



Actionmarguerite

NEWSletter

DEVOTED TO RESIDENTS' WELL-BEING



From left to right: Jeannette Couture, Cécile Roy, Simone Gagnon, Cécile St. Amant, Rita Hébert, Annette Hupé, Simone St. Hilaire, Jeanne Desrochers, Denise Daudet and Armande Kenny. Missing from photo: Ghislaine Perron and Michelle Hébert.

The Auxiliary consists of twelve women without whose help many Actionmarguerite St. Boniface activities could not take place due to a lack of funding. Profile of Actionmarguerite St. Boniface's Auxiliary.

Denise, Annette, Jeanne, Armande, Jeannette, Rita, Ghislaine, Michelle, and both pairs of Simones and Céciles meet regularly at Actionmarguerite St. Boniface to collectively determine which of the organization's activities should receive the money collected by their gift shop and through other means.

The members of the Auxiliary, which is part of a tradition dating back more than 50 years at Actionmarguerite St. Boniface, are all volunteers who run the organization's gift shop. All of the money collected is subsequently redistributed to help meet residents' needs.

"Our goal is to collect funds to help organize additional Actionmarguerite St. Boniface resident activities that would not otherwise be funded," says Jeannette Couture. "We finance the Christmas festivities on each floor, as well as the music therapy programs for dementia patients. Each week, musicians come to play for the residents."

"We have also helped purchase furniture, curtains and televisions for the residents," says Simone St. Hilaire. "Whenever Actionmarguerite tells us what residents need, we decide as a group where we want to put our money to meet some of those needs."

Auxiliary donations currently come from gift shop proceeds, and from the gift-basket draws they organize throughout the year, especially during the holiday season. These activities have allowed the Auxiliary to donate thousands of dollars to the music therapy program and to put additional thousands on Christmas parties for the residents.

"Our gift shop is open every day except Mondays, and offers everything residents might want, including greeting cards, jewellery, socks, tuques and crafts hand knitted by the nuns, brown-sugar fudge, decorations and toiletries," says Jeannette Couture.

Cécile Roy, who is in charge of gift shop purchasing, explains that "whenever possible, I purchase items based on residents' requests. For instance, if some residents ask for a specific brand of toothpaste, I try to find it for them. I also make sure we offer new seasonal items." The gift shop's inventory also depends on the material donations it receives.

"For many residents, it's the only place where they can come and shop on their own. That gives them back a bit of independence," says Jeannette Couture. "I think it's great that the residents can drop by our shop. It makes them, and us, happy!" she adds.

The Auxiliary's dedication to Actionmarguerite St. Boniface stems from the fact that most of the women have been able to directly appreciate the quality of the services offered, a service level they would like to help maintain.

"Visiting our own loved ones makes us want to give back," says Jeanne Desrocher, whose mother was a former resident. Similarly, Jeannette Couture says: "My mother was also a resident at Actionmarguerite St. Boniface. I became a volunteer when she passed away. It was a way of saying thanks for everything that everyone did for her here."

While most of the Auxiliary members have been involved with Actionmarguerite for several decades, they look forward to seeing a new group of volunteers in the near future who will continue this tradition of enhancing resident services for many years to come.

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It is with great pleasure
that we welcome
to Actionmarguerite the
following new employees:

ST. BONIFACE

Administration

Francine Perreault • Robyn Johnston
Huguette Trudel

Information Technology Services

Samuel Bordier

Community Programs

Abby Friedman

Care and Services

Marie Lota Navarro • Abraham Bergado
Janine Heinrichs • Murrie Hoffmeister
Rachelle Mukuba • Palienor Sarmiento
Sadi Luc Musaka • Vuong Tran
Lori-Ann Willmott • Gurmeet Gill
Ursula Ayah • Erin O'Neill • Crystal Hart

