

ELECTIONS AT THE LABDARA FOUNDATION AGM, April 6, 2017

The Labdara Foundation Members' annual general meeting (AGM) took place at Labdara Nursing Home on Thursday, April 6, 2017 from 7-9PM. The following members were re-elected to the Board of Directors: Gabija Petrauskas and Raymond Smolskis. Two Directors did not stand for re-election to the Board: Ruta Vaisvila and Ilona Turczyn, but both will continue working for the Nursing Home as members on several committees. Two new members were elected to the Board of Directors: Vytas Valaitis and Ruta Cerskus-Valaitis from Ancaster, Ontario. We welcome them!

**Labdara Foundation President Gabija Petrauskas' REPORT to the
LABDARA FOUNDATION AGM April 6, 2017**

The composition of the Board of Directors that you have before you, was formed at the last AGM in April 2016. During the first couple of meetings, we defined our function as a board, confirmed our mission and goals. To get a better handle on the Labdara Foundation's financial situation, we analysed our funding trends. With the input of Assured Care Consulting, Labdara's operations management agency, we reviewed governance structures and set ourselves on a path of work for the benefit of the Labdara Lithuanian Nursing Home and its residents.

Our four main goals:

- 1) Focus on **Quality Resident Care** through monitoring of government directives and contributing to the development of policy for our home
- 2) Sound **Financial Management** of the Labdara Foundation and development of Foundation annual budgets
- 3) A **strategic approach** to the Foundation's work and development of annual prioritized operational plans
- 4) **Open communication** with the community through regular postings of Board News on Labdara's Website and publishing Labdara News (Labdaros Zinios) in TZ.

We organized ourselves into Board Sub-Committees to reflect the priority areas of our work: Financial Management, Strategic Planning, Resident Quality Care, Infrastructure, Fundraising, Resident Food Enhancement. (Details are posted on Labdara's website under Governance.)

WHAT WE'VE DONE:

Labdara is a registered charity providing nursing care to 90 residents, 95% of whom are of Lithuanian descent. Our occupancy rate continues to be between 98-99% with a waiting list averaging 60 people (40% men and 60% women).

Over the past 15 years, we have served close to 400 people from Lithuanian communities in: Toronto, Hamilton, Wasaga Beach, Niagara, St. Catharines, Welland, Windsor, London, Delhi, Montreal. We care for some of the oldest seniors in Ontario. Recently we have been home to 4-5 centenarians per year.

We are proud, after an intense 2 week long inspection, to have this year received the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care's report in which Labdara received commendation as one of the best-rated nursing homes in Toronto. For the first time we received no citations re deficits. We are proud of this and congratulate Labdara's Administration, Management Team and all staff together with our Management firm Assured Care Consulting for a job well done! Our residents and their families can remain confident that their care is in good hands!

Labdara is a registered not-for-profit charity. Its annual operating cost is \$6.4M per year. We carry a mortgage of \$4.7M. Servicing this mortgage costs the home just over 1/2M per year (\$582,326= \$333,773 interest and \$223,686 principal). IF we were mortgage free, this half a million would go back into servicing the home annually and we would not have to be coming to the community "cap in hand" asking for donations every year. Our Treasurer's financial trend analysis shows that the bulk of our larger donations come as bequests. Our parents' generation is continuing to support the nursing home – but they are passing away. The trend for future donors is not encouraging – the younger generation is not yet stepping up. If Labdara were mortgage free – it would be much more self-sufficient and less dependent on a depleting donor base.

We are grateful for the personal support that the Lithuanian community of Toronto provides to the nursing home. We have 30 people who serve our residents as occasional volunteers. Our most recent appeal to find help to feed and to play chess with our residents produced 7 new volunteers: 2 chess players and 5 feeders. Volunteer help is essential to the quality of care our home can provide. Many musicians and singers also volunteer by performing free concerts for our residents throughout the year bringing them much joy.

Everything we've done throughout the year has been printed in Labdaros Zinios in TZ and posted on our website. I would like to draw your attention to just a few highlights.

