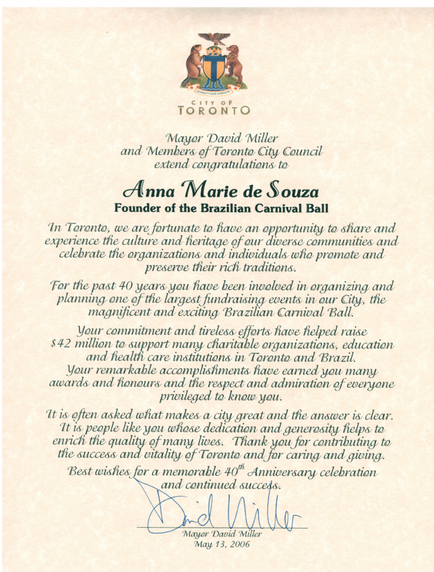
ANNA MARIA de SOUZA

Anna Maria de Souza arrived in Toronto in the winter of 1965 to explore export opportunities for her family's coffee company. A year later, homesick for Brazil, she gathered together a group of 30 to 50 local Brazilians and diplomats to celebrate their shared heritage. Space was found in the basement of Santa Inês Church, a local Italian parish that ministered to the Portugese immigrants in the area of Dundas West & Grace streets, and the first dance took place in February 1966.

The gathering was such a great success that it became an annual event. The Ball brought warmth, life and colour to a grey Toronto winter. Thanks to Anna Maria's indefatigable efforts and promotion, as founder, chair and driving force, the Ball grew in size and scope. Venues shifted to increasingly larger facilities, first to restaurants, next to the Masonic Temple at Yonge Street and Davenport Road, and then to the hotels of the Royal York, the Four Seasons Hotel, and Sutton Place. Close to 1,800 guests now make merry at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. A notable exception was 2002, when the Ball was taken to France to enliven the Château de Versailles. Regardless of the location, the Ball has always been imbued with Anna Maria's indomitable spirit and her compelling desire to "*Live, Love, Laugh!*"

"live love laugh"

The growing popularity of the Ball brought rapid expansion during the 1970s and an affiliation with charitable works. Proceeds were initially donated to charities in Anna Maria's hometown of São Sebastião do Paraíso, in Minas Geras, Brazil. Canadian beneficiaries of the Ball began with the Variety Club of Ontario in 1973. Other beneficiaries have included Toronto's leading hospitals, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Canadian Opera Company, the Art Gallery of Ontario, Alzheimer's disease research at the University of Toronto, and both The Lamarsh Centre For Violence and Conflict Resolution and The Accolade Project at York University.


CITY OF TORONTO

Mayor David Miller
and Members of Toronto City Council
extend congratulations to

Anna Marie de Souza
Founder of the Brazilian Carnival Ball

In Toronto, we are fortunate to have an opportunity to share and experience the culture and heritage of our diverse communities and celebrate the organizations and individuals who promote and preserve their rich traditions.

For the past 40 years you have been involved in organizing and planning one of the largest fundraising events in our City, the magnificent and exciting Brazilian Carnival Ball.

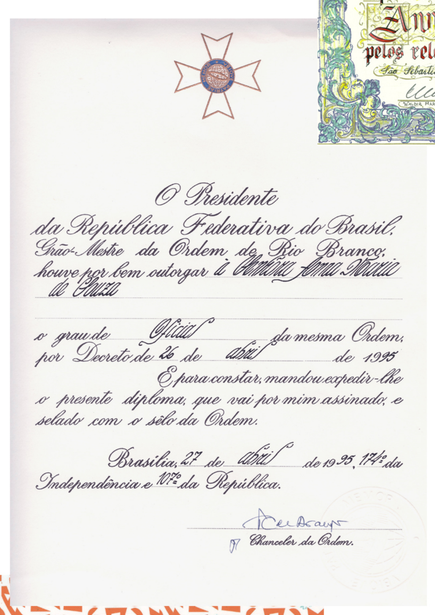
Your commitment and tireless efforts have helped raise $42 million to support many charitable organizations, education and health care institutions in Toronto and Brazil.
Your remarkable accomplishments have earned you many awards and honours and the respect and admiration of everyone privileged to know you.

It is often asked what makes a city great and the answer is clear. It is people like you whose dedication and generosity helps to enrich the quality of many lives. Thank you for contributing to the success and vitality of Toronto and for caring and giving.

Best wishes for a memorable 40th Anniversary celebration and continued success.

Mayor David Miller
May 13, 2006

Ordem Municipal do Brasão
Decreto n 396, de 16 de agosto de 1968
Diploma
O Prefeito Municipal Grão Mestre da Ordem Municipal do Brasão, resolve, de acôrdo com o Decreto n 433, de 10 de junho de 1939, conceder o Grande Colar do Brasão no grau de Oficial à Exma Sra Dna
Anna Maria Marcolini Guidi de Souza
pelos relevantes serviços prestados ao Município
São Sebastião do Paraíso, 21 de junho de 1989


O Presidente
da República Federativa do Brasil,
Grão-Mestre da Ordem do Rio Branco,
houve por bem outorgar à Excma Sra Anna Maria de Souza
o grau de Oficial da mesma Ordem,
por Decreto de 28 de abril de 1995
E para constar, mandou expedir-lhe o presente diploma, que vai por mim assinado, e selado com o sêlo da Ordem.
Brasília, 27 de abril de 1995, 174º da Independência e 107º da República.
Chanceler da Ordem.

