

ST. JOSEPH'S LIFECARE CENTRE BRANTFORD

RESIDENT FAMILY NEWSLETTER



CTV News features SJLCB and YMCA Daycare GrandPals Program

Recently, CTV News Kitchener featured the GrandPals program at SJLCB, a longstanding partnership initiative with the YMCA Daycare Centre, located on our campus. The story and video are reshared below from the CTV website.

A program in Brantford has been bringing children's laughter to a long-term care homes and hospices for almost two decades. St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre and St. Joseph's YMCA Child Care Centre are just steps away from each other on Wayne Gretzky Parkway. Seniors and children meet up, share stories and play together.

"After the children visit, the seniors always have a brighter smile on their face," Steve Linesman, a recreational therapist with St. Joseph's, said. "You just have a little more energy. It just lights up their eyes and it really makes their day."

The children have given the seniors an affectionate nickname: GrandPals.

"It's nice for them because some children don't have grandparents," said Michelle Wright, St. Joseph's YMCA Centre supervisor. "It's really nice for them just to interact with the elderly." [Read more](#)



Long-term care resident Mary spends time interacting with children from the YMCA Daycare Centre who participate in the GrandPals program. [Click here to play video](#)

[Click here](#) to view our Christmas Day Menu



A New Vision for Integrated Care

St. Joseph's Health System is making bold changes to create more connected care experiences across three campuses of care.

This fall, St. Joseph's Health System (SJHS) announced new integrated leadership across its three campuses of care. This signals a new era of innovation at SJHS aimed at transforming health services beyond traditional boundaries, creating more connected care experiences, and ensuring a sustainable, thriving health system for future generations.

"We are making bold changes to advance health beyond boundaries and reimagine connected care to support individuals to live and thrive in our communities," said Elizabeth Buller, President and CEO of St. Joseph's Health System. "Not only does this advance our mission of compassionate care, faith, and discovery, it's a necessary change for Ontario's health system."

Mieke Ewen, Chief Operating Officer, SJLCB will provide additional details at the next Family Council meeting on January 21st, 2025.

[READ MORE](#)



John Woods

Integrated President

St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre Brantford

St. Joseph's Villa Dundas

St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph

NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre to Launch Living Classroom in 2025



The Living Classroom is a cutting-edge approach of integrating education into

a long-term care or retirement home to support workforce development in senior living.

PSW students, faculty, and those living, visiting, and working in the home will engage in a culture of shared learning.

SJLCB will be accommodating up to 19 students enrolled at GELA (Grand Erie Learning Alternatives), a school within the Grand Erie District School Board.

Rooms on the main level and in the basement of St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre are being renovated to become a specially-equipped classroom and simulation laboratory to be used by staff and students. The students will be paired with preceptors on the units as part of their hands-on training.

This program will help fill a vital need for healthcare workers in the local community, including SJLCB.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Sandra Ramelli](#), VP of People & Strategy, or [Chitra Jacob](#), Quality, Innovation, and Learning Manager.

Family Council News

Holiday Reminders to Families and Caregivers:

Please remember to notify staff when taking a resident off the home area. Speak to the RPN to make arrangements for medications if you are taking your loved one home.

Any new clothing you bring in for your loved one needs to be labeled before it goes into their closets or drawers. Please place unlabeled clothing in a bag with the Labelling Form [linked here](#) or pick up a form at Reception during business hours.



Family Council Resident Family Social
Residents enjoy watching family members participate in a popular balloon game at November's social.

Council Achievements in 2024

1. Requested and provided the Infection Prevention Control report to share with families at Family Council monthly meeting.
2. Conducted a Family Survey to receive feedback, input, and suggestions for Family Council's role and for events.
3. Funded and supported the 8 Palliative Carts/Supplies carts holding comfort items for end-of-life residents and their families.
4. Initiated, hosts, and funds the Friends and Resident/ Family Social Event once a month on Sunday afternoons. Watch for the dates.
5. Initiated, created and updates a "Did You Know" Booklet. Facilitates the "Did you Know Hour" session every 5-6 weeks to orient new families to the amenities, programs and services.
6. Streamlined and improved the "Welcome and Orientation" process for new family admittance.
7. Implemented the Family Council Resident Assistance Fund to support residents who don't have financial resources for needed items.
8. Continued to host fundraising events such as the Annual Vintage Car Show and Holiday Bazaar.
9. Actively recruited volunteers and Welcome ambassadors. (Their role is to welcome the resident and family member, provide information on Family Council and orientation materials.)
10. Continued to fund the "Friday Music Program" once a month.
11. Continued to invite guest speakers to meetings to create awareness and provide education on topics of interest.

A big welcome to new residents and families of St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre! To learn more about the Family Council and how you can get involved, email sjlcfamilycouncil@gmail.com or call the Family Council Chair, Michelle MacInnis at (519) 802-2951. St. Joseph's Family Council Executive wishes all our residents, families and dedicated staff a Merry Christmas Season filled with peace and love.

2025 Family Council Executive: Chair: Michelle MacInnis; Vice Chair: Sandy Crowthers; Treasurer: Sally Summerhayes; Secretary: Linda Fess; Associate Executive Members: Dana Miller, Michele Henne

Upcoming Council Activities

Sunday, January 19

Resident & Family Social, in McMillen Hall (Level 1) at 1:30 p.m. A great opportunity to get to know other residents and resident families in a casual, relaxed atmosphere.

Tuesday, January 21

Family Council Meeting, at 1:30 p.m. in the 4th floor boardroom. Guest Speaker: Mieke Ewen, Integrated Chief Operating Officer.

Your Input and Feedback Is Important! Family Council is critical in advocating for the needs of residents and their families, and contributing to the delivery of high-quality, resident-centred care.

Welcome Dr. Montour



In preparation for an upcoming maternity leave, Dr. Anokye has handed over the care of her Chestnut Court residents to Dr. Amy Montour until she returns from leave.

Dr. Montour comes to SJLCB with a wealth of experience and knowledge in the care of the elderly.

Dr. Montour is a Haudenosaunee physician from Six Nations of the Grand River. She holds a Doctor of Medicine degree from McMaster University, as well as a Master of Science degree in Nursing from McMaster University. Please extend a big 'hello' to Dr. Montour when you see her in the building.

Star of the Month

Congratulations to
TRICIA BRAUND, PSW
December's Star



Tricia was nominated by her work colleague, Sarah Burr, who shared:

"Tricia is extremely compassionate and ensures the residents are the focal point and feel respected and for. Tricia has made me feel respected from Day One and has been generous in teaching me her expert skills."

Thank you, Tricia, for demonstrating St. Joe's values and being a great example for others.

You, too, can nominate a deserving individual for Star of the Month.

[Click here to download the nomination form.](#)

Families are our most important partner in the delivery of care. Thank you for all you do to support our residents throughout the year!

From our home to yours,



[*Click here to animate card.*](#)



Our Heartfelt Thanks ...

Many thanks to the generous individuals who supported our first **Grant A Wish** campaign. It was so wonderful to see residents and resident families express such kindness towards those residents who do not have the means to purchase items on their own.

We are incredibly grateful. Thank you so much!