

# TEAM REPORT



Toronto Intergenerational Partnerships

Spring 2005

## *Celebrating seniors and children in partnership*

# TIGP

### Inside TIGP's Team Report 2005

- Board of Directors, funders and staff, page 2
- How to help TIGP, page 2
- Our mission and mandate, page 2
- New partnerships, page 3
- An intergenerational community health strategy, page 4
- Seniors in Cyberspace program expands, page 5
- Chinese literacy program success, page 6
- Special visits at the O'Neill Centre, page 6
- TIGP's Volunteer Alumni, page 7
- Volunteer of the Year, page 7
- Calendar of events, page 7
- Community partners, page 8
- A message from the Executive Director, page 8



*Above, seniors at Seneca Towers enjoy the opportunity to spend time with Brahms preschool children and their parents. Read about this program on page 4. Below, new friendships are formed in the "Grandpal Program" between Danforth Child Care and Greenwood Towers, CHU14, where preschoolers enjoy crafts, storytelling and creative play with the seniors.*





## Board of Directors 2004-2005

- Susan Davey
- Sandra Hanmer
- Lorna MacGregor
- Jane Piccolotto
- Lita Clavier
- Carol Katsura
- Sharon McCarthy
- Russ Smith

## Patrons Council

- Paul Godfrey
- The Honourable Margaret McCain
- Dr. Bette Stevenson, O.C.

## Funders

- Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- City of Toronto
- Toronto Community Housing Corporation
- The Ontario Trillium Foundation
- National Crime Prevention Community Mobilization Program
- Private donations, foundations and corporations (see page 8)

## Staff

- Christina Stewart, Executive Director
- Sue McMahon, Manager of Programs and Volunteers
- Cinzia Limotta, Program and SAHM Coordinator
- Patricia Matthews, Program Coordinator
- Lejia Ouyang, Program Coordinator

## Administrative Volunteers

- Chris Hennick and Mario Zhu, Danforth Collegiate
- Andonia Dibben and Adom Patchett, Inglenook Community School
- Kyungwon Joe, George Brown College
- Evelyn Darko, Medix College
- Marianna Caleca
- Rufina Rana

## Trainers

- Carol Katsura (*Literacy*)
- LiChing Ooi (*Seniors in Cyberspace*)

## How to help TIGP remain viable

**F**unding cuts have severely impacted the development and delivery of intergenerational programs. TIGP needs your support!

We are a not-for-profit charitable organization incorporated in 1986 (**Business Number 1305 6400 RR0001**) and we will issue tax receipts for all donations over \$10.

Here are a few ways that you can help us to support programs for children, youth and seniors:

1. Send a cheque to the address below, made out to Toronto Intergenerational Partnerships.
2. Call our office about making a donation using your VISA card.
3. Go to **www.CanadaHelps.org** and make a secure donation online by searching for our name – Toronto Intergenerational Partnerships – and following the instructions to submit your donation.
4. Donate items for our fundraising events.

## How to Reach Us:

**Toronto Intergenerational  
Partnerships  
Danforth Collegiate and  
Technical Institute  
800 Greenwood Avenue  
Toronto, ON M4J 4B7**

**Phone: (416) 531-8447**

**Fax: (416) 531-7337**

**Visit our website at  
[www.tigp.org](http://www.tigp.org)**



## Our Mission & Mandate

### VISION

We work toward a society that values, supports and welcomes the contributions of all individuals throughout their lives. For this reason we engage the participation of people of all ages, backgrounds and experiences in a variety of intergenerational activities.

### PRINCIPLES

We believe in:

- Respecting and valuing the ways of all ages, backgrounds and experiences.
- Respecting and valuing the thinking of all generations.
- Eliminating artificial and systemic barriers created by age stereotyping and all other forms of discrimination.
- Extending and sharing intergenerational support beyond family and acquaintances.