Housekeeping Services

Brigitte Lubaka Wabiwa
Patient Kadima
Evelyn Mbombo Kabasela

Food Services

Virgilio Felipe Jr. • Patrick Muhabwa

Community Services

Maribel Galvez • Chona Nava
Emelyn Jorolan

ST. JOSEPH

Care and Services

Narciso Alviar • Annabelle Reyes
Anyupriya Jose • Jennifer Coronel
Karishma Aggarwal • Lindsay Camet
Gaganpreet Kaur Pandher
Navpreet Sandhu • Lovepreet Sharma
Dawn Marceca

Community Services

Carolyn Mount

Food Services

Racquel Juvida

Housekeeping Services

Kulwinder Lehki • Diane Dekadjevi

ST. VITAL

Care and Services

Line Nordman • Fe Catherine Wanta
Jeb Peter Francis Sasota • Hasna Belline
Abigael Capiendo

Physical Plant and Maintenance Services

Darryl Vandale

Food Services

Charlet Raymundo • Dona Kasonga
Kevin Castro • Denise King
Ryley Paterson
Justin Lemoine-Mousseau

We welcome them
to our team!

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SMUDGING TO "FACE THE DAY"

Gérald Fournier, spiritual care advisor at Actionmarguerite St. Vital and Métis descendant, visits Actionmarguerite St. Boniface every month to perform a native smudging ceremony with residents.

Standing in front of a sacred blanket, Gérald Fournier begins the smudging ceremony by recognizing that he is on Treaty One First Nations land, and goes on to invite participants to chant to the sound of a beating drum. On that particular day, nine residents, some Indigenous, some not, joined him in the chant.

"Smudging is an opportunity for us to open up our minds to welcome the Creator, and to cleanse ourselves of negative thoughts," he says. "I smudge my head to think positively, my eyes and ears to see and hear the beautiful things around me, and my heart to feel goodness from within."

Gérald Fournier discovered his own Métis identity almost 20 years ago. Since then, he often consults his Elder, and is committed to bringing certain Indigenous practices to Actionmarguerite St. Vital and St. Boniface.

"It was important for us to offer different kinds of spiritual services, including smudging ceremonies, to honour our First Nations and Métis residents, as well as anyone else interested in this type of ceremony."

While neither Joseph Unrau nor Dale De Meyer, both Actionmarguerite St. Boniface residents, are of Indigenous heritage, they both feel strongly about attending each smudging ceremony performed.

"For me, this ceremony is a way to give back to Mother Nature and to remember the Native culture that was present at the origin of our country thousands of years ago," says Dale De Meyer. "It has opened my eyes and I feel honoured to be able to learn and share their traditions."

"It is good to reconnect with Mother Nature and to find out more about different First Nations peoples and their traditions," says Joseph Unrau. "There are seven sacred teachings at the basis of everything: respect, love, truth, wisdom, humility, courage and honesty."

Joseph Unrau first discovered Native traditions when he lived in Selkirk, Manitoba. Dale de Meyer discovered and adopted these traditions in St. Norbert. Today he even plays the Native drum.

"Whenever I participate in a Native smudging ceremony, I feel rejuvenated and ready to face the day," he says.

Gérald Fournier adds that the smudging ceremonies are also a time for residents to share: "[they are] an invitation for them to express how they are feeling in a safe and open environment. It's very important in their healing and acceptance process."

The smudging ceremonies at Actionmarguerite St. Boniface are a success, and are typically attended by some 20 residents.



From left to right: Dale De Meyer, Gérald Fournier and Joseph Unrau.

MEETING INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL NEEDS

The Actionmarguerite Spiritual Care Team is committed to the enormous task of effectively meeting the individual needs of all residents.



From left to right: Diane Carrière, Carolyn Mount, Sylvie Fisette, Ghislaine Gauthier and Gérald Fournier.

The residents, their families and the staff at Actionmarguerite St. Boniface, St. Vital and St. Joseph have many spiritual care needs. Five spiritual care providers, Ghislaine Gauthier and Diane Carrière at St. Boniface, Carolyn Mount at St. Joseph's, and Gérald Fournier at St. Vital and occasionally St. Boniface, as well as Sylvie Fisette, spiritual care clerk at St. Boniface and St. Vital, ensure that these needs are met to the greatest extent possible.

