

Montgomery Place Social Club

130 Eglinton Avenue East Toronto ON M4P 2X9

October 30, 2024

Ontario Trillium Foundation
30 Wellington Street West 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M5L 1E2

Letter of Support for Working Skills Centre's application to the Trillium Foundation GROW fund

I am writing to support Working Skills Centre's application to Ontario Trillium Foundation to continue their work regarding the community worker program that was piloted in 2022-2023.

I am the tenant representative at Montgomery Place, a rent-geared to income apartment building for seniors. I am also an executive committee member of the Montgomery Place Social Club. We host special events to bring residents together, promote mental and physical wellness and overcome isolation.

Working Skills Centre participants attending the community worker pilot program organized two major special events for the seniors at Montgomery Place:

- a) Afternoon tea event September 29, 2022
- b) Board Games for Seniors Event March 31, 2023

A valuable service was provided to the community by the Working Skills Centre students:

- a) Approximately 120 seniors in total attended the two events. Seniors were very impressed with activities that were organized. The hall was set up and decorated to create a welcoming and festive space. The quality of the refreshments was excellent.
- b) The multi-lingual skills of the student group made possible meaningful interactions with our seniors, many of whom are not fluent in English.
- c) What was especially useful was that the students carried out needs assessment to find out more about the interests of seniors and what activities should be organized in the future. They also gathered demographic data. Montgomery Place Social Club was very glad to have a summary of this data, as well as the needs assessment. It enabled us to understand what was feasible and what was not feasible and plan accordingly.
- d) The community worker program participants boosted our capacity making it possible to host two major events that were a welcome addition to our regular schedule of events.

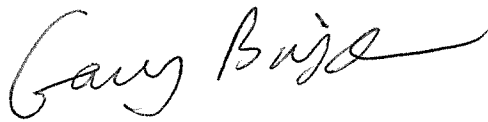
We are pleased that the students, while providing a valuable service to the community, were able to gain community work experience in a number of areas including: collaborating with a partner agency, participating in planning meetings and taking minutes, creating promotional material developing an outreach strategy and drawing up a budget. No doubt they gained many insights which will be an asset in their future work as volunteers and community workers helping to build vibrant communities.

We support Working Skills Centre's initiative to further develop this worthwhile initiative and will be glad to collaborate with them once again in providing experiential learning opportunities for their participants.

The project sponsored by the Ontario Trillium Foundation was a win / win situation and I want to extend our thanks on behalf of all the seniors at Montgomery Place.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 437-328-8901.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Brigden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Brigden
Tenant Rep, Montgomery Place
Email: gigsyb@rogers.com