



Melanie Hennessey/Torstar

Christie Oaks Care Home owner Cynthia Okwudili shows off the homey environment provided for seniors who need assisted living and transitional care.

CHRISTIE OAKS PROVIDES HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR SENIORS

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At first glance, 128 Cobblehill Rd. in Acton looks like a typical family home.

But what's happening inside is quite unique. The house in a residential neighbourhood has been converted into Christie Oaks Care Home, an assisted living and transitional care home for seniors.

"It's a home environment. We don't want it to look institutional," said owner Cynthia Okwudili. "Our care is very personalized and all of our meals are cooked from scratch."

The home opened its doors in December 2017 and is licensed for up to 10 residents. It's staffed 24-7 by personal support workers, with nursing staff visiting a few times per week and a doctor stopping by weekly to check on patients.

"We also work in part-

nership with the local health integration network and they support us with any resources we need," noted Okwudili.

With hospitals and long-term care homes struggling to keep up with the demands of an aging population, Okwudili said Christie Oaks can "fill in that gap" for patients transitioning back into the community who are still in need of 24-hour assistance.

"Our goal is to always make sure there are no re-admissions to the hospital because it's already full," she said. "I think homes like ours should be where the Ministry of Health is looking in the future as we can take that burden from

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the hospital."

While Christie Oaks is always full, Okwudili said they do assess the needs of individuals coming in and try to give preference to those who need care the most. The wait list for transitional care is about one to three months, she noted.

The home also offers respite care for caregivers who need a day, weekend or week off.

Christie Oaks is hoping to put an addition on its home in the near future and open up an additional five beds.

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