"Our priority is to take care of residents who are dying or living with an illness that changes their lives and those of their families, regardless of their needs," says Ghislaine Gauthier. "Sometimes, just being with them is enough, especially for residents with no family. Some residents prefer to be left alone, and we must respect that. Others feel the need to talk about their impending death."

Diane Carrière confirms this: "Spiritual care involves a lot of listening and adjusting to each situation. The needs are different from one person to another, and even from one moment to another for the same person. It's a rewarding, but challenging role."

Despite these challenges, the four workers all agree that it is a privilege for them to be present and support the residents at this critical end-of-life stage. "It's rewarding to be able to engage in conversation with them to normalize death as a natural part of life, and to make it as meaningful and dignified as possible," says Gérald Fournier.

"Unlike the nurses and other staff who have so much to do, we can take the time to stay a little longer with those who need it, to listen to them and do little things for them that make a difference," adds Carolyn Mount. "It's important for them, and they feel respected when we make time for them."

The spiritual care team is also sensitive to the various languages and beliefs of their residents. "We help connect them with different religious or spiritual leaders," says Gérald Fournier.

For instance, at St. Joseph's, "we offer seven different masses," says Carolyn Mount. At St. Vital and St. Boniface, Gérald Fournier hosts native smudging ceremonies, in addition to the many bilingual masses conducted at the three sites.

More than just residents

If the primary objective of the spiritual care team is to support residents who are dying or gravely ill, they are also there to support the residents' families. "We organize commemorative services once or twice a year to remember all those who have left us," says Ghislaine Gauthier. "It's a critical time for the families and their grieving process."

The spiritual care providers have also made it a practice to hold small farewell ceremonies after each death, in the deceased's room, for those left behind. "It's important to recognize that people have suffered a loss that deeply affects them, even though they have to keep on living and working," says Carolyn Mount.

The spiritual care providers are also "a compassionate ear for the staff who look after the residents," says Diane Carrière. "Sometimes, they need to talk because their job can be stressful. We are there for them, as well."

Continuous change

However, the spiritual care team is preparing to face several imminent challenges in carrying out their mission as effectively as possible. One such challenge is the lack of volunteers and priests.

Gérald Fournier sees this as an opportunity. "The lack of volunteers will encourage us to be creative and change how needs are addressed," he says. There are plans to use technology to that end. At St. Joseph's, an in-house television channel is already being used to allow residents to watch mass from their own rooms. The resident population is likely to become increasingly diverse. More languages and faiths are expected as a result of immigration trends of the past decades.

"We are also admitting older, weaker and sometimes non-verbal residents, as well as young adults, and we have two closed wards for dementia and Alzheimer's residents," adds Ghislaine Gauthier. "All of these different residents have a wide range of spiritual needs."

The baby-boomer generation coming into the facilities "has a very different, less traditional relationship with religion than our current residents," says Carolyn Mount.

Spiritual film screenings and sharing circles are now being organized on a variety of subjects, such as living with a handicap, as well as singing and prayer groups that are less formal than a full mass.

"In our profession, everything is always changing. From one generation to the next, from one person to the next, from one day to the next," says Diane Carrière. "It is certainly never boring!"

TWO WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

The Ghislaine-Lacerte Fund and the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk Compassion Fund are two examples of Actionmarguerite Foundation endowment funds.

The Ghislaine-Lacerte Fund

Created in fall 2006 by Lucille Blanchette in honour of her childhood friend, Ghislaine Lacerte, who passed away in December 2005, the Ghislaine-Lacerte Fund supports French-language activities and programming at Actionmarguerite St. Vital.

"Ghislaine was a Francophone resident at Actionmarguerite St. Vital, and I often took her to activities in a wheelchair," recalls Lucille Blanchette. "I noticed that these activities were usually in English. When I asked about it, I was told that English-led groups were less expensive than the Francophone ones, which are unionized."

"However, I wanted the residents to be able to have French-language activities several times a year," adds Lucille, who has also been a volunteer on Actionmarguerite St. Vital's Residents' and Family Council for the past 15 years. "Ghislaine was unable to speak due to her illness, but when she heard French songs, she would light up and try to sing along. It made her happier."