### OBJECTIVES

- We promote intergenerational harmony and lifelong learning.
- We design and deliver intergenerational support programs in partnership with the community.
- We design and deliver programs that encourage the participation of individuals of all ages, backgrounds and experiences.
- We strive to become a centre of best practices for intergenerational programming.
- We promote and incorporate access and equity principles in all our activities.

**TIGP is the major  
advocate and developer  
of intergenerational  
programs in the  
City of Toronto.**



# NEW INTERGENERATIONAL PARTNERS: EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

## Student learns new skills, earns credits

**C**rystal Gunn is a special education student at Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute (DCTI) who was looking for a community co-operative education placement.

Students in this program gain valuable employment skills while earning four credits toward their high school diploma. TIGP introduced the Co-Operative Education Department at DCTI to our partner Parent Resources, which was willing to offer Crystal a co-op placement in the early years program.

Elaine Kwok, who supervises Crystal, describes her as a "warm, likable and caring individual who approaches her tasks with great enthusiasm. Crystal is enjoying this learning experience".

Crystal says she is having fun while working in a team with staff members. She has learned the routines while helping to set up materials for the next day's program. "The children are friendly and I like playing with them while I learn at my placement," she says.

High school students and our community and long-term care partners are invited to explore the development of intergenerational co-operative educational placements by calling us at (416) 531-8447.



Elaine Kwok, above left, with co-op placement student Crystal Gunn.

## Greenhouse blossoms at Chester Village

*"But though I am an old man, I am but a young gardener." - Thomas Jefferson 1811*

**K**aren Spear, program director at Chester Village Home for the Aged, envisioned the potential for rejuvenating the greenhouse at her facility.

TIGP gardening volunteers seized the opportunity and worked with Karen to develop an intergenerational horticultural program for residents at Chester Village.

The core group of dedicated volunteers committed months of work to extensive greenhouse cleaning, restocking supplies and soliciting plant donations to make the greenhouse into the lush wonderland that it is today.

Staff and volunteers meet regularly to develop program plans that include activities such as leaf painting, discussion groups on plant of the week, greenhouse bingo, and tours of the greenhouse to view the latest additions to the flora.



TIGP Volunteers provide residents with tours of the Chester Village Greenhouse.

Interest in the program is growing. Initially, 12 residents took part; now about 30 join the program each week and many residents want to spend more time in the greenhouse.

Karen feels that "the true measurement of the success of the program can be found in the eyes of the residents. Many of our residents with dementia, who are a challenge to motivate, are actively participating and thriving in this wonderful therapeutic environment.

"Seeing the sparkle in their eyes, hearing the excitement in their voices, and knowing how much they look forward to the program each week is truly a reward in itself."



Chester Village residents enjoy sharing their horticultural knowledge with each other.





# AN INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH STRATEGY

***Funded by Toronto Community Housing Corporation, Community Health Strategy (CHU3)***

*Below, grandpals and kids enjoy time together to do crafts and play at Seneca Towers each week.*

**T**IGP was selected as one of five city-wide organizations to develop and implement a co-ordinated intergenerational "family approach" strategy within Toronto Community Housing Corporation.

The development of new programs in the CHU3 Brahms and Seneca Towers communities will:

- create safe and healthy communities through the development of programs and activities that build community linkages between the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) and the broader neighbourhood;
- bridge generation and culture gaps; and,
- increase the capacity of the community to identify and address the needs of all ages.

Key stakeholders in these communi-



ties expressed interest in the development of intergenerational projects that would:

- increase face-to-face volunteer participant interaction between buildings;
- support inclusive and equitable communities; and,
- focus on lifelong learning, literacy, economic, cultural and social development for children, youth, adults and seniors.

As a result of tenant interests, TIGP

has developed two new programs for tenants of the Brahms and Seneca Towers communities.

The **"Families in Cyberspace"** program introduces parents and seniors to our Seniors in Cyberspace program, where high school students volunteer to teach tenants about computers and the Internet.

