



## Wing Kei Receives Community Philanthropy In Action Award

We are proud to have been awarded the 2024-25 Minister's Seniors Service Award in the category of Community Philanthropy in Action. This award celebrates people and organizations who mobilize community support and resources to support seniors. "Caring for our elders is not just part of our culture, but also a blessing. It is truly an honour and we are proud to invest every dollar we have into our seniors, because investing in our seniors is also investing in our families and our future," says Dr. Harry Zhou, Board Chair.

Since our inception in 1996, thousands of families, donors and volunteers have contributed to creating our centres, which emphasize service, love, and culturally-responsive care facility. Now, 320 residents call Wing Kei home and a rotation of 64 people participate in our adult day program.

Our community continues to gather in support of Wing Kei, including at the annual Walk for Wing Kei. What began in 2001 with 600 participants has grown into a powerful symbol of fellowship and care. In 25 years, the Walk for Wing Kei has raised \$4.5M thanks to the generosity of thousands of donors and walkers. Our community's commitment to mission has inspired significant philanthropic contributions, including a recent \$1M pledge from a loyal donor and a \$1M grant from the Calgary Foundation towards the development of our new centre, Wing Kei Highland Park.

Wing Kei Highland Park will be a 180-bed continuing care and hospice care centre. It represents a \$110M investment by Wing Kei to create an inclusive environment for seniors to age with joy and dignity. When new continuing care centres are built the government often enters into service agreements with operators to cover the cost of care requirements once the centre is opened. Construction costs are the responsibility of operators like Wing Kei. In 2023, we launched Circle of Joy, a \$5M capital campaign, to enable Wing Kei Highland Park to come to fruition. As this award attests, we are confident in our community's support and know that, together, we will be successful.

We proudly dedicate this award to our circle of care – to our passionate staff and volunteers who demonstrate love in action and inspire trust, generosity, and partnership with the families and community.



## **Serving Through the Seasons: Julia Lee, 2025 ACCA Volunteer of the Year**

One summer afternoon over ten years ago, Julia Lee walked into Wing Kei's garden. It was not overgrown but quietly waiting for care, like a canvas awaiting its first brushstroke. She knelt down, touched the soil, and thought, "This place can be more beautiful." From that day on, she began bringing perennial plants divided from her own garden, replanting them one by one in Wing Kei's soil and bringing new life to the garden.

Through the passing of seasons, Julia has witnessed countless cycles of bloom and rest. Under the scorching sun she watered the flowers; before winter's frost, she covered the landscape paper for protection. She often says she is not a professional gardener, only an ordinary person who loves to plant. At Wing Kei this ordinary devotion has grown into something extraordinary. Elders stroll among the flowers, residents see color outside their windows, and young volunteers learn to tend the soil. Wing Kei garden has become a gentle sanctuary for the whole community because of her.

This year, Julia received the 2025 ACCA Alberta Volunteer of the Year Award. With a humble smile, she said it is not her own honor but a shared glory for both the Chinese community and the Christian faith. Over ten years, her flowers have bloomed not only from the soil but also from her heart, serving with life and cultivating with love.

We thank Julia for her faithful service and dedication through the years. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. Her devotion has been a true blessing to Wing Kei.



### **Wing Kei Highland Park Updates**

We are excited to share that the exterior of Wing Kei Village Phase One - Wing Kei Highland Park is taking shape! This milestone marks another significant step toward bringing our vision of a warm, caring home for seniors to life.