Lucille Blanchette used the inheritance left to her by her friend to create a fund in her name with the Actionmarguerite Foundation. While the fund currently totals more than \$50,000, the need continues to grow due to rising artist fees, and donations are therefore more welcome than ever.

Lucille also created a scholarship fund in Ghislaine-Lacerte's name at Université de Saint-Boniface (USB), which initiated a collaboration between USB and Actionmarguerite St. Vital's recreation

committee. The two institutions often share Francophone artists, and USB students also perform at the St. Vital facility.

The Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk Compassion Fund

The Compassion Fund is supported by the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, Inc. In 2007, the Sisters created a fund in their own name at Actionmarguerite St. Boniface, but decided to combine it with the existing Compassion Fund in January 2017.

"In 2002, my mother became a resident at Actionmarguerite," says Sister Joan Adams. Over time, other Sisters became residents. I therefore spent a lot of time at Actionmarguerite, and I noticed that some residents didn't have access to what they needed, like haircuts, because they didn't have the money. I discussed this with my congregation Sisters, and we decided that it would be good to help them in a compassionate way."

However, financial reasons are not the only thing preventing some residents from accessing certain services. Security issues are also major impediments, which is why the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, Inc. and Actionmarguerite decided to expand the Fund's objectives by making it a part of the Compassion Fund, which also includes staffing needs.



With the support of her congregation, the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, Inc., Sister Joan Adams created a fund that is now part of the Actionmarguerite Compassion Fund.

Lucille Blanchette created the Ghislaine-Lacerte Fund.

"Now, thanks to our Fund, Actionmarguerite will be able to do things like invite an expert to train staff on how to be more compassionate with residents," says Sister Joan Adams. "It's completely in line with our primary objective of compassion, which we see as a core value. This Fund will promote greater compassion towards residents, their families, and staff at Actionmarguerite."

The Fund will also be used to meet the needs of the entire Actionmarguerite community, rather than just those of the St. Boniface facility. While it currently stands at approximately \$37,000, the Sisters are hopeful that donations will bring the total to \$100,000.

"Helping those around us makes for a healthier community, which in return is good for us," concludes Sister Joan Adams.



Elizabeth Sadler

A DEVOTED MUSICIAN AT ACTIONMARGUERITE ST. VITAL

Elizabeth Sadler works five days over a two-week period at Actionmarguerite St. Vital, bringing music into residents' lives.

The *Artists in Healthcare* program has hired singer, pianist and clarinetist Elizabeth Sadler to perform at Actionmarguerite St. Vital for the past two summers. Working as a musician in another medical facility, she spends two days one week and three days the following week at Actionmarguerite. Her goal is to offer an interactive musical experience to residents in a group or in their rooms.

"While I'm not a musical therapist, I use music as a kind of therapy," says the young musician. "I often sit among the residents and sing during the lunch hour. Sometimes they sing with me, or they just listen. Sometimes they make specific song requests, and sometimes we just talk. It's a real exchange, with the residents guiding me where they need to go."

Lunch is an ideal time, but Elizabeth Sadler has a flexible schedule. Whenever she sees a group of residents who might enjoy a musical interlude, she approaches them to ask whether they would like to sing or hear some music.

Her program choices, including jazz, soft rock, light music or even traditional French-Canadian songs, are also guided by the prevailing mood. "I have a large repertoire that I can draw from," she says. "But I tend to focus on French songs, because there are a lot of Francophones at Actionmarguerite St. Vital."

In addition to group sessions, the jazz music graduate also spends a lot of her time each day with residents who cannot or find it difficult to leave their rooms. "I have a list of residents who love music but are confined to their rooms, so I visit them and sing for them," she says. "These are beautiful moments because the music stimulates them."

She still remembers a visit to a bedridden resident with Parkinson's disease. Another resident with the same disease had been brought to that patient's room to hear the performance. "The fact that there were three of us completely changed the mood," says Sadler. "It created a feeling of community. The two residents built a real connection through the music and their common illness. It was a very powerful moment."

