

The Shalom Village

GRAPEVINE



Hamilton, Canada, February 2011

shalomvillage.ca

As forecasters were calling for the snowstorm of the century to strike Hamilton by the morning of February 2nd, the team at Shalom Village met to discuss how they could ensure the safety and comfort of our residents in the event that staff were unable to get to work. Their solution? A sleepover! More than 30 team members camped out at Shalom Village overnight to make sure that we would be able to deliver the essential care that our residents need.

Shalom Village CEO Pat Morden was inspired by the experience to pen the following poem (with apologies to Clement Moore)...

Twas a Day of Inspired Leadership AT HOME @ Shalom by Pat Morden

Twas the day before a blizzard,
when all through Shalom
Everyone was wondering, how
will we get back home
The residents were blissful,
unaware of the threat
They trusted their staff, knowing
on them they could bet

Some leaders were gathering,
each one at the table
Discussing their Visions. What
could they enable?
Each in their own way, and
thinking together
Knowing leadership and
coaching could conquer the
weather.



When out of the dine, there
arose a great A HAAA
Sleepover they said, we'll be
like a spa
So off to the phones, they talked
to their teams
Who with willingness and
gratitude said yes to the dream

The moon on the breast of the
new fallen snow
Gave a lustre that night to
objects below
When what to our wondering
eyes began to appear
A full complement of staff armed
with sleepover gear



a waiting to be told
 They were happy and ready for
 the day to unfold

The power of the snow blower
 was calling in the cold
 The smiles of the new “experts”
 were wonderful to behold
 Cloaked in their leadership,
 brazening the blown snow
 Finding new possibilities they
 felt sure lay below.

Each one who came bravely to
 our residents through the snow?
 Walked with the courage all the
 great leaders show.
 It’s not rank, name or title that
 makes one a lead
 It’s the strength of our passion
 in thought word and deed

The cooks and their aides,
 arrived with a grin
 And said in a hurry, they were
 glad to get in
 Housekeeping and laundry were
 just a little ahead
 Handing out the makings of
 many a warm bed

snowy cocoon
 Worries behind them, they slept
 on ‘til dawn
 No battle more worthy of this
 kind of brawn

As dusky sunset looms, there
 remains a pink glow
 Reflects hearts warming despite
 the wild snow.
 Leaders asking for help, each
 one giving their best
 Knowing their love fully present,
 would win any test...

There were Nurses all counted,
 PSWs and more,
 All heading to Shalom,
 A.T.H.O.M.E at their core
 They were sleeping on couches,
 some snuggled in chairs
 While our residents slept on, so
 blissfully unawares



And so they proclaim as they
 leave for the day,
 Our team is the best, each one
 in their way.
 Hearts full of gratitude, content
 to go home
 Knowing the world’s best work
 at Shalom.

Movies were playing, while soft
 snores in tune
 Made music so magical in our

And then in a twinkling, we
 heard through the hall
 The prancing and giggling of
 each wonderful soul
 In pajamas and sweats they
 wandered together
 Beaming with joy as they looked
 out on the weather



Breakfast was waiting and the
 coffee was warm
 Laughter and yawning, away
 from the storm,
 Shared friendships and stories

