

\$2M IS A "TRANSFORMATIVE" GIFT

It is a made-in-Hamilton Cinderella story . . .

As the clock rang twelve noon on Dec. 31 at the Dundas home of Wellwood executive director Jane George, a "Fairy Godfather" appeared on her doorstep in the form of local philanthropist Charles Juravinski. He held the leash of his infamous hound dog, Nick, in one hand. In the other was a cheque for two million dollars.

For Wellwood, the magic has now begun.

This is a transformative gift for the Centre, which was the dream of Greg O'Connell and his wife Maureen O'Connor. Greg was a surgical oncologist when he was diagnosed at the age of 39 with a rare terminal cancer. The young family was suddenly immersed in the cancer care system, but this time from an opposing perspective. They found it almost impossible to access information, resources and support for themselves and their children. Determined to make a difference, they brought together a working group of people living with cancer to develop a vision for seamless supportive care, among them Jane's mother Gwen, wife of McMaster University president, Peter George. Sadly, Gwen died before Wellwood was truly realized. Greg died one year later.

Today, their legacy and dream lives. Wellwood Resource Centre provides more than 25 programs and services delivered by 175 volunteers, most of whom have had a cancer experience. Wellwood does not duplicate existing services, but assists people in trying to navigate the complex system to access supportive care.

When needed programs do not exist, Wellwood creates them.

"A diagnosis of cancer, or news of recurrence or advancement of the disease shatters lives, emotionally, financially, physically, spiritually, in every conceivable way," says Jane George, who went on to lead Wellwood after her mother's death. "It is terrifying—even when you have family and friends as local support systems, when English is your first language, when you have access to information and medical advice, when you have financial stability, when you have a hopeful prognosis."



Charles Juravinski (centre), campaign volunteer Pat Gagic (left) and Jane George (right) with Jane's children Kristen, Kira (holding the cheque) and Matthew (hugging Nick).

"Imagine, just imagine, when you don't."

Margaret and Charles Juravinski are well known in the Region for their philanthropic generosity. Their personal passion has become investing in health care. This past year, the Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre was renamed the Margaret and Charles Juravinski Cancer Centre in recognition of their significant contributions.

The Juravinskis first learned of Wellwood when Charles happened to be in the audience as Jane and architect Joanne McCallum were presenting to City Council the Centre's plans for a second community-based site at Chedoke. He followed them into the lobby and expressed his enthusiasm for the project, wishing them luck with it. "Jane was direct, as any good fundraiser should be," he recalls, "and suggested that Margaret and I might perhaps be interested in contributing? I said she may hear from us in the future."

It was a subsequent conversation with Peter George which inspired Patricia and Ned Gagic, close friends of the Juravinskis, to become involved in the Wellwood campaign. He had been a colleague of Greg's and she became deeply committed to the project as a lead volunteer with the campaign team. "Their dedication to this dream was key," says Jane, "and I am grateful beyond words to them for sharing our

story and our vision."

"The Juravinskis have been extraordinarily generous in helping people receiving cancer care in this community to have the best possible support in healing their bodies," says Ann Scott, president of Wellwood's board of directors. "This remarkable gift will help us to ensure that people can have the best possible support in healing their spirits. No one on the cancer journey should have to walk that path alone."

The two million dollar gift will create an endowment that will help to ensure the sustainability of Wellwood. It will also provide a rocket-powered boost to the Centre's "Community Roots" campaign, co-chaired by Terry Cooke and Aldo

DeSantis. The platform is geared towards raising the necessary funds to support the creation of the community-based site to complement the work done at the Henderson. Chedoke Corporation has donated an acre of land for the project, and Joanne has designed a fully accessible, open and bright home that will overlook a beautiful healing garden.

"Wellwood's new home, which will bear the Juravinski name, will be a safe, peaceful, enchanting place of hope, laughter and light," Jane says.

Terry says "This amazing gift is critical to supporting the sustainability of the organization, and everyone associated with Wellwood is so incredibly grateful to Margaret and Charles. Now is the time for us to focus on raising the remaining capital funds so that this community site can be built as soon as possible." Ongoing fundraising will continue for annual operating costs.

"We have been so fortunate to have the resources to contribute," Margaret Juravinski explains. "We hope that we might inspire others, who may not yet be giving, to support Wellwood, or any charity."

"There are so many things you can do to help," her husband adds. "If you don't have the money, give of your time. But, do give! It leaves you with the most wonderful feeling."