While the universal language of music helps residents to connect with each other and revisit other times in their lives, Elizabeth Sadler also benefits from her *Artist in Healthcare* experience.

"I love my experience at Actionmarguerite St. Vital," she says. "Musically, it helps me build confidence, because I am called on to play or sing in a variety of contexts. I also love being surrounded by elderly residents and people with illnesses. They often show tremendous emotion as they listen to certain songs, and most of them seem genuinely happy to see me and hear me perform."

FONDATION ACTIONMARGUERITE : DES CONTRIBUTIONS QUI VONT LOIN

La Fondation Actionmarguerite cherche à augmenter son actif afin de répondre au mieux aux besoins changeants de ses résidents.

Résultat de la fusion en 2011 des Amis de Valade et des Amis de Taché, deux fondations elles-mêmes créées par les Sœurs Grises à la fin des années 1990, puis reprises par la Corporation catholique de la santé du Manitoba (CCSM), la Fondation Actionmarguerite a toujours besoin de donateurs.

Ayant un actif total de 3,5 millions \$, la Fondation a déboursé de ses intérêts en 2016 environ 70 000 \$ pour Saint-Boniface et 30 000 \$ pour Saint-Vital, une répartition proportionnelle au nombre de lits.

Sa vitalité dépend des contributions privées qu'elle reçoit, et ces dons ont pour objectif d'enrichir la vie des résidents en améliorant leurs espaces et les services qui leur sont offerts au-delà de ce que les contributions gouvernementales permettent de faire.

« On s'en sert notamment pour alimenter notre programmation récréative et spirituelle, et pour rénover les espaces de nos résidents dans le but de les adapter à leurs besoins d'aujourd'hui et de demain, annonce le directeur général d'Actionmarguerite, Charles Gagné. On utilise l'argent de nos donateurs comme des fonds d'investissement, c'est-à-dire, pour des projets

ayant une valeur ajoutée dans l'immédiat mais aussi à long terme. »

La formation du personnel dans des domaines additionnels aux services de santé de base financés par le gouvernement, comme en compassion, en éthique ou en spiritualité, est une autre utilisation des fonds, puisque cela contribue à offrir un meilleur service.

Et la liste des projets à financer ne fait qu'augmenter, car la clientèle d'Actionmarguerite vieillit et ses besoins se complexifient. Charles Gagné mentionne d'ailleurs que « les soins palliatifs sont un des grands besoins que nous anticipons, ou encore celui de refaire nos cours extérieures fermées, un projet qui a déjà commencé à Saint-Vital. Nos besoins sont tellement variés qu'on espère toucher diverses fibres philanthropiques! »

Diverses façons de donner

La Fondation Actionmarguerite accueille plusieurs types de dons, les plus populaires étant les dons commémoratifs. Ces dons s'élèvent à environ 10 000 \$ par an, un chiffre qu'elle voudrait voir augmenter. « Ce sont des dons faits à la mémoire de quelqu'un à son

décès, explique Charles Gagné. Au lieu de fleurs, la famille du défunt encourage les gens à faire un don à la Fondation Actionmarguerite. C'est très facile à faire. »

Il est aussi facile de faire des dons non commémoratifs, qu'ils soient ponctuels ou à fréquence irrégulière. Ces dons s'élèvent aujourd'hui à quelque 15 à 20 000 \$ par an.

Plus rarement, la Fondation Actionmarguerite reçoit des dons issus de legs testamentaires. « On souhaite développer davantage ce type de dons en sensibilisant nos donateurs à l'importance de contribuer pour maintenir nos services de qualité à long terme », confie Charles Gagné.

Enfin, certains fonds au sein de la Fondation, notamment le Fonds Ghislaine-Lacerte et le Fonds de Compassion, anciennement Fonds Sœurs Ursulines de Tildonk Inc., sont des fonds perpétuels. Il faut un don initial d'au moins 10 000 \$ pour qu'un tel fonds soit créé.

« Les fonds perpétuels, contrairement aux autres types de dons, sont des fonds désignés, précise Charles Gagné. L'utilisation des intérêts est spécifiée avec le don par le donateur principal, et nous nous devons de présenter un rapport d'utilisation de leurs fonds.

