



CASEY HOUSE

CASEY HOUSE NEWSLETTER FALL 2010

with one embrace

Providing exemplary treatment, support and palliative care for people affected by HIV/AIDS, in collaboration with our communities.

www.caseyhouse.com

Inside this issue: The future of HIV/AIDS care * Day Health Program * TD Waterhouse's enduring support * Peter's journey
Call for nominations: The Casey Awards * Art with Heart * Training tomorrow's clinicians * Upcoming events

The future of HIV/AIDS care

Casey House study presented at International AIDS Conference

There was good news at July's International AIDS Conference in Vienna: though we have far to go, more people worldwide can expect to grow old with HIV/AIDS, thanks to better access to treatment. But this hopeful news comes with a caveat. Researchers and clinicians warn that as more people continue to age with HIV/AIDS, their medical needs will grow increasingly complex and place a significant strain on global health care systems.

Here in Canada, Casey House is working with our government and community partners to continually advance the field of HIV/AIDS care, drawing on more than two decades of expertise as a specialty hospital providing compassionate and exemplary treatment and support for people affected by HIV/AIDS.



(L-R) Research assistant Sarah Stranks, Karen de Prinse and Dr. Ann Stewart with the poster presented in Vienna

Two posters were presented at the Vienna conference detailing studies conducted by Casey House Consulting Physician Dr. Mark Halman of St. Michael's and the University of Toronto, in collaboration with Casey House Medical Director Dr. Ann Stewart. "Our research showed that half of Casey House residents are age 50 or older, and contend with an average of five or more serious illnesses in addition to HIV/AIDS," says Dr. Stewart. "The complexity of their care needs can overwhelm traditional health care resources, which is why the kind of specialized knowledge and skill we have at Casey House is so necessary."

Growing old with HIV/AIDS means increased risk of additional illnesses—many life-threatening—that make treatment extremely complex. The complex layering of these multiple illnesses can be extremely challenging for care providers, requiring the sort of specialized expertise that is found at Casey House.

Karen de Prinse, Director of Clinical Programs and Chief Nursing Executive at Casey House, attended the Vienna conference. "For so many of the people we care for at Casey House, life with HIV/AIDS has meant lurching from crisis to crisis, often requiring hospitalization as a result of significant deterioration in their health," says de Prinse. "It's a terrible way to live, and it's also creating situations in which people are being hospitalized for crises that might be avoided with ongoing monitoring and specialized care. By supporting the health of these individuals, we're not only improving their well-being, but we're also easing the load on the health care system."

Half of Casey House residents are age 50 or older, and contend with an average of five or more serious illnesses in addition to HIV/AIDS, according to research presented in Vienna.

How donors make a difference

Funded almost entirely by donors, Casey House community programs support and stabilize the health and well-being of hundreds of people living with HIV/AIDS throughout Toronto. Casey House services such as home nursing care, homemaking support, nutrition, recreation therapy and street nursing all help to prevent the sort of crises that can be so debilitating for people living with HIV/AIDS, and which place avoidable strain on our health care system. Plans are also underway for the Casey House Day Health Program, to further address this urgent need. (See next page)

Celebrate Canadian activism!
NOMINATE SOMEONE TODAY

The Casey Awards

*Honouring and recognizing true leaders
in HIV/AIDS and social justice*



CASEY HOUSE

Created in tribute to June Callwood, The Casey Awards annually celebrate individuals and organizations across Canada that demonstrate leadership in the fields of HIV/AIDS and/or social justice.

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE:
Friday, November 5, 2010**

Information & nomination forms:
www.caseyhouse.com

The Casey House Day Health Program: An Update

Casey House is currently working with our government and community partners to develop the Casey House Day Health Program, to effectively address the complex health care needs of the growing population of people living and aging with HIV/AIDS in Toronto.