INVITING YOUR FEEDBACK

Wellwood is, and always will be, a client-driven organization. Our current list of programs and services (more than 25!) are the result of discussion with individuals, families or groups expressing a need. We continue to get offers from caring and generous folks who want to share their time and expertise with Wellwood. While we haven't the space to add to our regular roster of programs (until we build our second facility), we may be able to add some new offerings in short workshop sessions.

We would like to hear from you. Please tell us what might support you best on your journey, whether you are living with cancer or caring for someone with

cancer. Have a look at the following list and let us know what may appeal to you, (or share your other suggestions):

- Reiki
- Healing Touch
- Singing as a Way of Expressing Yourself
- Pilates
- Creative Play: Rubber-stamping and Cardmaking
- Scrapbooking to Document Your Journey

You can drop us a note at Wellwood (711 Concession St. L8V 1C3), call us at 905-389-5884, email us at wellwood@hpsc.ca or even just mention your choices to one of our volunteers.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Attention Wellwood volunteers: Please circle Tuesday, April 20, 2004 in your calendars for our annual Spring Fling volunteer recognition event. Invitations are coming to your door soon. We have moved the event to Myler Hall, inside the Cathedral Place Anglican Church on 252 James Street North this year, while the Hamilton Art Gallery undergoes renovation. It is a beautiful historical site with parking at the rear of the building (accessible by Hughson Street, one block east of James Street).

Our volunteers have attended the following training in 2003:

- Liability Training for Boards and Volunteers
- Self Help Ontario Training Conference
- Facilitation Skills
- Using Role Play to Explore Tough Situations
- The Meaning of the Eagle Feather to Aboriginal Patients
- Three- Day Facilitator Education and Support Workshop for Breast Cancer

COMING EVENTS

Wellwood Educational Series, 7:30-9 p.m.

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| Feb. 3 | New Findings in Breast Cancer with Dr. Mark Levine
Spectator Auditorium:
44 Frid Street |
| Mar. 2 | The Healing Garden with Virginia Burt, Visionscapes
Spectator Auditorium:
44 Frid Street |
| Apr. 13 | Native Healing Practices
Spectator Auditorium:
44 Frid Street |
| May 4 | Navigating the Insurance Maze with Pamela Bowes
Spectator Auditorium:
44 Frid Street |

THANK YOU TO OUR EDUCATIONAL SERIES SPONSORS: the Hamilton Spectator and Ortho Biotech.

An Evening for Those Diagnosed or Caring for Someone With Lung Cancer with Dr. Jim Wright

- overview of the disease
 - information on clinical trials
 - discussion
- Wednesday, April 21 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Spectator Auditorium: 44 Frid Street.
Free admission. Presented by Wellwood and ALCASE (Alliance for Lung Cancer Awareness Support and Education).

"The good thing about cancer is that it speaks in short sentences.

*I listen attentively as malignancy whispers:
Applaud yourself. Hold his hand longer.*

*Hug her. Buy it. Say it. Touch. Kiss. Smile.
Scream Laugh. Cry. Enjoy. Live. Yes."*

- Patsy Barrineau

Recommended Viewing:

MY LEFT BREAST,

a remarkable documentary by Newfoundland filmmaker Gerry Rogers, who shares her journey with startling honesty and immediacy.

This and other resources are available at Wellwood's lending library.

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY • 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
MONDAY EVENINGS • 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
THURSDAY EVENINGS • 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Check out this website:

www.healingjourney.toronto.on.ca

The Ontario Cancer Institute/Princess Margaret Hospital "Healing Journey" is a progressive, stepwise group psychotherapy program for cancer patients interested in doing more to help themselves, as an addition to conventional medical treatment. Directed by Dr. Alastair Cunningham, who wrote the book of the same name.

All Wellwood programs are free of charge. Your gift directly assists with the delivery of programs and services.



Yes, I will support Wellwood.



Here is my one-time monthly tax-receiptable donation of \$ _____

Name _____

Cheque(s) Enclosed

Address _____

Visa

Telephone _____

MasterCard

AMEX

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____ Signature _____

Charitable registration # 89695-5036-RR0001

Thank you
for your
generous support.

Wellwood accepts Visa, MasterCard and American Express. We can even bill your card a smaller amount every month to make your annual gift to Wellwood a little easier on the pocketbook. Please consider making a gift to Wellwood this year.