Penny Callies was crowned “Queen for the Day”, as she was honored at a huge 100th birthday celebration at Good Samaritan Village by the Station in Penticton. Penny was surrounded by family and friends, and was particularly thrilled to have her son and grandchildren, who all came from long distances, to join her.

The band, The Misfits, entertained the 80 guests as the volunteer team served refreshments. Penny was born January 27, 1913 near Wetaskiwin, Alberta and has been an Okanagan resident for many years. Penny is well known in the community for her beautiful paintings, her love of art and culture, her career as a hairdresser, salon owner, and real estate saleswoman. Penny remains an active and much loved resident at Good Samaritan Village by the Station. Her quick wit and sense of fun is a joy to many.

CORRECTION NOTICE:
In an article that appeared on page four of the Summer/Fall 2012 edition of The Journey, Carlina Padigos was referred to as a health care aide. We would like to provide a correction. Carlina is a Licensed Practical Nurse.
With Christmas just behind us, we have all participated in a “season of giving”. At The Good Samaritan Society, however, we are fortunate to witness giving each and every day of the year through our volunteers. Each volunteer makes the choice to be of service to others, to contribute to making the world a better place and each year over 1700 volunteers make this contribution through The Good Samaritan Society. Life is full of choices, and The Good Samaritan Society (GSS) is thankful for the volunteers who make the choice to serve our residents and clients, sharing their time and talents in a variety of ways. Our volunteers are part of a team who strive to meet our clients and residents’ physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs.

At The Good Samaritan Society, we are dedicated to ensuring the quality of care for our residents and clients but perhaps more importantly we are committed to improving their quality of life. Volunteers organize, support and deliver many of the activities that enhance resident and client quality of life. They augment and compliment the work of our staff, enrich the lives of our clients and residents, and often, through this work, find their own sense of meaning and purpose.

“Life is full of choices, and The Good Samaritan Society (GSS) is thankful for the volunteers who make the choice to serve.”

Needless to say, we could not do our work without volunteers. The Board of Directors acknowledges the value of our volunteers through our strategic goal to increase volunteerism and strive to attract and retain volunteers who are aligned and engaged with The Society’s vision, mission and values.

However, as life around us is changing, volunteerism is changing as well. Today’s volunteer has many obligations and conflicting priorities and it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract and retain them. Although, The Good Samaritan Society has been fortunate to have many long term volunteers, this too is changing. As an organization that depends on this vital human resource, we need to create long term strategies that include changes to retention, recruitment, training and development while continuing to focus on providing engaging and meaningful experiences for our volunteers. In order to be proactive in meeting the future head on, The Good Samaritan Society is currently conducting a review of volunteerism within the organization to develop long-term strategies for volunteerism. To assist with this endeavor GSS applied and received funding support through the Alberta Community Spirit Grant Program. We look forward to sharing the results of this review and the strategies that we hope will take us into the future. We know that with our constantly increasing needs, volunteer involvement has never been more important to our organization.

We are so grateful for the work of these generous people and we want to say thank you for the work that they do, on behalf of The Society, on a daily basis. We look forward to the ongoing creativity, commitment, and compassion of our volunteers in 2013.

Carla Gregor, President and CEO

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

CHRISTMAS AT GSS

Many activities happen during the holiday season at The Good Samaritan Society. Here is a sampling of some of the events that occurred.

Party time at Good Samaritan Village by the Station in Penticton!

The Santamobile that brought Santa to Good Samaritan Linden View in Taber.

Residents, volunteer, staff, and families galore came out to sing festive Christmas carols on Christmas Eve at Good Samaritan Heron Grove in Vernon.

Lots of decorations throughout the new Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre in Stony Plain.
Thank you to everyone who gave the gift of “Comfort and Joy” during this year’s Christmas Appeal. We are pleased to announce that you – our very generous donors – have helped us raise $106,000 as of this printing date! This will make a significant impact in helping our sites and programs purchase much needed items that enhance the lives of those we serve. On behalf of the residents and clients, staff, and volunteers of The Good Samaritan Society we want to express our heartfelt thanks to you for your contributions towards the 2012 Christmas Appeal. It is because of your continued support of The Good Samaritan Society that we can fulfill our mission of care.

