

## **2015-2016 Executive**

Chair - John O'Halloran

Treasurer - Lorraine O'Halloran

Vice-Chair - Yvonne Parr

Secretary - Tracey Baker

Co-Secretary - Cheryl Norton

While Family Council is a proportionally small group compared to our resident population, I am happy to report that since our first meeting this term in September, we have 3 new members and I am told another new person has committed to coming to our January meeting on Wednesday night. When we have an opportunity (such as our educational session or through our portion of the bi-monthly newsletter) we always invite resident family members to come and check us out. We also have informational brochures in the lobby and we remind people of our new spot on the VV website.

Family Council has a tab on the VV Webpage. Our part of the site is updated regularly by Tracey Baker with the assistance of VV staff. It contains:

- updated photos of our executive committee
- an "About" section
- Explanation of our initiatives - Dare-To-Dream, Bradford Greenhouse Program, Canadian Tire Money program and our Educational Offerings
- Holiday Fun resident photos (cupcake program)
- Meeting minutes/planning calendar/T of R/Code of Conduct and Privacy statements
- Offers a list of resources to Resident Families
- Directions on how to contact Family Council.

We sponsored an Educational Session on November 2nd which was well attended. Dr McConvey and Pharmacist Sheri Kidson presented on "Managing medications", ever more complex in today's world. Dr. McConvey offered to return and present on whatever subject Family Council would like to hear so we have noted this and will be in touch with him for our next educational session.

Since our last presentation to your Board, our Dare to Dream Program has continued with the following "dreams" which Family Council has funded:

- One female resident expressed an interest in getting a tattoo during the week of Mother's Day last year. She was given a "Henna" tattoo and was taken out to lunch.
- One male resident expressed an interest in going to a golf driving range. His wish was granted and also included lunch.
- One female resident confined to a wheelchair with significant vision problems. After discussion Family Council decided to contribute to a vision test and ultimately a new pair of glasses. However, the optometrist determined that her vision problems could not be corrected with a new pair of glasses so this wish could not be fulfilled.

While we do not currently have a source of funding for our Dare to Dream initiative, we continue to have some funds remaining in our account for that purpose and we will continue to fund "dreams" as long as we can as those dream requests are brought forward to us by VV Staff.

The mandate of Family Councils in Ontario is not to fundraise; however, our membership enjoys the opportunity to raise some funds to help the residents in any way we can. In the past, our Canadian Tire money program has helped to purchase items for the Palliative Care rooms. However as of late we receive very little CTC money in our lobby drop-box likely due to the fact that most people make purchases there on credit cards and therefore do not receive CTC money. I am advised that since last March 2015, we have received approximately \$49.00 in CTC money

We now advertise the presence of both our CTC money and the Bradford Greenhouse program on the back of the parking pass which resident families have.

Our Staff Appreciation project and our gift of a decorated Christmas cupcake for each resident have recently concluded. While I anticipate at our Wednesday

meeting we will discuss a new way of presenting a Christmas gift to each resident, I expect our Staff Appreciation will continue mainly in its current form.

Our Staff Appreciation for 2015 recently was concluded. Due to the generosity of our resident families who contributed in the area of \$5500.00, we were able to give EACH staff member a gift card in the amount of \$35.00 with their last pay cheque before Christmas. Our intent with this program is to see that ALL staff members receive a small token of our appreciation for their work each day with our loved ones. We are thrilled by the generosity of our resident families which enables us to give this gift to staff members at Christmas time.

Lastly, we will be discussing a number of draft changes to our Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct documents which guide Family Council. When the bulk of the current membership joined Family Council, neither of these documents existed. Our first efforts were to conduct research and we adopted documents found at the time on the Family Councils of Ontario website with some tweaking to meet our needs.

At this time one of our members has with Family Council support, undertaken to revise and tighten up some of the wording. We look forward to discussing his draft at our next meeting.