



CASEY HOUSE



CASEY HOUSE NEWSLETTER
FALL/WINTER 2013
www.caseyhouse.com

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

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25 YEARS OF COMPASSION

Casey House marks landmark anniversary

On March 1, 1988, the doors of Casey House were opened thanks to the pioneering compassion and courage of many volunteers.

As the first freestanding HIV/AIDS facility in Canada, Casey House helped to define compassionate treatment for this emerging and terrifying disease, at a time of terrible stigma and fear.

Then primarily a disease of gay men, AIDS was ravaging Toronto's gay community, with hundreds of young men dying alone, isolated, terrified. *Something had to be done*, and so our founders set to work with immense urgency. They raised funds with the help of hundreds of volunteers, including the lavish community-based "DQ" drag events that generated the first big cheque. Toronto's interior design community also rallied in support, ensuring the newly-purchased house at 9 Huntley Street was beautiful and home-like.

With no effective treatments, a diagnosis of AIDS then too frequently led to imminent death. Casey House led the way as the first stand-alone hospice in Ontario, pioneering new approaches to ease pain and suffering in the final weeks and days of life. Casey House was soon recognized as a pioneer in palliative care in Canada and around the world.

Since that time, Casey House has been lovingly maintained as a warm and welcoming environment for

people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as their families and friends. Tremendous advances in treatment mean that today much of our care is focused on helping people cope with the many complex health challenges as they grow older with HIV, or face health complications. We also continue to provide compassionate and skillful care for people in the final stages of the disease, supporting them in their final days with dignity and love.

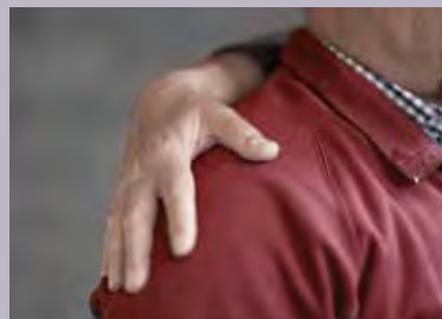
There continues to be no place like Casey House anywhere in Ontario. Far more than bricks and mortar, Casey House is built from our community's wisdom and compassion, and out of our shared love and enduring respect for the dignity and worth of every human being.

Twenty-five years ago, in a time of darkness and fear, our founders lit a beacon of compassion and hope.

Thank you for keeping that beacon lit, now and into the future.

FACING THE FUTURE: CARING FOR AN AGING HIV+ POPULATION

Casey House partners with the Re kai Centres for innovative health care training video series



As people grow old with HIV in unprecedented numbers, it is important that long term care staff in Ontario are prepared and educated about the concerns that this complex health issue presents.

With generous support from the **M-A-C AIDS Fund**, Casey House and the Re kai Centres have partnered to create an accessible and inclusive training video series.

Entitled ***Compassionate Care in a Changing Landscape - HIV/AIDS and Long Term Care***, these videos will provide frontline staff in long term care homes with the tools required to build a compassionate and comprehensive plan of care that includes the voice of the client and improves the confidence and skill of health care workers.

THE WARMTH OF A HEALING SPACE

Mock patient room tests both form and function for Casey House redevelopment project

Anyone who has been through a major renovation knows that you don't really know how a new interior space will work until you have lived in it for a while.

Imagine how complex that challenge can be when designing a space as important as a patient care room in the new Casey House. These rooms must be comfortable, welcoming and safe for a diverse population of people with a wide array of health challenges. Some will be able to walk and will desire soft seating; others will need room to manoeuvre a bulky scooter. Some will have visual impairments; others will crave a beautiful view. Some will be in the company of loved ones who will require their own comfort accommodations; others will be alone.

These are only some of the many variables that the skilled team at **Hariri Pontarini Architects** must take into account in their designs for the new patient care rooms in the redeveloped Casey House. In charge of translating these clinical needs for the architects is **Karen de Prinse**, Casey House's Director of Clinical Programs and Chief Nursing Executive.