This Christmas give the gift of comfort and joy to our clients and residents

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The more we give, the more we are blessed.

In setting up the Hardship Fund, TeleCare applied for a $10,000 grant from Epcor’s Community Essentials Council and was awarded the funding in December 2012. This generous donation will serve many people over the coming year. If you would like to donate or receive more information about TeleCare services or the TeleCare Hardship Fund, please visit our website at www.telecarehomemonitoring.com or contact our customer service team at 1-800-676-8397.

Thank you to Epcor for the generous grant in assisting seniors to stay safe and independent.

This past year Good Samaritan TeleCare® developed a Hardship Fund which will be used to support low income TeleCare clients in receiving specialty devices and emergency response monitoring services. This fund will help many low income seniors and people with disabilities continue living with independence while having access to services that can enhance their daily living activities.

Robert Petryk, Senior Vice-President, Human Resources and Serina Weleschuk, Manager of Good Samaritan Telecare.

Good Samaritan TeleCare® receives $10,000 towards their Hardship Fund

Caring for those you care for...

Half price enrolment - only $37.50 until March 31, 2013

Phone 780.431.3630 or 1.800.676.8397 Email telecareinfo@gss.org Web telecarehomemonitoring.com
Good Samaritan Clearwater Centre in Rocky Mountain House once again celebrated Grandparent’s Day with their biggest annual fundraiser. Recognizing the 1995 House of Commons designation of the second Sunday of September as Grandparent’s Day “in order to acknowledge their importance to the structure of the family” in Canada, Good Samaritan Clearwater Centre organizes a special day of celebration and family time for residents, their families and the community in appreciation of the contributions and heritage of seniors in the Rocky Mountain House and surrounding area.

For several years, many of The Good Samaritan Society (GSS) Edmonton sites have been recipients of grants from the Union 52 Benevolent Society. Affiliated with the Civic Service Union 52 in Edmonton, this Society annually accepts applications for funding of specific projects or needs. The Union represents technical, professional, administrative and clerical workers within the City of Edmonton, the Edmonton Public Library, TELUS World of Science - Edmonton, EPCOR (Edmonton & Calgary), and Capital Power Corporation. The Edmonton Civic Service Association was formed in 1909. Civic Union 52 has donated almost $20,000 to GSS Edmonton area sites and programs in the last 6 years.

Most recently, Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre received a grant of $3,000 from the Benevolent Society in support of their campaign to replace all the chairs in the atrium. With this grant the Care Centre is well on their way to achieving their goal!

This year Good Samaritan Clearwater Centre hosted its 6th Annual Grandparent’s Day celebration. The staff of the Centre prepared an amazing meal as well as some fantastic homemade bread. Fundraising activities and sponsorship helped to raise close to $10,000 that will go towards installing much needed safety and accessibility equipment for the residents at the site as well as some new chairs and televisions for relaxation areas.

We would also like to thank our sponsors for this event, Challand Pipeline Ltd., and W. Pidhirney Welding Ltd. for their ongoing support of seniors!

Last year the new Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre in Stony Plain opened to much fanfare and joy to the residents and their families. When we received confirmation of funding to proceed with the project, and to assist in helping defray some costs of this new centre, The Good Samaritan Society undertook the Close to Home Capital Campaign.

This past October, a very special event was held at the site to say thank you to the many donors who helped us raise over $1 million through this campaign. More than 30 donors were able to attend this reception, take a tour of the new site and hear from residents, families and staff about the impact of receiving care and working in this new care centre.

Family members Lenora and Keith Deering spoke at the event of the impact on their family of having their mother at the Centre and how relieved they are. The following is an excerpt from their speech.

“From the moment she arrived she was welcomed by the staff. All of her needs are met. More importantly she feels comfortable and safe here. With this grant the Care Centre is well on their way to achieving their goal!”