« Lorsqu'il ne s'agit pas d'un fonds perpétuel, nous sommes libres d'acheminer l'argent là où les plus grands besoins se font ressentir. Toutefois, si le don est directement lié au service fourni sur un étage, nous essayons autant que possible d'en faire profiter les résidents de cet étage. »

Enfin, la Fondation Actionmarguerite espère un jour recevoir des dons de transformation, c'est-à-dire, des dons d'impact de 50 000 \$ ou plus. « On voudrait que les grands donateurs soient davantage sensibilisés à notre existence et nos besoins, confie Charles Gagné. Il y a beaucoup de richesses dans notre société, pourquoi ne pas en faire bénéficier Actionmarguerite? »

Les dons à la Fondation Actionmarguerite sont d'autant plus importants qu'ils permettent aussi de démontrer aux gouvernements le soutien de la communauté envers Actionmarguerite. De ce soutien dépendent les fonds publics que l'organisme peut recevoir pour mener ses grands projets capitaux.

Par ailleurs, la Fondation Actionmarguerite, qui a son propre conseil d'administration indépendant d'Actionmarguerite Saint-Boniface et d'Actionmarguerite Saint-Vital, garantit que tout dollar donné gardera sa valeur. Ses fonds sont protégés du taux d'inflation.

ACTIONMARGUERITE FOUNDATION: CONTRIBUTIONS THAT GO A LONG WAY

The Actionmarguerite Foundation wants to increase its assets to better meet the changing needs of its residents.

As a result of the 2011 amalgamation of the Friends of Foyer Valade and Friends of Taché Centre funds, both created by the Grey Nuns at the end of the 1990s and subsequently taken over by the Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba (CHCM), the Actionmarguerite Foundation always needs donors.

With current total assets of \$3.5 million, in 2016 the Foundation allocated approximately \$70,000 to St. Boniface and \$30,000 to St. Vital, distributed in proportion to the number of beds.

The Foundation's vitality depends on private donations received, the objective of which is to enhance residents' quality of life by improving the spaces and services provided to them, over and above what is possible with the government funding received.

"We use these funds to expand our recreational and spiritual programs, and to renovate residents' areas, modifying them to meet current and future needs," says Charles Gagné, Actionmarguerite's Chief Executive Officer. "We use donor funds to invest in short- and long-term value-added projects."

Funds are also used to train staff in areas that complement the basic, government-financed healthcare services, such as compassion, ethics and spirituality, which contributes to providing better services to residents.

The list of projects for funding continues to grow, given that Actionmarguerite's residents are older, with increasingly complex needs. Charles Gagné also says that "palliative care is one of our greatest anticipated needs, as well as renovating our enclosed outdoor courtyards, a project that is already underway at St. Vital. Our needs are so diverse that we are hoping to connect with a variety of philanthropic sources."

Many ways to give

The Actionmarguerite Foundation welcomes many types of donations, the most popular of which are donations in memoriam. These donations amount to approximately \$10,000 annually, a figure the Foundation would like to increase. "These are donations made in memory of someone after their death," says Charles Gagné. "Instead of sending flowers, the deceased's family encourages people to make

a donation to the Actionmarguerite Foundation. It's very easy to do."

It is also easy to make other kinds of donations on a one-time or sporadic basis. These donations currently represent approximately \$15,000-20,000 annually.

The Actionmarguerite Foundation occasionally receives legacy bequests. "We would like to increase this kind of donation by making our donors more aware of the importance of contributing to maintain our quality services over the long term," says Charles Gagné.

Lastly, some of the Foundation funds, such as the Ghislaine-Lacerte Fund and the Compassion Fund, formerly the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk Inc. Fund, are endowment funds. An initial donation of at least \$10,000 is required to create this kind of fund.

"Unlike other funds, endowment funds are designated funds," says Charles Gagné. "The principal donor specifies the fund's purpose and we are required to submit a report on how their funds are used."

"For funds other than endowments, we can direct the money wherever the needs are

greatest. However, if the donation is directly related to service provided on a given floor, we do our best to ensure that the residents on that floor benefit from it."