The **"Family Snack, Listen and Learn"** program is a child-focused program involving preschool children, parents and seniors, who participate in a weekly friendly visiting and storytelling program that engages seniors (Grandpals) to share their life experiences, cultures, skills and talents with young parents and their preschool children.

"It has been and will continue to be a pleasure working with TIGP," said Peter Pavlovic, CHU3 manager. "It is truly endearing to see the positive attitudes and atmosphere that the program has created."

Special celebratory events in the community are being planned that will promote community involvement through the development of community gardens at Brahms, and create cultural awareness at a "CultureFest" event at Seneca Towers.



*Students from Zion Heights JMS and George Vanier Collegiate teach Seneca Towers seniors how to use the computer and Internet. The seniors especially enjoy learning how to play games and send e-mails to family and friends.*

***"Recipe for success:  
Take hard working and  
dedicated Sue and  
Chris, add Patricia -  
give generous amounts  
of Toronto Community  
Housing - add all the  
enthusiastic seniors  
and youth that you  
can... the end result is  
great!"***

***— Peter Pavlovic,  
CHU3 Manager***



# SENIORS IN CYBERSPACE EXPANSION

## *Getting Connected at Greenwood Towers, Glen Stewart and Sanderling Place*

**T**IGP is pleased to announce the expansion of our Seniors in Cyberspace programs through a grant from the Social Investment Fund of Toronto Community Housing Corporation. Seniors at Greenwood Towers, Glen Stewart and Sanderling Place have welcomed this individualized learning opportunity and new partnerships are being formed with staff and students at Danforth Collegiate, Malvern Collegiate and Don Mills Collegiate. Both seniors and students are eagerly awaiting the installation of computers and the opportunity to learn together.

## **Learning to use the Internet safely**

Seniors at Glenyan Manor learned the importance of "Cyber Safety" through an afternoon of presentations and discussions with Marc Garneau Collegiate students. The program was funded by the National Crime Prevention Program.



*TIGP is pleased to announce that Aliya Merchant, a student at Marc Garneau, has won the 2005 Norine Cooper Community Seniors in Cyberspace Award in recognition of her dedication, leadership and volunteer spirit in the Glenyan Manor Seniors in Cyberspace program. Congratulations Aliya!*

## **2005 Community Partnership Award**



*TIGP is pleased to announce that Four Villages Community Health Centre, Loyola Arrupe Centre and Keele Jr. Public School will receive the 2005 Community Partnership Award, in recognition of over 10 years of sustained partnership. Congratulations to all staff and volunteers, especially Ann Anderson and Hye Won Lee for their commitment to this program.*

**A** second-year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation has also increased the capacity of TIGP to engage seniors in learning new technology in the following inter-generational Seniors in Cyberspace programs:

**THE ONTARIO  
TRILLIUM  
FOUNDATION**



- **Glenyan Manor** seniors (Toronto Community Housing, CHU20) are continuing to expand their computer knowledge through the volunteer support of **Marc Garneau Collegiate** students, in partnership with **Flemingdon Neighbourhood Services**.

- Adult learners from **New Experiences for Newcomer Women (NEW)** are entering their second year of sharing their acquired skills, acting as Internet coaches teaching community seniors how to gain practical knowledge of computers.

One senior wrote to say that she never missed a session with her coach, who was "an enormous help to me as I adjusted to my new computer." She added "I don't know what I would have done without her!"

- **Working Women Community Centre (North)**, has formed a new partnership with community seniors and students from **George Vanier Secondary School** and **George S. Henry Academy** to teach community seniors how to access computer technology.

One of the seniors shared that she has bonded with her student. He has not lived here very long and together they exchange stories about their lives, talking about Toronto then and now.

She told TIGP that "two of the students were even 'assigned' to make sure that I arrived safely home and they walked me right to my house. They treated me so well that I cried when I got home. This is a great program."

Another senior in the program has even been able to access Internet information to learn about the medication that he is taking.