My brothers, sisters and myself feel blessed knowing that our mother is in a home where she is attended to by caring staff. We like the fact that we can enjoy dinners with her in the private dining room or when we have family gatherings that we can book this events room. In our opinion this facility is superior with the set up of various pods to meet the different levels of care that is required. My mom being a Christian all of her life also enjoys the Tuesday afternoon hymn sings and the Sunday morning worship services.”

Residents and family members enjoying the BBQ and time to visit during Grandparent’s Day!

Stony Plain Care Centre Close to Home Campaign Donor Event

Lenora Deering

Deputy Mayor Dwight Ganske speaks to the crowd.

Family members Lenora and Keith Deering spoke at the event of the impact on their family of having their mother at the Centre and how relieved they are. The following is an excerpt from their speech.

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Lenora Deering
On September 13, 2012 The Good Samaritan Society held our 5th Annual Citifund Spirit of Caring Golf Tournament! The day was bright and sunny as we enjoyed a new setting of The Bear Golf Course in Kelowna.

63 golfers took part in the event, and they enjoyed a great day of golf, a delicious barbecue dinner, and our active silent auction. We are so grateful for all the support we received from our sponsors, golfers, and prize donors, together raising over $22,000 for our residents at Good Samaritan Heron Grove, Good Samaritan Hillsides Village, Good Samaritan Mountainview Village, Good Samaritan Pioneer Lodge and Good Samaritan Village by the Station. This achievement would not have been possible without the support of CitiFund (Woods) Capital Ltd. and all of our sponsors and golfers.

The program for our event was very interesting as one of our resident’s from Kelowna shared her story with us and how she came to call Good Samaritan Mountainview Village home. Some excellent prizes were also handed out to the winning teams and contest winners.

We also want to thank our amazing tournament volunteer committee who put in a lot of hours and organized a fantastic day.
Good Samaritan Village by the Station in Penticton, BC has a very special champion in their community who has helped raise much needed funds for equipment and projects over many years.

Ivan McLelland first came to the site when his wife was a resident. He quickly became involved in the overall mission of GSS through the site, and remained an active volunteer and donor even after his wife passed away. Recently, and in his role as a former Team Canada hockey member, Ivan wrote a book entitled ‘Gold Mine to Gold Medal and Beyond’, an autobiography. When it came time for publication of this memoir, Ivan committed a percentage of the sale proceeds to Village by the Station. Recently he presented a cheque for $3,000 from the proceeds which will assist the site with providing therapeutic recreation programs to the 137 residents of the care facility as well as the 100 day program clients.

For all you do Ivan – Thank You!!

Nomination Deadline: May 23, 2013
Elections will occur at the Annual General Meeting on September 21, 2013.
For information please visit www.gss.org or contact Joanne at 780.431.3706 or e-mail goodsaminfo@gss.org.

**INTERNATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY 2012**

This year, The Good Samaritan Society was very happy to express our gratitude and recognize the Rotary Club of Stony Plain. The Rotary Club of Stony Plain is a dedicated group of individuals who engage and support their community through various funding opportunities. The Club has been involved in many activities both locally and internationally. In addition to supporting charities like The Good Samaritan Society and our Stony Plain Care Centre, the Club also has a strong focus on supporting youth in the community, and provide annual support for several young people to gain from learning. Leadership training, enrichment programs and camps are a dedicated commitment for the Club.

The impact the Rotary Club of Stony Plain has had on our organization and our residents and clients in the community has made a huge difference. The efforts of this Club and their supporters have allowed us to improve the programs and services we offer by enhancing the quality of life and creating hospitable environments for our residents and clients.

The Fund Development Department hosted the Board members Tren Cole and Len Torgerson at the special reception and luncheon tribute events organized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals for Philanthropy Day. We were truly honoured to have this opportunity to say thank you to such a wonderful group of volunteers and supporters!

Jean Kearney, Recreation and Adult Day Program Coordinator at Good Samaritan Village by the Station, accepts a cheque for $3,000 from Ivan McLelland.