"Early on in the planning process, it became clear that we would need to construct a mock patient space to have an accurate model to try

out various scenarios and do some troubleshooting," says de Prinse, who oversaw the construction of a model suite that closely mimics the design plans. "Once the mock room was constructed, we invited dozens of clients, volunteers and staff from



Room design by Hariri Pontarini Architects

all the professions into the space, to ask them for feedback on what works and what doesn't, watching carefully as they move through the space. Designs can look great in the planning stages and on paper, but until the end users are actually in the space, you can't really know if it works."

Adding to the complexity is the fact that HIV is still a relatively new disease, with its long-term impact on an ever-expanding population still somewhat uncertain. "We have to anticipate not only the wide array of needs presented by the current

patient population we serve, but also the possible needs of future populations. Twenty years from now, what will our clients need from Casey House? The plans have to be flexible to allow for a high degree of adaptation over the course of many years," says de Prinse.

While de Prinse enjoys solving the clinical challenges that these considerations bring, she says that the team has also prioritized the vital role that warmth will play in the design. "On top of all these practical decisions are the founding values of Casey House that compassionate health care should be provided in a space that is warm, welcoming and homelike," she explains. "We're working to create a healing space, a space that fosters emotional

and spiritual well-being, in addition to physical health. We want people to feel safe and cared for at Casey House, so they can heal in an environment that feels supportive, or die with comfort and dignity. We know that this requires a warm and welcoming environment, whether that means access to natural light and flowers and art, or just a really well-designed space that feels homelike and not institutional. That focus on a warm, homelike space in which to heal - we know that this is still a really important part of the ethos of Casey House, and we're working hard to ensure that it always will be."

PROFILE OF SUPPORT:

MANULIFE FINANCIAL

Innovative partnership supports Casey House volunteer programs



The garden at Casey House got a mid-summer makeover thanks to the green thumbs and kind hearts of these Manulife employee volunteers

This year, **Manulife Financial** embarked on a creative and meaningful partnership with Casey House through the support of our volunteer programs.

Over the course of three years, Manulife employee volunteers have the opportunity to help with important projects at Casey House including gardening at the hospice, assisting at our special events such as Art with Heart and Voices of Hope, wrapping gifts for clients for our holiday celebrations and hosting our summer barbecue. Additionally, Manulife is providing financial support with a

generous multiple year annual grant that covers administration expenses for the volunteer program.

"Volunteerism is our signature cause at Manulife," says **Sylvie Mainville**, Director, Corporate Giving, Branding and Communications at Manulife Financial. "Our employees enjoy this opportunity for meaningful philanthropy right here in the community where they work and live, supporting people who are impacted by the challenges of HIV/AIDS. By supporting Casey House with volunteers and resources, it benefits the community on a much larger scale."



PRESENTS



25 Years of Compassion at Casey House. 20 Years of Art with Heart.

On October 8, art collectors and the Casey House community once again came together to mark the twentieth annual Art with Heart. To celebrate, we spoke with twenty winning bidders through the years to hear what it is they love about Art with Heart, and what they love about Casey House.

Read them all online at www.artwithheart.ca

Mark Robert

PATRON, PAST CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER



“ I have always attended Art with Heart, it is amongst my favourite events. It's a win-win: buying a great work of Canadian contemporary art and supporting a great local initiative dealing with a cause that is very important to me. It provides me with a snap shot of what artists are buzzy - both from a curatorial standpoint and in terms of which artists the buyers are excited about. There is always a story attached to the purchase of art - and buying it at Art with Heart is no exception. ”

Thank You!

Thanks to the support of participating sponsors, artists, galleries and patrons, Art with Heart this year raised over \$760,000 for compassionate HIV care at Casey House.

View event photos online at www.caseyhouse.com

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THE CASEY HOUSE REBUILDING LIVES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We are proud to report that the redevelopment project is on time and on budget.

Currently, Chief Executive Officer **Stephanie Karapita** and Chief Nursing Executive **Karen de Prinse** are meeting weekly with our architects to discuss specific requirements and elements of each room.

As part of the process, in the spring of this year, a mock inpatient room was temporarily constructed inside the former dining room of the old Jarvis Street house that will be restored as part of the project. Casey House clients, staff and volunteers toured the room and provided invaluable feedback before the architects and engineers completed the floor plans and specification documents for going to tender in March 2014. Our goal remains to break ground in the fall of 2014 and to occupy the building at the end of 2016.