The Ball has raised in excess of $46 million dollars to benefit the lives of thousands of people living in the greater Toronto area, making this one-night event Canada's most successful charitable fundraiser. Five percent of proceeds are still earmarked for various Brazilian causes.

Anna Maria de Souza made an enduring contribution to Canadian society, proving that an individual can have a profound impact on her community through a passion for life and a commitment to philanthropy. Her legacy lives on not only in the Ball, but also through the donation of its records to the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections of York University Libraries. Programmes, photographs, correspondence, and other material will provide rich sources for faculty, students, and the general public to study Brazilian culture and fundraising within Canada.

Congratulations
Anna Maria de Souza

NSFRE Oustanding Volunteer 1997

Congratulations on being honoured as recipient of the "Outstanding Volunteer Award" by the National Society of Fund Raising Executives (NSFRE) – Greater Toronto Chapter. This Award is in recognition and appreciation of Anna Maria's leadership and dedication, throughout the past 31 years, on behalf of the many organizations and individuals that have benefited from the success of the Brazilian Carnival Ball.

Presentation ceremony will be May 21, 1997 at the NSFRE Philanthropy Awards Luncheon

Brazilian
CARNIVAL BALL

The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation

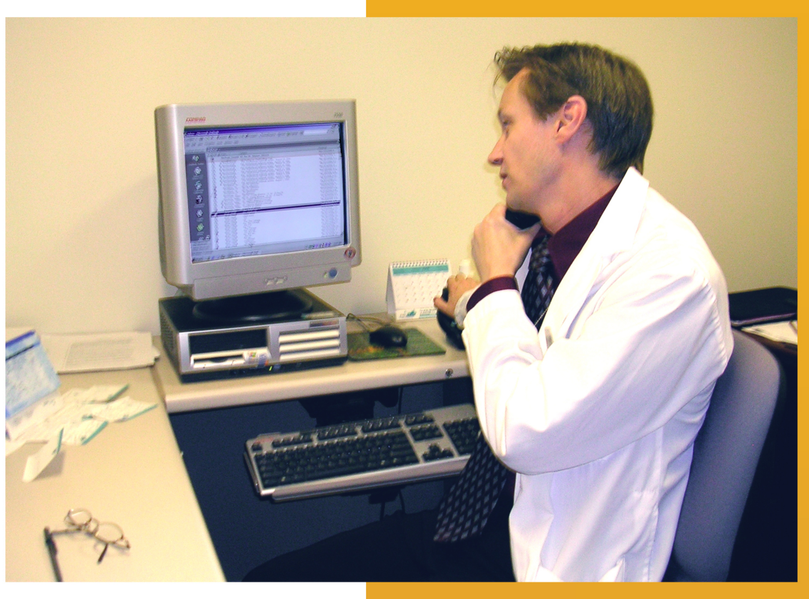
University Health Network

The Campbell Family Cancer Research Institute

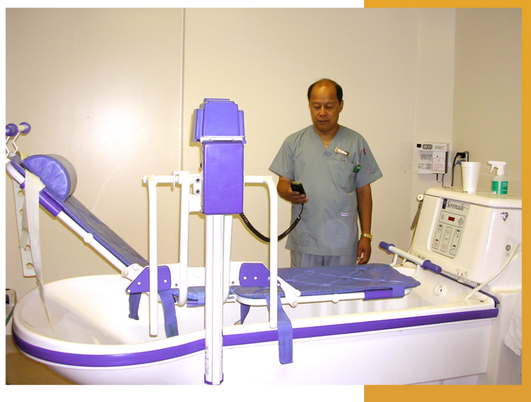
AT PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL

Proud to be the beneficiary of the 2008 Brazilian Carnival Ball, Princess Margaret Hospital and The Campbell Family Cancer Research Institute at Princess Margaret. One of the top five cancer comprehensive cancer centres in the world. Tonight we pay tribute to the Oncology Nurses in the Princess Margaret Hospital Cancer Program.

Oncology Nurses are the frontline health care providers working in a variety of essential roles across the cancer continuum. They tend to the unique psychological, spiritual and cultural needs of cancer patients and their families. Our nurses are the "angels" who make the difficult experienc of cancer more bearable.



PMH Oncology Nurses are also leaders in the figh to conquer cancer: conducting research, developing best practices, and educating others in the specialized care that cancer nursing entails.



On May 12, 2008, Premier McGuinty announced funding for the Anna Maria de Souza Knowledge Transfer Centre for Oncology Nursing at Princess Margaret Hospital .