On June 16th, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care granted Casey House approval to proceed with the next stage of planning for a new building. To be located on the land currently owned by Casey House (linking 571 Jarvis Street to 119 Isabella Street), the building will help Casey House physically meet twenty-first century standards for patient care. "The addition of the Casey House Day Health Program in this new space will enable us to expand our continuum of care beyond our residential and community programs for decades to come, representing a bright future of health care delivery for people living so often in isolation with HIV/AIDS," says Casey House Board Chair Bruce Lawson.

The building planning process requires approval from government partners at all stages, so it is not yet possible to estimate the date on which we will break ground. Casey House will continue to keep our community informed throughout this exciting period.

"The Day Health Program is urgently needed right now, so we are continuing to advocate for operational funding to start the new program as soon as possible," says Casey House CEO Stephanie Karapita. "Because it will result in fewer emergency department visits and fewer inpatient days in acute care, such a program will not only achieve better health outcomes for our clients, it will also contribute to the Ontario government's goals for a more efficient and effective health care system."

TD Waterhouse and Casey House: A winning community partnership

With 86 exquisite works hitting the auction block on October 19, plus two hotly contested Limited Editions, Art with Heart 2010 is once again shaping up to be the go-to auction for lovers of Canadian contemporary art.

Returning as Presenting Sponsor this year is TD Waterhouse, a sponsor of Art with Heart since 2002 and Presenting Sponsor since 2008. Additionally, TD Waterhouse has generously committed to matching the hammer price of a work in the collection, "Red Diver," by Joshua Jensen-Nagle.

"As a long time supporter of Casey House's extraordinary efforts on behalf of those impacted by HIV/AIDS, we're delighted to be once again sponsoring Art with Heart," says Scott Mullin, TD's Vice President, Community Relations. "Through the great work and generosity of volunteers, galleries, artists and those that attend and raise their auction paddle, Art with Heart has become a key fundraiser for Casey House. We're honored to join with them in making this amazing event happen."

We want to hear from you!

If you have any questions or comments about anything you've read in this newsletter, or if you've recently moved and need to update your mail or email address, please contact Diane DaSilva at 416-962-4040 ext. 232.

EVERYTHING CHANGES

Peter's journey

Thanks to tremendous advances in treatment, for many people today a life with HIV/AIDS can be filled with hope and well-being, given rigorous adherence to medication. Unfortunately, this is not the case for everyone. That's why the specialized care at Casey House is so very necessary to a growing population of people living and aging with the disease in our community.

For some people, perhaps due to treatment barriers such as mental illness or poverty, or because their bodies react negatively to the very medications that are supposed to help—or simply because of genetic bad luck or the process of aging—life with HIV/AIDS means waging a battle on many fronts, never knowing when the next threat will appear.

"I thought I was doing fine," recalls Peter. HIV-positive since 1996, he was taking his medications and living life to the fullest, enjoying rewarding relationships with his partner, friends and family while working hard to advance his career. When he began to feel fatigue, Peter attributed it to a hectic pace and promised his partner to cut back. Then one day he woke in hospital, having been in a coma for weeks.

"My partner and family had been told that I was going to die. Nobody expected me to live," says Peter. "My liver and kidneys had shut down, I had lost 70 pounds, and I was experiencing concurrent lung infections. I had lymphoma and needed a biopsy and chemotherapy, but this was dangerous because of a stage four infection from a very painful bed sore that exposed the nerve endings in my legs. We all thought my life was almost over."

Once Peter had healed enough to receive the chemotherapy he so urgently needed, he went to live with his parents to recover. His family had given up his apartment during his months in hospital and so this seemed the only option. But it soon became evident that despite their best efforts and loving care, it was not a good solution. "I was so depressed," explains Peter. "I had lost my work, my apartment, my health... and now I was living with my parents. I felt like a prisoner in my own life, and it was a life I never chose." Still weak and unable to walk, Peter needed nursing care to heal, but also the independence to plan for his changed future. That's when he came to Casey House.



"Casey House was there to support me, but at the same time they gave me back my independence," says Peter. "If I hadn't been able to come here, I don't know what I would have done. I think I would have given up."

