

**CASEY HOUSE NEWSLETTER  
FALL 2011: TEXT-ONLY VERSION  
SEPTEMBER 2011**

**YOU OPEN HEARTS, MINDS AND DOORS:  
CASEY HOUSE NEWSLETTER  
FALL 2011**

**DOUBLING OUR CAPACITY TO CARE**

*Casey House rebuilding in response to evolving epidemic*

Casey House was recently visited by Ontario's Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Minister of Research and Innovation, who came to highlight the province's infrastructure investment in health care services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Casey House is proceeding with a redevelopment project to build our new home, with occupancy scheduled for 2015/16. The construction of this new building will be as important a milestone for Casey House as was the opening of our doors in 1988.

With infection rates continuing to rise in Toronto, the redevelopment will allow Casey House to address unmet needs in our health care system and double our capacity to provide compassionate treatment and care while maintaining the warm and welcoming environment that has been our hallmark since the days of our founders.

"We're so grateful to the many people who participated in the extensive consultations required to make our redevelopment possible," said **Stephanie Karapita**, CEO of Casey House. "Over a period of years we have sought the guidance and insight of a variety of constituent groups including people living with HIV/AIDS, our clients and their families, and partner organizations that serve people living with HIV/ AIDS in Toronto, together with neighbourhood residents."

The new Day Health Program will expand Casey House's range of health care services and will serve as a model for chronic disease management. The program will provide comprehensive treatment to meet the complex needs of people living with HIV/AIDS ensuring that they have the support necessary to remain safely at home. Working alongside agencies providing services for people living with HIV/AIDS, the program will complement services currently available in Toronto.

"We're absolutely delighted with this investment by the Ontario government," said Casey House Board Chair **Gael Mourant**. "By bringing a range of HIV/AIDS health care services under one roof, this investment will improve the health and well-being of a highly vulnerable population while relieving pressure on local hospitals and avoiding higher cost means of delivering health care."

Casey House has committed to raise \$10 million towards the cost of redevelopment under a Capital Campaign led by **Jaime Watt** who said, "We're going to build a building that no one has seen before, because we are doing what no one has done before."

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## **Dan Wright**

### **ON CREATIVE WAYS TO SUPPORT HIV/AIDS CARE AT CASEY HOUSE**

*A donor to Casey House since moving to Toronto in the early 1990's, Dan Wright has also volunteered on our board and committees. He is Senior Vice- President and Head, Wealth Management, International Banking at Scotiabank.*

**In addition to your history as a board member and committee volunteer, you support Casey House on three financial levels— as a leadership donor for the annual fund, through your generous matching of alumni gifts to the Capital Campaign, and through an innovative planned gift. Why did you feel it was important to give to Casey House in multiple layers like this?**

My involvement with Casey House began as a contributor to the Annual Fund, supporting day-to-day programs. I also sat on the Board of Directors for a few years, and really enjoyed spending time with a group of people who share the same passion for what Casey House means for our community. Casey House was then just embarking on the idea behind the Capital Campaign. It was a very exciting time. When my role at the bank changed, my travel commitments made it very difficult to stay as active as I felt I ought to be. I wanted to continue to contribute in a meaningful way, so I began to look for alternatives. The matching gift was a relatively easy way to achieve that.

**How do you feel now that the Capital Campaign is really taking off?**

The vision for the capital redevelopment is a tremendously exciting project for Casey House. I'm so pleased that we'll be taking this next step. We know that we'll be filling a service gap, with programs that are truly needed as the disease evolves. What I probably like most is the community-based aspect of the new plans. The integral involvement of volunteers, the open door to people who need care, and maintaining that feeling of peace and comfort when you step inside the door, even in the new facility. I feel confident that we'll be able to bring all of that forward into the new building.

**You've devised a very creative way to contribute to Casey House after your death, by making a planned gift of your art collection. Can you tell us about that?**

Most of my collection has come from purchases at Art with Heart, and I hated the thought that after I'm gone, it would just be handed off to someone who doesn't understand or appreciate it. At the end of the day, I'm enjoying my art during the time I'm here but when I'm gone, if it's going to go to an auction house or to someone who won't have the same appreciation, then I'd much rather that it mean something. Perhaps if they're still having Art with Heart in 40 or 50 years, there will be a Dan Wright collection. This way, I know my art will help Casey House twice.

**What are your thoughts on the future of HIV/AIDS in our city?**

In the long run, we'd all like to see an end to HIV/AIDS, but I don't think that's going to happen any time soon. And we know that people's experience with HIV/AIDS is never going to get any better unless we do something. It's not just a person's right to get good health care, it's the right thing to do.

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## MONOGRAM DINNER BY DESIGN

### Celebrity designer Jane Lockhart hosts intimate dinner party in support of Casey House

In May, Casey House was the beneficiary of a very special dinner party hosted by celebrity designer **Jane Lockhart**. Guests of the inaugural invitation-only event were treated to an inspired menu prepared by cutting edge chef **Domenic Chiaromonte** of T2 Lounge.

Monogram Dinner by Design is a series of by-invitation-only dinners and cocktail parties hosted by members of the design community in support of Casey House.

“We were extremely pleased when Jane Lockhart offered to open up her fabulous studio space and host a truly wonderful evening in support of Casey House,” says **Philippe Meyersohn** of GE Monogram, presenting sponsor of the Monogram Dinner by Design series. “As we expected, Jane’s keen sense of style and attention to detail has set a tremendous standard for future events.”