Board of Directors Position

**Member Qualifications - Interested candidates will have:**
- Willingness to take an active participatory role in The Good Samaritan Society Board meetings, committees and projects.
- Previous board experience, in particular on governance boards.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate the mission, vision, values and objectives of The Good Samaritan Society to our partners, stakeholders, and broader community.
- Specialized skills and experience relating to finance, project development, legal, communications, and/or government relations.
- Demonstrated ability to understand and contribute to business processes, including financial and strategic planning in a meaningful, constructive way.

**About The Good Samaritan Society**
The Good Samaritan Society is a not-for-profit charitable organization that is governed by a volunteer Board. Our mission is to provide Christian Hospitality through a continuum of care to those in need or at risk, regardless of race or religious belief.

**Current openings:**
- Southern Alberta (including Red Deer and south) - two positions
- Northern Alberta (north of Red Deer including Edmonton) - two positions
- Lutheran Clergy - one position

**Remuneration**
Board members serve in a voluntary capacity.

**Conflict of Interest**
Directors must avoid conflicts of interest - real or perceived.
The Good Samaritan Society sites in Stony Plain and Spruce Grove, Alberta have had a very supportive and long standing partnership with a local non-profit in that area – Light Up Your Life Society.

The Society has been in existence since 1992, and is administered entirely by volunteer Directors who work for the good of, and to benefit palliative and continuing care clients in the Tri-Community areas of Stony Plain, Spruce Grove and Parkland County in Alberta. Through the efforts of these tireless volunteers, they work to provide a coordinated effort for the purchase of enhanced equipment and special services. Such equipment and services are to be used by continuing care, palliative and hospice clients living in their homes or publicly funded facilities in the Tri-Community area.

Light Up Your Life has been supporting Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre, Good Samaritan George Henning Place and Good Samaritan Spruce Grove Centre with equipment and special needs grants for almost 20 years. In the last ten years alone, the Society has donated over $186,000! The most recent Light Up Your Life fundraising campaign in the fall of 2012 raised $86,552 in the community. Through this fundraising, generous grants were made to the sites in Stony Plain for over $39,000 to purchase Broda chairs, a new sound system and medication carts. Thank you to Light Up Your Life Society and all the volunteers who truly make a difference in the lives of our residents and clients!

This year Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village in Lethbridge hosted special Christmas suppers in each of the 7 cottages at the site. Residents and some of their family members enjoyed a wonderful celebration with dinner prepared by the kitchen staff and carolers who sang for the residents and family members. Staff enjoyed meeting all the families and sharing the festive season with them.

In the Village a Winter Social was held and everyone was invited to attend. The Interact Club from Winston Churchill High School caroled throughout the building and other performers provided entertainment for the party. The kitchen staff prepared a buffet supper with a number of wonderful appetizers and everyone enjoyed celebrating the Christmas season together. Good Samaritan Society Board Member Cliff Elle attended the celebrations and brought greetings from The Society. The winter theme of blue, silver and white with hanging snowflakes which the residents and a school group created together provided a wonderful setting!

GOOD SAMARITAN PARK MEADOWS VILLAGE

CHRISTMAS EVENT

A special Worship Service of Thanksgiving for the members of the former Grace Lutheran Church was held at Good Samaritan South Ridge Village, Medicine Hat, on September 23, 2012.

Rev. Dale Olsen was also present to share a message and read a letter of thanks written by The Good Samaritan Society’s (GSS) President and CEO, Carla Gregor. The Society’s Pastoral Care Endowment Fund received approximately $53,000.00 from the former Grace Lutheran Church. The service was very uplifting, with 72 people attending—including many of the members of the former Grace Lutheran Church and their pastor, Rev. Garth Wehrfritz-Hanson, who also has served as Chaplain at Good Samaritan South Ridge Village since 2002. A time of fellowship and refreshments followed the service.

Roy Woodward, member of the former Grace Lutheran Church, and former Board member of GSS, reflecting on Grace’s decision to make a donation to GSS, as well as commenting on the special Service of Thanksgiving for Grace Lutheran Church, had this to say:

“...It was what the congregation wanted to do; they were supportive of GSS pastoral care at South Ridge Village right from its inception. Close to 100% of Grace members became members of The Good Samaritan Society. The Grace Group continues to show their support by volunteering at South Ridge Village. The special Service of Thanksgiving for Grace Lutheran was very much appreciated by those Grace members who attended it.”

