



*Grounded in the past. Looking to the future.*

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*Grace Sweatman, President  
The Christie Gardens Foundation*

*In 2015, Grace Sweatman retired from her role as CEO of Christie Gardens that she held for 28 years. Grace is a past President of the Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA), and currently serves as a Director of the Durham Christian Homes Society and a Director of Suomi-Koti Toronto.*

## Letter from the Editor ...

I write and speak often about the Foundation, its mission, and our ability to influence the culture of care for our elders. I am sure that it must sound grandiose at times and I admit that there are moments when I wonder if we should just keep our heads down, and mind our own business.

But then, we decide it is time to put out a newsletter, and we begin to pull together the stories we feel are worth sharing ...

You will find two stories in this issue: one about our retrospective event honouring some of the lives lost during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic; and the other about intergenerational learning.

Both have attracted the attention of policymakers and both have received positive media attention.

Both are excellent examples of how together we can Influence and Inspire.

And yet, the primary work of our foundation can be best described as Benevolence: where we provide financial support to members of our community. That work is done discreetly and without fanfare.

These newsletters focus on the stories that we can share; stories about education, influence, our scholarship fund, community engagement, and our capital campaigns.

These are great stories about exciting work and they are a pleasure to share. At the same time, I also want to assure you that we will never forget the quiet work of Benevolence and the generosity and confidence of our donors.



## Influence: COVID in the House of Old

In October 2023, Christie Gardens and The Christie Gardens Foundation hosted **COVID In the House of Old (CIHO)**, an exhibit that memorializes and honours the 7,609 seniors in Canada who died of COVID over its first seven months.

In their words, "This exhibit presents powerful stories of frustration, outrage, care, love, and grief, tracing fault lines that COVID revealed in our eldercare system".

On October 3rd we held a launch event for CIHO, featuring remarks by Heather Janes, CEO of Christie Gardens; Megan Davies, Professor Emerita of York University; Debbie Michnick, whose mother is a member of our community; David Clandfield, retired Professor and community member; and Moira Welsh, a Toronto Star journalist who leads **The Third Act project**, pushing for changes in the way older adults live, and author of "Happily Ever Older: Revolutionary Approach to Long-Term Care". We also enjoyed a live musical performance by Hiroki Tanaka of "Snowdrops".



We were honoured to be joined at this event by members of our community, local politicians, and leaders from other long-term care homes.

After the launch event, our CIHO exhibit was open to the public for one week — offering guests the opportunity to experience the Story Chairs, and share their own stories in the Story Space.

For more information on CIHO, visit their website at: <http://covidinthehouseofold.ca/> and be sure to listen to the podcast, available everywhere.

The Christie Gardens community will be featured in an upcoming episode of the CIHO podcast!

### PHOTOS

- first row: Megan Davies; Moira Welsh - second row: Heather Janes; MPP Jill Andrew - third row: Bob's Chair; Alf's Chair - fourth row: Karen's Chair; Moon's Chair - fifth row: Maggie's Chair; Wikwemikong Nursing Home Chair



## New University of Toronto course is building bridges across generations

This article is from <https://socialwork.utoronto.ca/news/building-bridges-across-generations/>  
News coverage can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sddB1gp1NTM>

*The University of Toronto has partnered with Christie Gardens, a retirement community and care home in Toronto's Seaton Village, to launch an innovative experiential learning initiative: The Intergenerational Classroom. Half the students are University of Toronto undergraduates; the other half are older adults residing at Christie Gardens. Through interactive seminar-style discussions, collaborative projects, mentorship, and exchange, the newly created University of Toronto Health Studies undergraduate course in aging and health provides a semester-long exploration in the field of aging, gerontology and geriatrics.*

*"We live in an increasingly age-segregated society, and we know that intergenerational approaches can help to combat ageism, facilitate age-inclusion and enrich the lives of individuals of all ages, now and in the future," says Raza Mirza, a University of Toronto lecturer and Assistant Professor, status only, at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work's Institute for Life Course and Aging. Mirza — who is also Director, National Partnerships and Knowledge Mobilization for HelpAge Canada — developed, designed and will teach the new course. FIFSW PhD student Jessica Hsieh is the course Teaching Assistant.*

*"In our classroom we will take an intergenerational approach to understanding aging. Contextualizing the experiences of older adults is a step towards addressing the complex issues associated with aging and health in Canada," Mirza says. "Our program seeks to emphasize that learning and contributions to society transcend age barriers and are enriched through intergenerational engagement."*

*The first class, which is part of the University of Toronto Health Studies Program, took place at Christie Gardens on Friday September 8th, 2023, and received coverage from CityNews, the Toronto Star and the CBC. During the first hour of class, undergraduate students and the older adults in the class met each other for the first time. Representatives from Christie Gardens and the University of Toronto's Health Studies Program, Institute for Life Course and Aging, and Office of Experiential Learning and Outreach Support delivered opening remarks and to welcome learners.*