If you haven't already, please join us in this exciting undertaking to expand and improve upon health care treatments and services for people living with HIV/AIDS in our community.

To make your campaign gift, please contact Pat Hetherington at 416.962.4040 ext 235.

Thanks to the generosity and commitment of our individual, corporate and foundation supporters, we are delighted to report that \$7 million has been raised so far for the \$10 million Rebuilding Lives Capital Campaign.

Our vision for a new health care facility and day health program for people living with HIV is getting close to becoming a reality. Thank you for your support and compassion.



A video tour of our new home, designed by Hariri Pontarini Architects, was unveiled at our donor reception in February and has been very positively received at other events.

Watch it online at www.rebuildinglives.ca



100 LEADERS: \$1 MILLION GOAL

Starting out as an idea to raise \$1 million in support of Casey House's Rebuilding Lives Capital Campaign, The 100 is inching closer to realizing their goal, having raised close to \$800,000.

"What's so impressive is that this is a group effort," says **Stephen Brown**, Chair of The 100.

"There has been an incredible effort from the members of The 100 and the committee to realize this goal. We have all been reaching out to our individual networks and to colleagues to encourage them to join us during this exciting and transformational time in Casey House's history. It is the community, reaching out to the community, for the good of the community."

The 100 is an important fundraising effort to rally a group of 100 fellow business, community and social innovators who believe in Casey House's mission. The 100 embraces community leaders who want to personally make a difference and invest in the future of those living with HIV/AIDS by making a pledge of \$10,000 payable over four years.

For more information on how you can join The 100 please contact Tracy Hatten at 416-962-4040 ext 233 or thatten@caseyhouse.on.ca

SPECIAL EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT



THE RED ROSE BALL APRIL 4, 2014

Casey House is thrilled to announce that this year's Spring 2014 gala event will be **The Red Rose Ball**, hosted by **The St. George's Society of Toronto** and honouring **Rick Mercer**.

Mr. Mercer has generously designated Casey House as the charity recipient of funds raised.

All of us at Casey House are deeply indebted to Mr. Mercer and The St. George's Society.

Stay tuned to www.caseyhouse.com for updates on the plans for this and other Casey House special events.

Making a planned gift to Casey House

Why Stephen Muscat is a Friend InDeed

How did you first learn about Casey House and what we do?



I was introduced to Casey House about 15 years ago by one of my mentors. It was interesting to learn how Casey House has evolved through the years, by attending events and speaking with board members, volunteers and staff.

I also know a number of people who have been helped by Casey House. As an organization, it's known for being extremely compassionate, and for really going that extra mile in terms of providing health care.

Why did you choose to support Casey House with a legacy gift in your will?

For me, it's not so much about my own personal legacy, but knowing that I have a part to play in ensuring that the ongoing legacy of Casey House can continue.

You can see by the history and the growth of Casey House that they operate with great integrity and with an interest in consistently moving forward. We don't necessarily know what the future is going to be in terms of HIV and the health care system, but we do know that Casey House as a charity will work to advance care in the best way possible. Casey House has a great deal of

integrity and it's an organization that I'm proud to be associated with.

I have been blessed in my life with wonderful family and friends. And I believe I have a responsibility to help others, and this is one way I choose to do it. There's a level of integrity and respect that Casey House has demonstrated and I know that the money I leave them will be put to the best use.

Do you have advice for someone embarking on their own estate plans?

Estate planning is extremely important, primarily because it assists the people who are left behind. By making these decisions in advance, you ensure not only that your own wishes are met, but you're also relieving the people in your life of that worry. If you don't make your intentions known while you're alive, then the burden will land on everyone around you to make appropriate decisions. That's a lot of pressure. By creating a will, by clearly stating your intentions, you provide clarity. You're removing the mystery and doubt.

So that's my best advice to people: get your will done. Think of it as a gift you're giving the people in your life, by making your intentions known. And while you're at it, throw in a couple of lines that indicate your charitable intentions too.

**Dream Beyond
What Is Possible**

Your legacy gift can ensure there will always be compassionate care for people living with HIV/AIDS.

**The Casey House
Friends InDeed
Legacy Society**

**Call Tracy Hatten
416-962-4040 ext. 233**

Sean, legacy donor



CASEY HOUSE



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

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