## Language, culture meet in intergenerational Chinese literacy program

A partnership of TIGP, East End Literacy and TCHC.

THE ONTARIO  
TRILLIUM  
FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION  
TRILLIUM  
DE L'ONTARIO

**T**he Greenwood Towers Chinese Literacy Program is an innovative and unique intergenerational program. It provides the Chinese seniors living in Greenwood Towers with the opportunity to share their concerns and important stories from their lives with youth from the same culture.

It also provides opportunities for newcomer high school students to reinforce their language skills while performing community service volunteer support toward their high school diploma credits.

Interest in this weekly program has grown to include 15 seniors and more than 20 students from Monarch Park Collegiate. Many of the seniors have had little chance to study English because of the urgency in meeting their family's needs.

Many of the student volunteers themselves are newcomers to Canada and they are learning of the hardships faced by the older generation, as well as how to respect and care about seniors. One of our seniors said, "When I see the children coming into the room so energetically, I suddenly feel I am much younger".

Some seniors said that they regard the students as their own grandchildren when telling them their life stories, but when the students teach them English, they feel like they are the children because the students are so kind and patient with them. One of our volunteer students said, "When I am helping the seniors learning English, I feel I am doing a good thing for

society. There is such a huge accomplishment every time they learn a new English word."

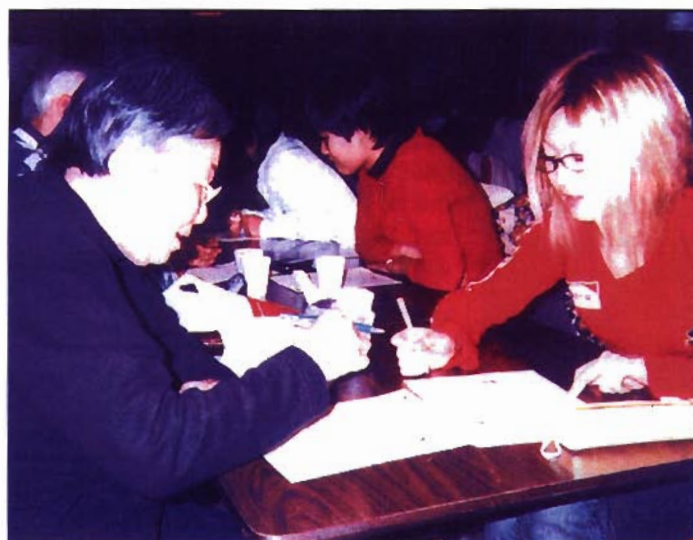
The students are happy to be able to talk and laugh with the seniors as if they were one big family. As one girl stated, "I wish my own grandmother had such a great chance to talk with other children, because she lives in an isolated home in China."

"My mother is proud of me for helping seniors because I was so busy with my studies when I was in China, I didn't even have time to talk to my own grandmother," said another student.

The program provides the seniors and students with opportunities to help people, gain a good understanding of the other generation, build confidence to communicate with each other, and speak their second language, English.

**Lejia Ouyang**

**East End Literacy, Chinese Literacy  
Program Coordinator**



Some seniors said that they regard the students as their own grandchildren when telling them their life stories, but when the students teach them English, they feel like they are the children because the students are so kind and patient with them. One of our volunteer students said, "When I am helping the seniors learning English, I feel I am doing a good thing for

*TIGP is pleased to announce that Monarch Park Collegiate will receive the 2005 Community Service Award for the contributions the students have made to the Chinese Literacy Program, Seniors in Cyberspace, and the annual festive dinner for community seniors.*

## Sharing, caring enjoying each other

Essex Jr./Sr. Public School and the O'Neill Centre

**S**enior residents at the O'Neill Centre enjoy their special visits from the students at Essex Jr./Sr. Public School. "They're interesting, nice to talk to and good kids," says Cecilia Phillips. "I like to hear what they have to say and find out what they are doing," adds Fred Parker.