*The Intergenerational Classroom is a space that allows students to explore aging from a viewpoint that considers the perspectives of both older and younger generations, say the organizers, which includes the Institute for Life Course and Aging, housed at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. Mirza and his colleagues say they hope to cultivate novel approaches to policies, programs, and research agendas that address the needs of both current and future older adults and shape a brighter and more inclusive future for all generations.*

*The "Intergenerational Classroom" is being hosted at Christie Gardens in the 2023 Fall Semester as part of a partnership with the University of Toronto. It is proudly sponsored by the Christie Gardens Foundation and supported by HelpAge Canada, CanAge, the Canadian Coalition Against Ageism, the University of Toronto's Institute for Life Course and Aging, Faculty of Arts and Science, and the Office of Experiential Learning and Outreach Support.*



**Raza Mirza, PhD, MSc**  
University of Toronto  
Factor-Inwentash  
Faculty of Social Work



*Our partnership has been featured on CityNews, the Toronto Star, and the CBC*

**The Christie Gardens Foundation is committed to finding opportunities to support research and education. Special thanks to Dr. Raza Mirza and his team for their hard work and expertise.**

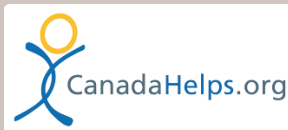


## Ways to Give

We accept donations by cheque made payable to The Christie Gardens Foundation, delivered by hand to the Christie Gardens main Reception Desk, or by mail to:

**ATTN: The Christie Gardens Foundation  
600 Melita Crescent  
Toronto, ON M6G 3Z4**

One-time or regular monthly donations can be set up through the Canada Helps online service. A "Donate Now" button can be found on our website.



You can arrange to donate shares through your financial institution, usually with no fee nor impact on your taxes. Consult your tax advisor or financial institution for more information.

For Christie Gardens residents: regular monthly donations can be made through pre-authorized payments on resident accounts. Contact the Finance Office to arrange.

## Why I Give: David Clandfield

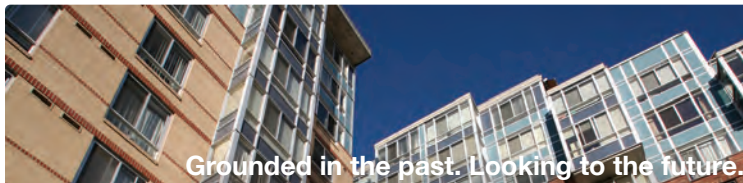
Before coming to Christie Gardens, I spent many years working with community-based NGOs supporting school-community food gardens in the inner city, coffee sheds owned and operated by adults with developmental disabilities, and the linking of sustainable agricultural practices to procurement policies of public institutions. All of these NGOs directed their efforts to social and environmental progress. All were supported by grants and donations. All functioned locally. However, progressive ideas deserve wider recognition and application. That can be hard. Research and education funds are needed for that.

**When I came to Christie Gardens, I found out how the Eden Alternative works in the Courtyard Community on the ground floor where my wife Sandra now lives. More autonomy for residents, more personal safety, more dignity, more connectedness. Progressive principles.**

I want to support efforts to spread the word, to show how these principles can bear fruit in other care communities. So, I decided to support The Christie Gardens Foundation with a monthly contribution for research and education.

About The Christie Gardens Foundation Newsletter

**NOV 2023**



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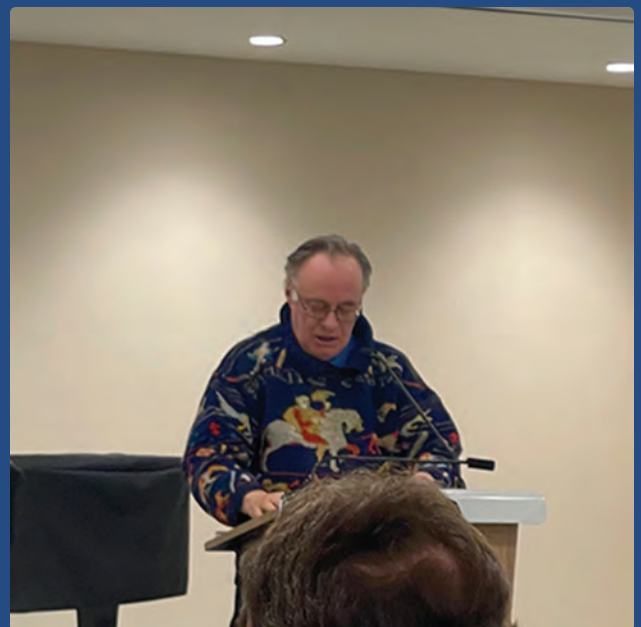
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*for more information about  
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including how to make a donation  
please visit our website at  
[www.christiegardensfoundation.org](http://www.christiegardensfoundation.org)*



**David Clandfield**  
*COVID in the House of Old Launch Event  
October 2023*