The ***Labdara Education Trust Fund (or Scholarship Fund)***, established by Lietuviu Namai (LCAT) many years ago, is administered by the Labdara Foundation's Board of Directors. It awards scholarships to post-secondary school students of Lithuanian descent. With interest rates low for the past several years, the Board decided to award scholarships every two years in order to offer students more substantial amounts. At Christmas 2016 we awarded a total of \$4,000 to 4 recipients. Sincere thanks to the Selection Committee chaired by Ruta Rusinas, Labdara Board and LCAT reps: Ed Stravinskas and Gene Kobelskis and academics: Ausra Karkiene and Antanas Sileika for their excellent work. Next time scholarships will be awarded will be in 2018.

A special ***FOOD ENHANCEMENT PROJECT*** for our residents was initiated by Board Director – Rauda Rautins-Dickinson. Rauda engaged the Toronto District School Board and arranged to have baking classes at several Etobicoke schools bake for our residents. Central Etobicoke baked cookies for Thanksgiving and again made all the treats everyone enjoyed following concert at Labdara by the Lithuanian military women's choral group GUOSTE from Vilnius. Frank Oke school baked five trays of baked goods for Labdara's Bake Sale. This project enhances high school students' awareness of the elderly in nursing homes and gives their baking classes purpose beyond the school – to participate in the broader community and bring benefit to a worthy cause. The Home regularly ensures that some Lithuanian meals are provided every month. These efforts result in added variety and interest in food and enhanced mood amongst our residents. There is

heightened anticipation at the sight of a tray of home baked cookies going by and by the smell of Lithuanian meals.

Most recently, some of our eldest residents were participants in the **Oral History Project “Sharing our Stories”** led in the Lithuanian community by Danguole Juozapavicius, Director of the Canadian Lithuanian Museum/Archives. A team of museum volunteers, including our own weekend receptionist, Lina Samonis, interviewed 14 Lithuanian seniors for this project. Four of them are Labdara’s residents: Marija Gudeliene, Danute Rautins, Marija Tamulaitiene and Vladas Vytas. You will see and hear their stories at an exhibit at the Museum at Anapolis in Mississauga the first weekend in June (Kapu lankymas). Bring your families and friends to the exhibit before it moves to Ottawa for the sesquicentennial celebrations there this summer. Labdara has some of the oldest nursing home residents in the province and we are pleased that they participated.

GOING FORWARD:

A special focus this coming year is Labdara’s 15th Anniversary! On June 25th, 2002 the Labdara Lithuanian Nursing Home opened its doors to its first residents and ever since that day, the nursing home has been serving the Lithuanian Canadian community 24/7 without pause.

Residents’ fees and Ministry subsidies just cover our operating expenses. Even though we are a \$6M operation, resident fees and Ministry subsidies bring us to the break-even point (with very careful financial management and looking for savings where we can). There is no flex for furniture replacement, for breakdown of our current aging infrastructure. We are vulnerable...

To mark the 15th Anniversary year, the Board has set as its goal to raise \$75,000. This would enable us to replace the aged and repeatedly fixed tables and chairs in the resident dining rooms on all three floors of Labdara with ergonomic furniture designed to meet the needs of people with severe mobility challenges.

You have received our letter in the mail inviting you to this meeting. Please don’t toss it away, but consider supporting us. We assure you that your donation will be put to work immediately. Give our residents this gift to mark 15 years of caring by Labdara.

As of mid-December of last year, donations can be made through our website labdara.ca – you can donate conveniently from the comfort of your home and a tax receipt is issued to you within minutes.

The Board approved the 15th Anniversary Working Group chaired by Rauda Dickinson. Members are Angele Ambrozaitis, Gene Kobelskis, Regina Masionis, Gabija Petrauskas, Julija Simonelis and Ruta Vaisvila. They will be reaching out throughout the year...and follow our activities on Labdara’s website and in TZ.

AND NOW FOR THE THANK-YOUS:

Sincere thanks to our loyal and hardworking **BINGO Team**. Over the years BINGO has brought in between \$20,000 and \$30,000 per year, but 2016 was a record year with \$40,195 raised for Labdara because our team worked 38 sessions of bingo. Thank-you to our Labdara Team: Sandra

Burke, team lead and members: Birute Batraks and Vidmantas Valiulis and to Arunas Morkunas who works with the team and prepares all accountability reports to the City. You provide a constant and reliable source of funds to cover necessities for our residents.

