

BENEFIT OF GOLD MEMBERSHIP

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GRANVILLE GARDENS


INSIDER PERSPECTIVES

Granville Gardens logo

Interview with a Granville Gardens family member

Denise Foster, daughter of Vivian

We spoke with Denise to gain her insight into life at Granville Gardens. Denise's mom was in the beginning stages of dementia, and Denise was very worried about her decline. After moving into this Vancouver retirement community, though, her mom's life was transformed and Denise found that many of her worries dissipated.



Daughter of Resident: Denise Foster
In this Perspective:
00:50 - What do you appreciate about Granville Gardens?
03:53 - What value does Granville Gardens bring to you and your parent?
05:55 - What would you highlight about the social life, staff, facilities, and amenities?
10:56 - How has your parent's life improved since moving into Granville Gardens?
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LOCATION
Vancouver, BC

LIFESTYLE OPTIONS
Independent living, assisted living

COST (FROM)
\$3,888

SUITES
62 suites (Studio, 1-bed)

CAPACITY
72 residents

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Highlights from the interview

- **"My mom has dementia. Prior to going to Granville Garden, she really wasn't getting out much. She wasn't motivated to be connected to other people.** She wasn't taking part in any activities in her community. She had a lot of issues related to pain in her knees, pain in her hips. Even if it was suggested that maybe she get out for a short walk or an activity, she just wasn't motivated to do any of that... When she moved into Granville Gardens about two years ago I felt that she would probably get worse quite quickly while she was there because of her lack of wanting to socialize... **But what's happened is the exact opposite. I feel like she's thrived there.** I think it's the motivation of the staff... **If somebody had told me my mom would be going to yoga... I would have said there's no way my mom would even participate in that. But, you know, she just loves all the activities there."**
- **"She's made new friends there. She loves the food. She loves socializing with groups. And the staff has told me she participates in everything. So she's come sort of full circle since she's been there."**
- **"With COVID, obviously myself and other family members were quite concerned** about how she was going to do with not having any connection to outside people because they [were] confined to your room. You can't even socialize with the other residents... But I thought this one year period of having very little connection was going to be difficult. **But the best thing about it has been they have not had a case of COVID within the facility. There has been no scares, no outbreaks amongst the residents or the staff. All of the protocols that they implemented there obviously were for a reason. And they did a fantastic job of it because there's been no issues related to the virus within the facility."**
- **"[Staff] have just been fantastic.** And I think part of it is what they organize [things], and part of it is the motivation for my mom to participate... for me and other family members to connect and stay on top of what's happening with her and what's going on. **They're always quick to answer questions."**
- **"[I can] go for what would be called the Friday afternoon ice cream social or the Friday afternoon happy hour or so...** and all the other residents were gathered in the lobby and they would have someone singing and playing piano. And it was all songs that the residents knew and the residents would get up and sing along with the woman who was leading the piano session and sing along... **[It] was those types of things that brought my mom [out]. It's made her connect with people. If she had stayed at home in her own home, she would have probably been isolated, not participating, and had no motivation to participate."**
- **"The [building] is great. It's situated in a really nice area. So when their little walking group goes out for a walk outside, it's very treed. There's a lot of open space in it. The lobby is nicely furnished, nice comfortable furniture. There's a little fireplace... it's very inviting in the wintertime.** That's the large sort of central area in the lobby. And then the dining room is off of that. It's very nicely set up [with] a big window [with] always lots of bright sunlight coming in. You can see the trees outside. There's a nice little courtyard area... [with] lounge type chairs to patio furniture. It's really comfortable for residents to go sit outside."
- **"[There's a] small little bistro area** as well that the residents can go to and choose whatever they want from the fridge if they just want a little snack or make themselves a cup of coffee or a cup of tea. That's something my mum has appreciated and I've really appreciated because it gets her out of her room... **She can go down there and make herself a cup of tea and she might run into a friend and sit with them and enjoy it with them."**
- **"[Her life] has improved a great deal.** [Another] thing [is] my father would take my mom out to go places and he would drop her at the door so she didn't have to walk... **She always complained of aches and pains and things that were preventing her from doing things. But since she's been at Granville Gardens ... according to the staff there, she participates in everything.** Even if it's just to go sit and watch other people do things, she has to leave her room, walk down a fairly long hallway, go down an elevator and then get to where the activity is taking place. **So even that amount of activity, just walking in the hallways, is more than she had ever done."**
- **"I feel a sense of relief because I know she's well looked after. I know there's somebody always around.** My mother gets her medications administered to her and that happens at least three times a day. I know that she's in the dining room three times a day... There's somebody physically with their eyes on her at least six times a day, and more often, because she's going to activities that are interspersed between all of that... [If] she doesn't show up for something, she's going to get a phone call or somebody is going to go to her room. **I feel like I don't have to worry about what's going on with her on a daily basis. It's definitely a sense of relief and a real stress reducer for me.** It's funny, sometimes she'll be doing an activity and I've come to just drop off something that she needs and she's quite happy to just continue doing her activity. 'Oh, by all means, please take my key to my room and you can just go drop that off because I'm busy here having fun.' **[In] my opinion it's been nothing but perfect. Wonderful."**
- **"[When] we went to Granville Gardens.. our intention was that my mom would live there for a month [on] just a trial basis and we would see how it went...** We needed her to be somewhere. And then we were going to start looking around and make a decision. **But it became apparent quite quickly that Granville Gardens was exactly what my mom needed and we didn't need to look anywhere else. It's two years later and she's still there."**
- **"[The move was] completely slick, I have no other way to describe it.** My mom's suite that she lives in is just a studio suite... that's what was available at the time. And it was set up as one of their show suites. So it actually had a bed, a television. It had a lot of things in it that they just said you can keep... if you would like to purchase a couple of the items that are already in the room, they gave it to us at an extremely low rate. So we moved very little in. A lot was provided in the room. I'm assuming that's not always the case, but it was this small studio sized show suite. **We brought very little. It was a suitcase of clothes and, you know, over time a few other things that she needed. But getting her there... Fantastic."**



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John Doe, son of Bill

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