



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Toronto Intergenerational Partnerships Award

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| To: | Advisory Committee on Long-Term Care Homes and Services |
| From: | General Manager, Long-Term Care Homes and Services |
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SUMMARY

Toronto Intergenerational Partnerships (TIGP) is a not-for-profit charitable organization whose mission is to contribute to a society that values, supports and welcomes the contributions of all individuals throughout the life course, engaging people of all ages, backgrounds and experiences in intergenerational activities. TIGP is focused on enriching the lives of all participants and developing meaningful relationships when partnerships are formed.

TIGP first came into existence in 1981 as a working group in Toronto's Riverdale community, responding to the needs of two distinct groups: youth and older persons. A survey of area schools and local community agencies and organizations serving seniors showed the need for social contact for isolated seniors, as well as the need for youth to have regular contact and access to the skills and talents of seniors living in the community.

Based on this community needs assessment, TIGP became a key participant, taking a lead role in coordinating and developing intergenerational support through a variety of activities and programs. TIGP's work has been an important volunteer and programming resource in mobilizing and bringing value to the contributions of youth and seniors.

TIGP has an Awards Program, established to recognize individual and collective efforts that promote intergenerational harmony and life-long learning through volunteer spirit and community partnerships within Toronto. True Davidson Acres (TDA) has been selected to receive the 2009 Community Partnership Award. This report provides background and context.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact arising from this report.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

There is substantial evidence that intergenerational programs build stronger communities, through promoting positive attitudes towards aging and exposing youth to an image that is healthy and active. Youth benefit through educational enrichment and improved self-esteem; they achieve a strengthened sense of community and social responsibility. Seniors benefit through improved life satisfaction, enhanced self-esteem and feelings of continued usefulness and connectedness in the community.

Through the awards program, TIGP recognizes innovative efforts that help young people form caring relationships with seniors (e.g. seniors sharing their knowledge and life experiences through storytelling), cultivate a sense of trust between different generations and cultures and enrich both through the experience.

TIGP has a number of recognition awards, including:

1. Community Partnership Award – presented to community partners for dedication to creative and sustainable intergenerational programming;
2. Community Service Award – presented to an individual or educational program that has made an outstanding contribution to the community through intergenerational volunteer spirit;
3. Community Capacity Building Award – presented to a community partner for exceptional vision and involvement in the development of multiple intergenerational programs that are inclusive of the community as a whole;
4. Volunteer of the Year Award – presented to a youth, adult or senior who demonstrates outstanding dedication and commitment to life long learning while promoting intergenerational harmony;
5. The Norine Cooper Seniors in Cyberspace Award – presented to a youth Internet Coach who is dedicated to teaching frail elderly in long-term care homes how to access computers and the internet;
6. Community Award – presented to a school or community Seniors in Cyberspace program that provides opportunity and support for community seniors to enrich their knowledge of information technology; and
7. Christina Stewart Creative Programming Award – presented to an individual or community partner for designing and implementing unique programs that bring generations and communities together.

COMMENTS

The collaborative between TDA, Dawes Road Centre for Early Learning and Today's Child will receive the 2009 Community Partnership Award on June 4th.

The award is being presented to the TDA, Dawes Road Centre for Early Learning and Today's Child collaborative for an innovative community partnership that has sustained high quality intergenerational activities over the long term. The intergenerational

program at TDA has been in place for over four (4) years. The intergenerational program has provided entertainment and shared learning. It has extended traditional intergenerational connectedness beyond family and acquaintances for both the residents and community's youth. Throughout the year, it has provided many opportunities for the younger generation to interact with seniors and the relationship has been positive for everyone. Each activity has been unique for the individuals and has provided opportunities for interaction between the age groups.

For example, day care children and elementary students from Dawes Road Centre for Early Learning and Today's Child visit TDA and complete crafts and take part in story times and concerts for and with residents. Elder Tales is a program involving local high school students who come and spend time with residents, sharing stories about the past, including wars, the great depression and life in general. These encounters provide a wonderful opportunity for residents to recall and celebrate their past, while sharing knowledge with and educating the students.

The 2009 Community Partnership Award will be presented on June 4th, 2009 at the Annual General Meeting of the TIGP at Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute. Residents and staff from TDA will attend this special event to receive the award and recognition. The keynote speaker for this event is Mr. Matt Anderson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

This innovative partnership and creative program was fully initiated and supported by the home's programs and services staff team. Congratulations are extended to all members of the collaborative for developing and sustaining a program that builds lives and a strong sense of community. The TDA project demonstrates leading practice in intergenerational programming.

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