The Actionmarguerite Foundation hopes to eventually receive transformational gifts, which are major donations of \$50,000 or more. "We want major donors to be even more aware of our existence and our needs," says Charles Gagné. "There is a great deal of wealth in our society; why shouldn't some of it be used to benefit Actionmarguerite?"

Donations to the Actionmarguerite Foundation are especially important because they demonstrate to governments the community's support for Actionmarguerite. Public funding depends on the amount of private donations the organization receives to carry out its capital projects.

The Actionmarguerite Foundation, which has its own Board independent from Actionmarguerite St. Boniface and Actionmarguerite St. Vital, guarantees that every dollar keeps its value. Its funds are protected against cost-of-living increases.



► « Nous devons beaucoup aux Friends of St Joseph's Residence »

Deux nouvelles plaques orneront désormais les murs de St. Joseph's Residence. À l'occasion d'une réception organisée le 2 février, les résidents et le personnel ont eu l'opportunité de remercier la fondation pour sa contribution aux différents projets visant à améliorer la qualité de vie des aînés.

Le directeur général d'Actionmarguerite, Charles Gagné, explique que la fondation « existe depuis plusieurs décennies. Après des années de services aux personnes âgées, les Sœurs Bénédictines avaient accumulé des fonds et ont décidé de les placer dans une fondation dont les profits seraient utilisés pour améliorer les soins de longue durée. »

Grâce à la contribution de la fondation, les résidents peuvent bénéficier de soutien spirituel. « Les Friends of St Joseph's Residence jouent un rôle important dans les services que nous offrons ici, et nous sommes très reconnaissants du programme de soutien spirituel qu'ils financent, » précise Charles Gagné.

Au cours des dernières années, la fondation a, entre autres, contribué à la création du patio à l'entrée de la résidence et d'une fontaine, à l'aménagement de kitchenettes, évier et dessus de comptoirs dans chaque appartement, à l'achat d'écrans de télévision pour les salons, au rafraîchissement du hall de l'entrée principale, à l'acquisition de rideaux et de nouveaux meubles pour la salle à manger et à l'achat d'appareils auditifs pour les résidents malentendants à la chapelle.

Plus récemment, les Friends of St Joseph's Residence ont collecté 110 000 \$ pour aider aux rénovations des salles de bain. « Leur aide nous tient beaucoup à cœur », exprime l'adjointe administrative Linda Sardo. « Leur contribution a permis de terminer les travaux, en partie financés par le gouvernement. Les nouvelles salles de bain offrent aux résidents et au personnel plus de confort et plus de sécurité. »

Le président de la fondation, Ivan Derlago, se dit « heureux de pouvoir venir en aide aux résidents. Nous apprécions le fait d'avoir la chance de faire ça pour nos aînés. ».

Ivan, qui a toujours eu du respect pour les personnes âgées, estime qu'elles « méritent tout. On n'en fera jamais assez pour ces personnes, mais je pense que c'est bon pour elles de savoir que quelqu'un en-dehors de la résidence s'intéresse à elles. »

Toni Squires, membre de la fondation depuis trois ans, se réjouit de voir les sourires des résidents. « J'apprécie de voir à quel point ils sont reconnaissants. C'est important d'être connecté avec eux, et ça les rend heureux. Voir toute la foule présente pour l'événement est merveilleux. » Toni a commencé à travailler avec la fondation lorsqu'elle a placé son père à la résidence. « Je voulais être informée de ce qui se passait dans la résidence, et pour être informée, il faut s'impliquer. C'est aussi un moyen pour moi de redonner à la communauté. »

La contribution des Friends of St Joseph's Residence a fait et continuera de faire une différence dans la vie des résidents. « Nous les remercions profondément, dit Charles Gagné. Nous leur devons vraiment beaucoup. »



De gauche à droite : Lydia Pronyk, Ivan Derlago, Marge Kemerle, Toni Squires, Maria Cabral, Linda Ratynski. Absents : Ivan Werbovetski, Fatima Mota.