Today, Peter is back to his normal weight and feeling optimistic as he faces yet more chemotherapy. For as long as he needs Casey House, we'll be here to support Peter, along with the hundreds of other men, women and families who rely on Casey House to see them through the many health care challenges of a life with HIV/AIDS.

How you can help:

No matter the size, every donation to Casey House makes a positive change in the well-being of someone living with HIV/AIDS. To find out how you can help, please call Diane DaSilva at 416.962.4040 x232.

TD Waterhouse
presents

Art WITH Heart



CASEY HOUSE

ART AUCTION 2010 - A FUNDRAISER FOR CASEY HOUSE

OCTOBER 19, 2010

The Carlu, 444 Yonge Street, Toronto
Reception 5:30 p.m. / Auction 7:00 p.m.
Tickets \$150

VIEW COLLECTION & BUY TICKETS ONLINE:
www.artwithheart.ca

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AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS
preview location sponsor

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more about these and other events, visit "What's New" at www.caseyhouse.com

Art with Heart - Auction Oct 19
Free Previews - Oct 15 - 17

HIV/AIDS & Health Care Symposium -
Oct 19

Nomination Deadline, The Casey Awards -
Nov 5

**World AIDS Day memorial service at
Casey House** - Dec 1, noon

Voices of Hope concert for World AIDS Day -
Dec 1, 7 p.m.

Casey House at the Interior Design Show -
Jan 27 - 30, 2011

Casey House Donor Holiday Reception -
Feb 8, 2011

SnowBall and The Casey Awards -
Feb 26, 2011

The Casey House Friends InDeed Legacy Society:

Plan today to support Casey House tomorrow

By making a planned gift today through Casey House's Friends InDeed Legacy Society, your wish to leave a lasting legacy of support will help to ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS will receive exemplary treatment, support and palliative care for generations to come.

In addition, your estate will receive tax advantages.

Ensure that you are leaving the legacy you desire. To learn more about the Friends InDeed Legacy Society, please contact Tracy Hatten at 416-962-4040 ext. 233.

Training tomorrow's HIV/AIDS clinicians

Preceptorship medical training at Casey House

With over two decades of specialized expertise in caring for people living with HIV/AIDS who are at risk for deteriorating health or who require palliative care, Casey House is a valuable training site for interprofessional preceptorship and mentorship in medicine, nursing, social work and recreation therapy.

Casey House has been a community training site for the University of Toronto's Department of Family and Community Medicine since 2008. Third-year medical students come to Casey House to experience first-hand the benefits of a high-functioning interprofessional care team in a field as challenging as HIV/AIDS care. This year will also mark the introduction of a new initiative, through which students will work with our community nurses providing end-of-life care.

"This is a valuable opportunity for students to see the diversity of clinical opportunities that are available to family doctors, outside of the four walls of a traditional office setting," says Karen Weyman, the program's Undergraduate Program Divisional Director at St. Michael's. "Students get to see what it's like to treat complex patients in their homes, which is

an important aspect of primary care, and they also get to see the enormous benefits of working as an interprofessional care team, providing compassionate, non-judgmental care. We're so grateful to Casey House for giving our students this opportunity to learn."

"Because HIV/AIDS is such a complex, challenging disease, and our patients tend to be quite unwell, we bring all the players to the table for weekly rounds," explains Casey House Medical Director Dr. Ann Stewart of the interprofessional approach to care. "Everyone works together, from the doctors, nurses and social workers, to the dietician, physiotherapist and occupational therapist, massage therapist, recreation therapist, infectious diseases specialist and the psychiatric consultant. Because these patients have many complications, they benefit from all the different aspects of care that the team provides. This interprofessional approach to care is the future of medicine, particularly when the care needs are as complex as they are with HIV/AIDS, diabetes, cancer, or geriatric care."



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To make a donation, volunteer, or for more information, please contact us at info@caseyhouse.on.ca

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