

MYVON

WINTER 2018

The Victorian Order of Nurses: **You support a 120 year tradition of care.**



Inside:

- Edith swaps an old best friend for a new one
- Your look into 2018
- Even in a blizzard, the caring never stops





You helped Edith gain energy and independence

How VON showed Edith a new way forward

It's tough to give up something you've had for so long. Especially if it's something you rely on every day to make your life better – something that begins to feel like a faithful friend.

Edith's faithful friend was her cane. For 8 years, she held on to it and, at 88, she had no interest in letting go. So, when Wayne Taylor, a VON Home Support Worker, suggested to Edith that she start using a walker, Edith had no interest. To Edith, a walker was a step backwards, a sign that her mobility was getting worse.

Your support helped Wayne change Edith's mind, which allowed her to move forward in ways she never imagined possible.

Wayne told Edith about another woman who refused to use a walker, fell, broke her hip, and she became

bedridden. Wayne explained that the walker takes less energy to use, and would allow Edith to walk faster and further. Edith could also rest in the walker's built-in chair if she got tired, and she could place her belongings in its basket.

Edith was convinced. She said goodbye to her trusty cane, and welcomed the walker into her life – a versatile and durable new friend that could take her to explore new places with greater comfort and ease.

“When I asked Edith if I could use her story to help others, she gave me the sweetest smile, laughed and asked me to get her walker out of the back room!”

~ Wayne, VON CCA

*client's name has been changed to protect the privacy of the individual.

We couldn't have done it without you

Thanks to donors like you, we reached incredible milestones in 2016/2017, including:



1.9 million
nursing visits

2.01 million
home support visits



346,568
meals served

83,648
rides given



11.1 million
breakfasts and snacks
served to school children

651,290 hours
of respite care provided

Together, we'll do even more in 2018

Supporters like you helped us achieve so much in 2017. Thanks to your gifts, we provided essential care to Canadians in their homes and communities. And, in 2018, with your help, we hope to offer even more. We will continue to invest in technology that allows us to better connect our front-line service providers, enhance our care, and reach more people. With your partnership in the weeks and months ahead, we'll continue providing quality care and community-based services for the people who need us most!

Local Corner

New wheels in Ontario



When VON Middlesex-Elgin had to retire their 10-year-old passenger van, the surrounding community

immediately sprung into action to help raise \$25,000 for a new one. The fundraising effort was kick-started by a generous \$4,000 gift from the Poplar Hill & District Lions Club, and then other community members and businesses quickly followed suit. Just over a month later, they had raised over \$48,000 – more than enough to buy a new Dodge Caravan with additional features for safety and reliability. The remaining funds will be used to fund transportation for years to come!

Businesses stepping up in Nova Scotia



For the past 5 years, Macdonald Chisholm Trask Insurance, in partnership with Economical Insurance, has supported charities

through their annual fundraiser called MCT Day. "This year, our employees selected the VON," said Liz Cosgrove, Head of Atlantic Canada for MCT. "MCT Day is an opportunity for MCT Insurance and Economical Insurance to show support and appreciation of organizations that help those in need." "Thanks to these generous employees, MCT Day raised an astounding \$25,000 for VON. With this, VON can invest more in innovative approaches to delivering care, and make an even greater impact on those we serve.

No obstacle is too tough for the nurses you support



It was -18 degrees when Cheryl Andrews got the call, that a client urgently needed her chemotherapy bottle to be disconnected. Cheryl looked at the blizzard fiercely churning outside her window. She wasn't supposed to work that day, but she didn't think twice before pulling on layer after layer to get to the woman in need. She hiked for over an hour in knee-deep snow, arriving frozen and wet at the client's door.

"The client was crying when I arrived, and I immediately went into 'nurse mode' to find the source of her tears," Cheryl recalled.

But the woman wasn't crying for herself. Her tears were streaming out of concern for Cheryl's well-being and appreciation for her commitment and compassion.

The client hugged Cheryl and offered her warm tea before she set off on the hike back home in the storm.

Your gifts support dedicated nurses like Cheryl, who will not let anything get in the way of their service to those who need them.

"To this day I never think of that hike as anything but due diligence, to help and to serve someone in need," Cheryl said. "Nurses are born, not bred, and we do what we do because we love to help."

The VON care you help make possible

Our nurses, personal support workers, therapists, and other health-care providers offer care designed for people of all ages. Here are just a few:

- **Adult Day programs**
- **Bereavement services**
- **Caregiver support and education**
- **Companion, homemaking and personal care services**
- **Community dining**
- **Respite care**
- **Meals on Wheels**
- **Transportation services**
- **Volunteer visiting**
- **...and much more!**

Visit www.von.ca to learn more about the incredible care we offer!

Susan's monthly gifts help others get the support she needed herself

Susan can't imagine what her recovery would have been like without the help of VON.

"When I had my hip replacement, it really reinforced the value of not only the services, but the support that VON provides," she said. "Especially for those without family support close by."

Because VON was there for Susan during her time of need, she wanted to help ensure they could continue offering excellent care to others like her. That's why she became a monthly donor.

Monthly donations provide consistent funding that allows VON to run all its essential services long-term. Even for those with family close by to care for them, these services are crucial. Caring for a family member can be extremely strenuous and challenging, so having extra help provides much-needed reprieve.

Please join Susan in supporting essential care by becoming a monthly donor today. For more information on our monthly giving program, visit our website at von.ca or contact us at 1-888-VON-CARE.

Ways to Donate: Telephone ☎ (613) 288-3482 Toll Free ☎ 1-888-VON-CARE 🖱 givetovon.ca