*For information about Monogram Dinner by Design, please contact Michael Cress at [mcress@caseyhouse.on.ca](mailto:mcress@caseyhouse.on.ca) | 416-962-4040 ext. 236*

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## THE QUIET ROOM ROARS

### Anthology of clients’ creative writing to launch on World AIDS Day December 1

Now in its third year, the creative writing program at Casey House is funded by our generous donors as well as by grants from the Toronto Arts Council. An additional project grant from the Toronto Arts Council has made possible the publication of an anthology of our clients’ creative writing. Named after the space in Casey House where much of the writing took place, *The Quiet Room Roars* will be launched at Casey House’s **Voices of Hope concert on World AIDS Day, December 1**.

*She held my hope when I could not. I have the power to look inside that room at the pain Venture in that room where fear has been evicted. Like a tulip I keep unfolding, Layer upon delicate layer. -From “Uncertainty,” by Cindy*

“When we came to the third year of the program, we decided it was time to pull together the writings that have emerged over the years,” explains Casey House Writer in Residence **Michelle Tocher**. “We asked the writers to make contributions and I’ve helped them to select the material that best reflects their unique voices, perspectives and experiences. It has been an indescribable privilege to foster the writings of people with HIV/ AIDS who, on a daily basis, face extreme challenges to their bodies, minds and spirits. What they have to say about the power of love and compassion in the midst of pain, sadness, judgment and isolation has many times brought me to tears.”

Clients hone their poetry and prose skills with Tocher in group workshops as well as through one-on-one sessions. The book will not be sold for a dollar value: instead, the client writers have generously directed that pay-what-you-can donations go to supporting care at Casey House.

“Before, I never saw myself as a writer,” says **Cindy**, a client at Casey House. “Now, I call myself a reluctant poet. The writing helps me gain insight into myself. I sometimes write poems if I have a particular decision I have to make, or if I’m feeling low. Whatever’s going on, even if it’s too hard to think about clearly, I know can write through it. Today, I write all the time. I do it for me. Writing saved me.”

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## **Education Events**

Casey House plays a leading role in the Toronto community of AIDS service organizations by offering free training opportunities that advance our collective understanding of HIV/AIDS. In addition to the full-day symposium, lunchtime seminars run October - May.

**FULL-DAY SYMPOSIUM NOV. 9: “Creating Alliances for Care: HIV/ AIDS, Serious Illness and Adaptation” with keynote speaker Dr. Robert Buckman & featuring Dr. David Wong** *Designed for health care professionals and AIDS service providers. Registration required.*

For more information about this and other Casey House education events, visit [www.caseyhouse.com](http://www.caseyhouse.com)

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## **THE CASEY AWARDS**

### **Shine a light on Canadian activism!**

*NOMINATE SOMEONE TODAY*

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 & social justice.

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE:** Friday, November 4, 2011

*For more info, as well as video tributes to past recipients & nomination forms:*  
[www.caseyhouse.com](http://www.caseyhouse.com)

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## **TESTACY OR INTESTACY? THAT IS THE QUESTION.**

### **Guest Editorial by Robert Coates, BSc, LLB, TEP**

The title of this article mimics the question “To be or not to be?” asked by Shakespeare’s Hamlet. Hamlet was a man who at times acted insanely towards his family. On the other hand, he earnestly tried to determine right from wrong. These are the eternal struggles that most of us experience in life.

The question for today is vis-à-vis our families, loved ones and the things we care about, including charities: *What is the best way to plan for death?*

My experience, after 30 years practicing as a lawyer, is that the majority of people plan for death by avoiding a plan. They believe that if they plan for death by making a will, then they will be tempting death. So the resolution of the conundrum is to not plan at all. This is the camp that believes that intestacy is for them – intestacy meaning that they will die without a will. Intestacy means that the Succession Law Reform Act will stipulate how your estate will be administered, from your beneficiaries (awarding your assets to blood relatives instead of your common-law spouse, for example) to the costly and impersonal appointment of an Estate Trustee. Is that what you intended?

By making a will, you can avoid setting up your family members against each other. You can protect those you love and ensure that they receive appropriate assets. You can ensure that your common-law spouse is protected or that your children from your first marriage receive something. You can ensure that charities that are dear to you receive something too. In some cases you can reduce the costs of administrating the estate.

In a will you appoint the Estate Trustee and you direct that your debts be paid and who will be your beneficiaries. In other words, you make a plan.

Planning for death includes making a will as part of an estate plan. If you chose to be a “testate” kind of person, you get to make planned decisions about the division of your estate on your death, and you protect your loved ones by including them in the plan. You can plan for legitimate reduction of taxes which arise as a result of death, by planned charitable giving. It all makes sense.

Which will you be? A “testate” or an “intestate” kind of person? The choice is yours. Make the smart choice. Don’t leave it to an intestacy to determine what happens to your estate.

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## **JOIN OUR CARING TEAM**

Volunteers are vital to care at Casey House, whether assisting clients, advising on committees or helping at special events.

**To discuss the right role for you, please call Amanda at 416-962-4040 ext. 202.**

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Art with Heart Previews -  
Oct 14-16, 2011

TD Bank Presents Art with  
Heart - Oct 18, 2011

Full-Day Symposium -  
Nov 9, 2011

World AIDS Day Memorial  
Service - Dec 1, 2011 (noon)

Voices of Hope for World AIDS  
Day Concert - Dec 1, 2011 (eve)

SnowBall 2012-  
February 25, 2012

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**CASEY HOUSE**

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To make a donation, volunteer, or for more information, please contact us at  
[heart@caseyhouse.on.ca](mailto:heart@caseyhouse.on.ca)

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**END OF NEWSLETTER**