? Within our public system, residents in long-term care typically pay 80% of their income to support their lodging and food. This can leave very little left over at the end of the month for the small things that improve quality of life.

The **Resident-in-Need Fund** supports residents facing financial barriers, ensuring that when small needs arise—like lost clothing, basic toiletries, or a replacement hearing aid—they don't turn into overwhelming obstacles. Give today to support a long-term care resident in need.



scan to donate online! 

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 May 26 and August 17, 2026. Eldercare is grateful to receive such meaningful gifts that, in paying tribute to someone special, help enhance care and quality of life for seniors in need.

In Memory: Cyril Nasim, Shirley Montgomery, Aileen Osselton



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