



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Toronto Intergenerational Partnerships Award, True Davidson Acres

Date:	June 10, 2010
To:	Advisory Committee on Long-Term Care Homes & Services
From:	General Manager, Long-Term Care Homes & Services
Wards:	Ward 31
Reference Number:	

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. TIGP believes that meaningful relationships are formed when partnerships are developed.

TIGP first came into existence in 1981 to serve the needs of youth and older persons who may be isolated, who may have a need for enhanced social contact and/or who may benefit from the sharing of skills, talents, ideas and wisdom between generations.

TIGP has an annual 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 2010 Award of Recognition for “Bringing Generations Together”. True Davidson Acres also received the 2009 Community Partnership Award.

This report provides background and context for the 2010 award recognition.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications to the operating budget 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 story telling), cultivate a sense of trust between different generations and cultures and enrich both through the experience.

TIGP has a number of recognition awards. In 2009, True Davidson Acres was awarded the Community Partnership Award, for dedication to creative and sustainable intergenerational programming.

In 2010, True Davidson Acres was awarded the Award of Recognition for “Bringing Generations Together”.

COMMENTS

Inter-generational programs have been a long-standing tradition at True Davidson Acres, with partnership with a variety of community programs from the area. These programs have added value to the lives of youth and the home’s residents by giving opportunities to talk, exchange views and opinions, share wisdom and collaborate on entertainment events. Many of the programs developed take place in the Great Hall at True Davidson Acres and it has really become a “gathering place” in the home for community expression and collaboration. The varied activities have extended traditional intergenerational connectedness beyond family and acquaintances for the both residents and community’s youth. The relationships have been positive for everyone involved. Each program has been unique to the individuals and provided opportunities for interaction between the age groups. The intergenerational relationships developed have been with Dawes Road Centre for Early Learning and To-day’s Child brings Tomorrow’s Future. The programs have been interactive between youth and seniors and enriched the lives of our senior population as well as the youth involved.

The 2010 “Bringing Generations Together” award was presented to True Davidson Acres on June 3, 2010 at the Toronto Intergenerational Partnerships Annual General Meeting and Volunteer/Partner Recognition event held at Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute. Residents and staff from the home attended this special event to receive their award and recognition.

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.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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