

VILLA CATHAY CARE HOME

Community News

JANUARY, 2020



New Year, New Home

On the last day of November 2019, Villa Cathay residents ate their breakfast and woke up per usual. Except there was a bustling of energy and excitement in the building, we were getting the new Villa Cathay 10-storey East Tower ready for the residents to move in.

One of our residents, Doris Cheung asked, “Will I return here?”

“We are not returning here. You are going to live in your newly built and furnished home, with your own private room! You will love it there,” replied one of our volunteers.

Doris said, “I will miss the old home.”

Many families helped the residents pack up their belongings before volunteers dressed in bright red vests escorted them to the new building. To make sure that residents were not cold during their journey over, we brought warm blankets to cover and bundle them up. And as such, at 10AM, our first floor of residents were ready to move.

A friendly Giant Panda greeted residents at the lobby, along with other volunteers and staff who cheered and clapped as the residents stepped foot into their new home for the first time. But the celebrations didn't stop there. Over 150 volunteers, staff and family members came during the 2 days of the move. The residents had music, craft-making activities and musical performances to keep them entertained and be able to adjust to the new environment.

The preparation for the move into the new home started months before with our team carefully planning the operational logistics. Many volunteers came to

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 website!



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prepare the beds, wipe the furniture clean and complete many other essential tasks to make the new home ready for our seniors to live in.

Now our residents can celebrate the New Year in their new home. Thank you to everyone who supported us to make this a smooth transition!

If you have any feedback or comments regarding the move, please email us at info@villacathay.ca.



Important Health Updates

Cases of the new Coronavirus have been confirmed in areas including Toronto, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Thailand, Japan, United States and South Korea. Although the risk to British Columbians is considered low at this moment, we urge all family members and visitors to take extra pre-cautions and to practice stringent infection control measures. **Villa Cathay will enforce the following measures for visitors coming into Villa Cathay:**

- If you experience any flu-like symptoms, such as coughing, sneezing, headache, difficulty breathing, myalgia (muscle pain) or fever, please stay at home and **DO NOT** visit the residents.
- If you have travelled to any of the countries with cases of the confirmed Coronavirus or have been contact with anyone who has symptoms, please wait for **14 days** until the incubation period is over before visiting your loved ones.
- Masks are available for use in Villa Cathay Care Home only. If you need a mask because you have not taken a flu shot this year, please ask our receptionist or care team for one.

For the general wellness of the community and our vulnerable seniors, please practise the below measures to reduce the spread of any infections:

- Good hand hygiene practices, such as handwashing or use of an alcohol-based hand rub after contact with the eyes, mouth, nose or secretions
- Refrain from touching you or your loved one's face or mouth before washing your hands
- Avoid handling soiled tissues or objects used by an ill person
- Cover coughs and sneezes

Christmas Appreciation Party



As a token of appreciation to all of our staff and volunteers, Villa Cathay hosted our annual Christmas party at Floata Seafood Restaurant. We celebrated 7 staff members who have been in service for over 20 years. One staff member celebrated her 40th year anniversary at Villa Cathay.

Family Council

The 2020 Family Council Annual General Meeting occurred on January 18th. The following individuals were elected as Family Council Executives 2020:

Philip Yeung - Chairperson
Ilen Toy - Vice Chairperson
Jean Lam as Secretary

We thank all previous Family Council Executives for your hard work and support. For more information about future Family Council meetings, please email families@villacathay.ca or contact our Social Worker, Ms. Catherine Yau.

Kal-El: The Super Dog

In October and January, we welcomed Kal-El and his handler, Dan Fine to Villa Cathay for our Pet Therapy Sessions. Kal-El is a trained therapy dog that visits senior care homes. Our seniors patted, played and hugged Kal-El just like he was their very own. We saw the mood of many seniors improve after Kal-El came to visit. We can't wait for him to come back again!



A Beautiful Voice & Heart

The renowned Cantopop singer and local vocal teacher, Ms. Annabelle Louie, visited Villa Cathay and donated \$27,386 from her Journey of Love Concert 2019 to support the Rejuvenation Project. While she was here, she also sang classic Chinese songs with our seniors and toured the new building.



Santa Parade

Villa Cathay's leadership team ventured through all eight resident floors, merrily singing Christmas carols. Our Executive Director Ms. Szuchi Lee, dressed up as Ms. Santa Claus to hand out gifts to the residents and wished them a happy holidays in their new home. It was definitely a lively and cheerful parade!



Gisella Retires

Our Activities Manager, Ms. Gisella Oh, happily retired last year in December, after working in Villa Cathay for over 37 years. Gisella planned and coordinated many memorable activities for the residents throughout the years. From weekly Bingo activities to monthly birthday parties, Gisella made sure that each resident had a good time at Villa Cathay. We will miss the joy and laughter that Gisella brought to all the members of Villa Cathay.



Red Envelope Campaign

Chinese New Year is a time for family celebrations and gatherings. Extend your blessings to Villa Cathay by donating red envelope gifts to support our Rejuvenation Project. Put your gift in the of the donation boxes at the nursing stations or donate online at www.villacathay.ca/donate. Any donations over \$100 will receive special Villa Cathay red envelopes!

DID YOU KNOW?

Thank you for everyone's support. As of December 31, 2019, Villa Cathay raised \$2.45 Million for our Rejuvenation Project. We will continue our efforts to fundraise the needed \$5 Million. If you made a donation in 2019 and



have not received your tax receipt, please email Carmen Lee at clee@villacathay.ca or call 604-253-3533 to inquire.

Phase 2 Launch

On January 10th, Villa Cathay held a press conference to announce the Launch of the Phase 2 Rejuvenation Project. We were excited by the enormous amount of support from different members of the community. Amongst the speakers was Minister of Health Adrian Dix, who called the new 10-storey building “spectacular” and described the start of construction on phase two to be a “major step forward (for the community).”

Once Phase 2 of the Villa Cathay Rejuvenation Project, the adjoining three-storey West Pavilion, is complete, Villa Cathay will also have an auditorium, a health wellness centre, a special dementia care unit, an outdoor garden, a roof top garden, and most importantly, 97 additional long-term care beds for our community.



2020 華宮安老院重建計劃籌款晚宴 Villa Cathay Rejuvenation Project Fundraising Dinner

April

18

Enjoy a night of musical performances, good food and a community of individuals who are passionate about senior care! Villa Cathay's 2020 Fundraising Dinner will raise funds for Phase 2 of the Rejuvenation Project.

Location: Floata Seafood Restaurant | Ticket Prices: \$128 Regular; \$228 VIP

Reserve your seats today as we sold out quickly last year!

Please send an email to Carmen Lee via fundraising@villacathay.ca or at 604-215-3533.