From left to right: Lydia Pronyk, Ivan Derlago, Marge Kemerle, Toni Squires, Maria Cabral, Linda Ratynski. Missing from photo: Ivan Werbovetski, Fatima Mota.

► “ We owe a great deal to the Friends of St. Joseph's Residence ”

Two new plaques now adorn the walls of St. Joseph's Residence. At a reception held on February 2nd, residents and staff had the opportunity to thank the Foundation for its contribution to several projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life of seniors.

Charles Gagné, CEO of Actionmarguerite, explains that the Foundation "has existed for several decades. After many years of service to the elderly, the Benedictine Sisters accumulated funds and decided to invest them in a foundation whose profits would be used to improve long-term care."

As a result of the Foundation's contribution, residents now receive spiritual support. "The Friends of St. Joseph's Residence play an important role in the services that we offer here, and we are very grateful for the spiritual care program that they fund," says Charles Gagné.

Over the last few years, the Foundation has contributed to building a fountain and a new patio at the residence's entrance, renovating the kitchenettes, sinks and counter tops in each room, purchasing television screens for the lounges, refurbishing the main entrance lobby, buying new curtains and furniture for the dining room as well as hearing devices for hearing-impaired residents in the chapel.

Recently, the Friends of St. Joseph's Residence raised \$110,000 to help with bathroom renovations. "Their support means a great deal to us," says administrative assistant Linda Sardo. "Their contribution allowed us to complete the work, which is partially funded by the government. The new bathrooms offer residents and staff greater comfort and safety."

Ivan Derlago, the Foundation's Chair, is "happy to be able to help the residents. We appreciate the opportunity to be able to do this for our seniors." Ivan, who has always had great respect for the elderly, believes that they "deserve everything. We can never do enough, but I think that it's good for them to know someone outside the residence cares about them."

Toni Squires, a member of the Foundation for the past three years, is pleased to see the residents' smiles. "I appreciate seeing how grateful they are. It's important to connect with them, and it makes them happy. It's wonderful to see all the people who came out for the event." Toni started working with the Foundation when she put her father in St. Joseph's Residence. "I wanted to know what was happening at the residence, and being informed means getting involved. It's also a way for me to give back to the community."

The contribution of the Friends of St Joseph's Residence has made and will continue to make a difference in residents' lives. "We want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to them," says Charles Gagné. "We really owe them a great deal."

VOICI QUELQUES EXEMPLES DE CONTRIBUTIONS DE LA FONDATION ACTIONMARGUERITE FOUNDATION DEPUIS LES 15 DERNIÈRES ANNÉES :

350 000 \$

pour le projet de salles à manger au 185, rue Despins, dont le coût total s'élève à 3 millions de dollars (2001);

350 000 \$

pour l'agrandissement de l'entrée principale au 185, rue Despins (2003);

80 000 \$

pour la rénovation des chambres des résidents des ailes 2AB et 4AB au 185, rue Despins (2005);

950 000 \$

pour la construction de la nouvelle unité de 39 chambres pour personnes atteintes d'Alzheimer, dont le coût total s'élève à 6,5 millions de dollars au 450, chemin River (2006).

30 000 \$

envers le développement d'une unité régionale pour personnes avec troubles comportementaux (2009);

100 000 \$

envers l'achat et les rénovations des baignoires au 450, chemin River et 185, rue Despins (2011);

50 000 \$

envers le renouvellement de la cour extérieure au 450, chemin River (2016);

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF ACTIONMARGUERITE FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS:

\$350,000

to the \$3-million dining room project at 185 Despins St. (2001)

\$350,000

roadway expansion project at 185 Despins St. (2003)

\$80,000

renovation of 2AB and 4AB resident rooms at 185 Despins St. (2005)

\$950,000

towards the \$6.5-million construction of a new 39-bed Alzheimer's unit at 450 River Road (2006)

\$30,000

towards the development of a regional behavioural unit (2009)

\$100,000

towards the purchase and renovations of bathtubs at 450 River Road and 185 Despins St. (2011)

\$50,000

towards renovating the courtyard at 450 River Road (2016)