



Holy Family Home

BULLETIN

From the Desk of Jean R. Piché

Issue 117 † December 2011

First Phase Underway

As you may remember from my last Bulletin, HFH (in partnership with Manitoba Health and WRHA) has taken the first steps toward programming and planning our revitalized facility. With the support of our consultant, Resource Planning Group Inc., we've begun implementing stakeholder consultations, which is the initial phase of the multi-year project.

Acquiring input from our stakeholder groups at this early stage is essential to the long-term success of the project. It's important to not only be sensitive to the views of the stakeholder groups, which include our residents, their families and our staff, but we must also reflect the Sisters' Mission in the development of such an impactful community project.

Since the end of November, the consultant has met with selected staff members, the SSMI Provincial Council, Board of Directors and Honourary

Members of HFH, Seniors' Tower tenants, members of the Ladies' Auxiliary and SSMI Associates. These meetings provided an opportunity for our stakeholders to share their ideas about what the new facility should be like. As well, meetings will soon be held to include the residents and their families and two groups from the community.

We hope to have this first major phase completed by April 2012, which will then allow us to move on to the schematic design stage. As this process progresses over time, there will be further opportunities for our stakeholder groups to provide input into the project.

As we move forward, I ask that we all have patience. Building a new facility is a long process and it's important that we plan it properly. In essence, we only get one chance to construct a building that we can all be proud of.



Food, Fun & Fellowship

This year's version of the HFH Staff Christmas Dinner and Dance was even bigger and better than last year's, judging by the large number of people who enjoyed the delicious food and joined in the fun on the dance floor. Close to three hundred staff members and their guests attended this year's event at Holy Eucharist Parish Hall and by the looks on peoples' faces, the evening of food, fun and fellowship remains one of the highlights of the year.

A hearty THANKS to Cindy Hayman, Sr. Darleane, Kelly Kingston, Shirley Picklyk, Angela Peeler, Maria Kowch, Josie Zajic, and Oksana Bondarchuk for their tremendous effort in organizing such a fun event.

Kisil Award Nominations

Once again, we're seeking nominations for the Jack Kisil Award, which recognizes an HFH staff member's commitment to excellence in resident care. If you'd like to nominate a coworker or team who you believe is worthy of this distinguished award, please fill out the form which will be attached to your pay-stubs in January, or drop by the front reception desk in the New Year.

Decorating for Christmas

Every year, Holy Family Home is decked with boughs of holly and a myriad of other Christmas decorations. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Shirley Picklyk and her helpers, Josie Zajic and Regina Schulzt, as well as the dedication of members of the Ladies' Auxiliary Christmas Tree Committee, the Home is once again beautifully decorated for the holiday season.

Provincial Standards Review Update

Please be advised that our annual Provincial Standards Review is scheduled for February 15th and 16th. Manitoba Health and WRHA will attend to assess all aspects of our operations relative to the provincial standards for PCHs. Because the results of this review may impact on our license to operate as a PCH, it will be a major focus area for everyone at HFH leading up to mid-February. Over the next several weeks, you'll be hearing more about our plans for the survey.



'Tis the Season

'Tis the season for staff and residents of HFH to celebrate the spirit of Christmas. At the heart of our festivities are the various unit Christmas parties organized by our staff, Adult Day Program and the Recreation Department. Kudos to this dedicated group and a big THANK YOU to all staff for providing our residents and their families with an opportunity to gather and share in this glorious time of the year.

17th Festival of Lights Brightens HFH

HFH's 17th annual Christmas Festival of Lights was launched with a Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 27th. Following the service, the Tree Lighting Ceremony was held and refreshments were served. This year, our goal is to raise \$60,000 to renew 40 of our resident rooms with new furnishings. We are well on our way to achieving this goal, having surpassed \$57,000 as of December 14, 2011.

A list of our kindhearted benefactors will be displayed in the front entrance of the foyer in January. Thank you to the many people who have generously contributed to the 2011 Festival of Lights. Your generosity truly brings comfort and joy to our residents.

Scabies Squelched

As you're aware, HFH recently experienced a scabies outbreak in the Home. While two cases were confirmed, the source of the rash is unknown. Through the hard work of our staff, we were able to successfully contain the outbreak before it spread further.

I'd like to thank everyone who played a critical role in meeting the challenge—unit staff, housekeeping personnel, nurses and CRNs, social workers and the departments of NFS, Recreation and Maintenance. I also wish to commend the extra staff that came in on their days and evenings to help us out. Thank you all for a job well done!

Workplace Violence & Prevention Update

HFH's Education Department has prepared information packages for all staff regarding workplace violence and prevention. Please take the time to read through your package because it communicates an important message, that a respectful workplace is a healthy workplace and that harassment in any form will not be tolerated. Please familiarize yourself with our respectful workplace policies and if you have any concerns whatsoever, please talk to your supervisor.



Insight

Christmas is always a hopeful season. Last year at this time we were truly hoping and praying that the Manitoba Government would give favourable consideration to our proposal to redevelop HFH. That we had been advocating the revitalization for years was beside the point. It would have been just as easy for the government to overlook our submission, as it would have been to accept it.

What kept our faith was the belief that our ideas were based on the Sisters' Christian Mission. We never lost hope because the hallmark of Holy Family Home has always been the steadfast pursuit of well-grounded goals. Indeed, it was hope that provided inspiration, which in turn motivated us to action.

At this sacred time of year, let's remember that it is hope that carries us all forward. When we hope, we believe that good things can happen. When we hope, we truly act on our best intentions.

On behalf of Mary Semus and the Sisters, I wish to extend a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

Jean R. Piché
Chief Executive Officer

SILENT NIGHT

Fr. Joseph Mohr wrote the words of Silent Night in 1816 in Mariapfarr, Austria. The music was written by Franz Xaver Gruber, his friend, in 1818 for a Christmas service held at St. Nicholas church in Oberndorf, Austria.

At Midnight Mass, Fr. Mohr and Franz Gruber sang each of the six verses with the church choir repeating the last two lines of each verse. Mohr set down a guitar arrangement on paper around 1820 and this remains the earliest remaining manuscript of the song. It can be found in the Carolino Augusteum Museum in Salzburg. The original words of the song were in German (it was called *Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht*). It was translated into English in 1863 and sung during the Christmas Truce of World War in 1914 because it was a song that soldiers on both sides knew.



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