"When I was in high school I used to get together with my younger brothers and sisters to play games

and do activities with them. I like children very much and they always have something interesting to say. I would like to see them grow up and continue their studies," says Grace Tushingham.

And from Angela Iozzo: "I like kids, I like to see them joke around and hear all the important things they have to say. Jessica is a sweet and special girl. I like her very much!"





## Announcing the TIGP Volunteer Alumni program

**R**ooted in community throughout its history, TIGP's work has been an important volunteer and programming resource in mobilizing and bringing value to the contributions of children, youth and seniors.

Our incorporation as a non-profit, charitable organization in 1986 and our expansion throughout the City of Toronto was due to the dedication and outstanding contributions of our many volunteers and program partners.

We are pleased to announce the formation of the **TIGP VOLUNTEER ALUMNI**, created to recognize volunteers with a minimum of five years of continuous intergenerational service in their community who have "retired" from volunteering for various reasons, yet are always available as "advisors". New names will be added each year.

The names of the following TIGP founding alumni volunteers will be engraved on a plaque that will be displayed in the TIGP office to recognize those volunteers who have made tremendous contributions to promoting intergenerational harmony and lifelong learning:

- Helen Bowles
- Blanche Callahan
- Sophie Casselman
- Savi Chowbey
- Marion Cowan
- Gladys Drake
- Barbara Gilchrist
- Lillian Gray
- Jim Green
- Arun Gupta
- Dot Hall
- Tempa Harrison
- Waveney Job
- Roberta Leroy
- Lilian McPherson
- James Pavey
- Gwen Rapoport
- Lilian Salter
- Ross Wagg
- Simpson Waverman

## Wu Mei Huang: Our Volunteer of the Year

**T**IGP is pleased to announce that **Wu Mei Huang** (at right, middle row, second from left) has been selected Volunteer of the Year, recognizing her dedication for the past nine years at Parent Resources, where she volunteers five days a week. She feels like all the kids are her own grandchildren. Congratulations Wu, for your commitment to "Bringing Generations and Communities Together!"



## TIGP volunteer captures Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence

**T**IGP is pleased to announce that Monarch Park educator **Mary Card** has received a Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence, which included recognition of her volunteer involvement in the TIGP Community Seniors in Cyberspace program.

## 2005 Voluntary Service Awards

**C**ongratulations to these TIGP volunteers who are being recognized by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration with Voluntary Service Awards:

- Glennys Gill, five years of service.
- Sandra Hanmer, five years.
- Joan Lohan, five years.
- Brooky Robins, five years.
- Philomena Vaswani, five years.



**A great big thank you to the TIGP Volunteer Advisory Committee:** front from left, Evelyn Darko, Joan Osborne, Sandra Hanmer, Russ Smith; back from left, Dugald Matheson, Joan Jordan, Charles Houston. Missing is Savi Chowbey, also a committee member.

## Volunteer Calendar of Events

- Volunteer Orientation Event, Sept. 21, 2005, 1 - 3 p.m.
- Volunteer Open House, Sept. 28, 2005, 1 - 3 p.m.
- Reading Partner Training, Oct. 12, 2005, 1 - 3 p.m.
- Volunteer and Partner Festive Luncheon, Dec. 7, 2005, noon - 2 p.m.

Watch for future mailings with more details!



# TIGP: success fueled by people, passion and persistence

Since its incorporation in 1986, Toronto Intergenerational Partnerships has been shaped by the changing times and circumstances, creatively adapting to realities both rewarding and challenging, yet continuing to exist as a viable and vital organization.

The reason for this ongoing vitality can be found in the combination of people, passion and persistence, beliefs and creative thinking that has ensured TIGP's continued success, faithful to its original mission — making sure the old are not forgotten nor the young ignored.

For the past 19 years, I have been extremely privileged to have played a part in this wonderful grassroots organization, and to have witnessed many, many times, the hope and joy, the smiles and tears of our children, youth and elders as they recognize the power they generate together.