An extraordinary achievement was the **2016 GALA** held at the Weston Golf & Country Club on June 4th. The Committee worked for over a year under the leadership of Judy Kavaliauskas. members: Liucija ir Al Kaminskas, Giedra Paulionis, Genute Kobelskiene, Ramune Stravinskiene, Silvija Sapliene, Dalia Vaskevicius, Raminta Nakrosiene, Angele Abromaitis, Dainora Juozapaviciute, Zita Semeniuk ir Stephanie Statkus. Over \$56,000 was raised for the nursing home and will be used to purchase a video camera security system to be installed inside and outside of the home. Not only did this event bring direct benefit to the nursing home but it also provided a lovely evening out for the community.

On June 12th, the Labdara participated in the **Toronto Challenge Walk** organized by the city. Labdara Activation Department's Nerijus Augutis, with the assistance of board Directors Julija Simonelis and Virginia Peculis, assembled our Labdara team made up mostly of jaunimas and friends (20 walkers in all). They ran the 5km. route in 24 minutes and raised \$4,800 for the nursing home. The youngest walker was 4, the eldest was 84! How very encouraging to see the engagement and support of our youth! Bravo Julija, Virginia & Nerijau.

Sincere thanks to our Labdara **website manager Ed Kurak** for his untiring work and quick turnaround, posting what we send him. He began this work together with his friend Tadas Gurevicius and has continued alone since Tado passing in 2013. Ed's mother was one of our first residents joining us in July of 2002.

Klevo Lapai Lithuanian hockey team and the **Catholic Women's League** of the Lithuanian Martyr's Parish in Mississauga as well as the Lithuanian credit unions, PARAMA and RCU in Toronto and TALKA in Hamilton have remembered us once again with generous donations, as they do every year. A sincere thank-you.

Mrs. Kuzmiene, a current resident of Labdara, years previously, established the **Kuzmienes Fondas**. It is administered by the Canadian Lithuanian Foundation (Kanados Lietuviu Fondas) and interest earned is donated annually to Labdara. In 2016 Labdara received a gift of \$2,500 from her Fund that was used to purchase chairs for the residents' lounge areas. Her fund keeps on giving every year.

Sincere ACIU to our **Pastoral Committee** and the ongoing and regular spiritual ministrations to our residents provided by: the Resurrection Parish Franciscan Fathers – especially Tevas Aurelijus Kasparavicius and deacon Dr. Kazys Ambrozaitis; the Lithuanian Martyr's Parish in Mississauga – Pastor Rev. Vytas Staskus; the Lithuanian Lutheran Church of the Redeemer – Pastor Rev. Zilinskas. The calm and comfort you provide is invaluable.

Whenever we needed to reach out to the community, without hesitation you printed our notices and requests for assistance without charge - Sincere thanks to the Lithuanian parishes: Resurrection, Lith Martyrs, Lutheran, TZ for being there for us and featuring us in your publications.

Thanks to Pace Law Firm for continued and ongoing support of Labdara since day one, to Turner & Porter for your donations.

And where would we be without Eric and Robert? The home's administrator – Eric Harela and the Home's ACC Management Firm's Director - Robert Berg, had to deal with yet another board of "newbies" and get asked the same questions over and over again. Thank-you for your patience, co-operation and extra-ordinary support to us as we learn to navigate the complex waters of long-term care in Ontario.

Sincere thanks to our out-going Board members: Ilona Turczyn, our current Chair of the Quality Care Committee of the Board, after 6 years of service, and, Ruta Vaisvila, our Executive Secretary, after 6 years of service to the Labdara Foundation and nursing home. We are particularly pleased that both of them will continue serving our residents by continuing to work on committees of the Board.

A lot of names isn't it?!? Impressive! It takes a team - the Lithuanian saying is so very true KUR DU STOS VISADOS DAUGIAU PADARYS – thanks for standing with us!!!

It is particulalry encouraging to me as chair of the board to hear "yes I can" from every person I personally approached with an invitation to join a committee or take on a job that needed doing. We are an action-oriented board, a board of "worker bees", not afraid to roll up our sleeves to get real work done for the benefit or our nursing home residents. That is why we are here! It is an honour to work with you. Keep saying YES I CAN and we will do good things together!
