

Little Mountain Residential Care & Housing Society Board Member Biography

Angela Johnston

Angela has been on the Board of Directors of the Society since 1993, but her connection to Little Mountain Place goes back even further. She first toured Little Mountain Place in 1987 when she was looking for a care facility for her husband, David, who had Alzheimer Disease. David became a resident in 1989. Angela joined the Board four years later. She is the current President of the Society, a volunteer position she has held twice before.

It was under her leadership that the Board adopted Moyra Jones' GentleCare program, a training course specifically designed for those with dementia. Little Mountain Place and Adanac Park Lodge were the first Vancouver facilities to adopt the GentleCare philosophy.

Angela became involved with the Alzheimer Society in 1983, when her husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer Disease. She joined the Richmond Alzheimer Support Group and later became its facilitator. In 1994, after retiring from Canadian Airlines, she was hired by the Alzheimer Society of B.C. as the Regional Representative for the Vancouver Richmond Region. Her first task was opening a Resource Centre in Richmond. She has been a member of the Conference, Education and Advocacy Committees of the Society, the Advisory Committee for the Geropsychiatric Education Program of the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board and the Ethics Committee for Deltaview Habilitation Centre in Delta. She is presently a member of the Advisory Committee for the Centre for Research on Personhood in Dementia at U.B.C. which is an interdisciplinary research center committed to addressing issues related to a personhood approach to dementia and dementia care.

Angela was seconded in 2004, by the Alzheimer Society of B.C., to develop the curriculum for a professional dementia education program called 'Making the Connection'. LMP was the pilot site for this new training program which includes an experiential component to enable staff to have a sense of some of the day to day challenges of having dementia. This new program is in addition to the Family Caregiver Series already available in B.C.

At present, Angela is Support & Education Coordinator for Richmond/Delta, working out of the Alzheimer Society of B.C.'s Resource Centre in Richmond and providing support, education and information to people with dementia, their families, the public and professionals in the community.