I have much to take with me from my experience at TIGP, more sometimes than I feel my heart can hold, for the memories are both sweet and poignant and form a significant part of what lies ahead in my life as I too become an 'Elder'.

TIGP has been and will continue to

be central to my belief in bringing generations together. Throughout the years I have sometimes faced roadblocks and challenges to that belief, and I have often wondered just what it was that sustained me.

The simple truth is that we need each other — the old and the young — and the work done at TIGP is our legacy. Let it also be our future in the years ahead.

**Chris Stewart**  
**Executive Director, TIGP**  
*Chris is retiring from TIGP this summer after 19 years of dedicated service.*

## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### Elementary Schools

- Adam Beck Junior
- Annette Junior/Senior
- Blake Junior
- Delta Alternative Junior
- Duke of Connaught Junior
- Earl Haig
- Eglinton Junior
- Essex Junior/Senior
- Glen Ames Senior
- Hillcrest Junior
- Keele Junior
- Kensington Junior
- Kew Park Montessori Day School
- Lord Dufferin Jr./Sr.
- McMurrich Junior
- Montrose Junior
- Parkdale Junior
- Queen Alexandra Middle
- Runnymede Junior
- Ryerson Community Jr.
- Sprucecourt Junior
- West Prep Junior

### Secondary Schools

- Central Technical Institute
- Central Commerce Collegiate
- Danforth Collegiate & Technical Institute
- Don Mills Collegiate
- George S. Henry Academy
- George Vanier Collegiate
- Heydon Park Secondary
- Inglewood Community School
- Malvern Collegiate
- Marc Garneau Collegiate

- Monarch Park Collegiate
- Riverdale Collegiate
- Zion Heights J.M.S.

### Colleges & Universities

- George Brown College
- King George International College
- Medix College
- Seneca College
- Ryerson University

### Day Care & Parent Resource Centres

- Better Beginnings NOW
- Clinton School Age Day Care
- Danforth Child Care
- Hawthorne Child Care
- Jesse Ketchum Child Care Centre
- Parent Resources – Gerrard/Moss Park
- Special Moments Day Care
- St. Mark's Child Care Centre

### Memberships

- Ontario Gerontology Association
- Ontario Health Coalition
- United Generations Ontario
- Ontario Community Supports Association
- Volunteer Centre of Toronto

### Agencies & Organizations

- Avondale Retirement
- Belmont House
- Brahms Community
- Bridgepoint Health Centre
- Broadview Manor
- Castlevue Wychwood Towers
- Chester Village
- Christian Community Centre
- Dufferin Mall Youth Services
- Elm Grove Living Centre
- Ethiopian Society
- Four Villages Community Health Centre
- Flemington Neighbourhood Services
- Glen Stewart
- Glenyan Manor
- Grenadier Retirement Residence
- Greenwood Towers
- Hanson House
- Heritage Nursing Home
- Jessie's Centre for Teenagers
- Loyola Arrupe Centre for Seniors
- Lincoln Place
- Meals Here and There
- Meighan Retirement Residence
- Moore Place
- New Experiences for Newcomer Women
- Nisbet Lodge
- Norwood Nursing Home

- Operation Spring Board - SOAR
- Reh'ma Foundation
- Reikai Centre
- Reikai Centre
- Rexdale Women's Centre
- St. Christopher House
- Sanderling Place
- Seneca Towers
- Spencer House
- The O'Neill Centre
- Toronto Community Housing Corporation
- Versa Care
- Working Women Community Centre
- Woodgreen Community Centre
- Woodgreen Job Centre
- Working Skills Centre

### Foundations & Corporations

- J.P. Bickell Foundation
- The George Lunan Foundation
- Sir Joseph Flavelle Foundation
- Edith Lando Charitable Foundation
- The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
- F. K. Morrow Foundation
- Bank of Montreal