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

AT SOUTH RIDGE VILLAGE, MEDICINE HAT

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Light Up Your Life Society

LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE

WINTER 2013

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On October 18, 2012 Good Samaritan Heron Grove in Vernon had a service of commissioning and blessing for four new volunteers at the facility. Kathy Pinder, Irene Homeniuk, Pat Hodgins and Elena Walker are now doing regular visitations at our site as volunteer Pastoral Care visitors after having completed the 10 hour pastoral care training. Ongoing support and training is being provided by Chaplain Bill Pantzer through monthly meetings and supervision.

The four volunteers are definitely a blessing for Good Samaritan Heron Grove and its residents as they provide vital spiritual care to our residents who are in most need of support and visitation.

At the Commissioning Service the volunteers were presented with a pastoral care book of occasional services, scripture passages and prayers to help them in their visitations. Attendees included GSS board member Rev. Alfred Maier and Rev. Rick Schulz pastor of Peace Lutheran Church which sponsored the first training session.

Pastoral Care Services at Good Samaritan Heron Grove is looking to expand their visiting team and invites inquiries from people interested in taking the Volunteer Pastoral Care Visitor Training in the future.

The Good Samaritan Society Advent Calendar was our way to involve staff, volunteers and residents in the anticipation of Christmas and to reflect on the four themes of Advent. Boy, was it fun! We requested videos from each of the sites asking them to be mindful of the theme of each week. Videos came from all the sites and involved songs, reflective readings, music, ‘raps’ and a drama. These were all incorporated into the online Advent Calendar.

How did the Advent Calendar work? For each day of Advent staff was invited to click on the icon or phrase and the video of the day would play. The Advent Calendar also involved a chocolate contest in which participants could win a box of chocolates or the grand prize of a gift basket.

What were some of the videos? We had an 84 year old volunteer from Stony Plain Care Centre playing the piano and singing “Away in the Manger.” Good Samaritan Good Shepherd Home in Wetaskiwin acted out “The Night Before Christmas” with original words written by one of the staff. Residents in Good Samaritan Wexford Creek in Nanaimo read the Christmas story from the scriptures.

This year’s Advent calendar created a lot of excitement and made for a meaningful journey to Christmas. As someone commented: “It was like opening a present every day!” The wonder of it all was that the present received was the work of the staff and residents at their respective sites.
“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:36-40

Just over two years ago I was working as a Pastor in Surrey BC when I received a call to serve Trinity Lutheran Church in Pincher Creek. My first response was, “Where?” Once I looked at a map and got my bearings my second response was, “Where?” Once I received a call to serve Trinity Lutheran Church it was to become a part of a family here, consisting of both the staff and residents. The word of the day tends to be “community” to describe this situation but the word is too sterile to really understand the relationships I have become part of in my short time here. As staff we work to support each other, not only in work related matters, but also in real life situations. This allows us to give the best care possible to our amazing residents.

I believe it is too limiting to simply see myself as a Chaplain to others. For me, chaplaincy involves relationships that move in two directions. I experienced this in a wonderful way during the summer after I had reconstructive ankle surgery and was limited in mobility. Whether wheeling around in a wheelchair or hobbling about on crutches, I had opportunity for many conversations, joking about the unreliability of our physical bodies, and more serious commiseration over the times when pain and discomfort become too much. This was certainly mutual and caring conversation.

Together we move through life as God’s children. Whether celebrating birthdays or mourning a loss of a loved one none of us has to do it alone. Through parties and celebrations we can enjoy one another’s company and encourage those commemorating milestones. Through worship and memorial services we can sing praises to God and remember those people, now saints, whom we miss.

If you had told me two years ago that being a Chaplain would have been such an amazing part of my ministry I would have likely raised a doubtful eyebrow, more concerned about what kind of change this move was going to mean for my wife and new child. Now I cannot imagine my life without this new family God has blessed me with—a family driven by love and compassion.

The CHOICE Program at Good Samaritan Place in Edmonton successfully captured the theme of “Do unto others” while celebrating diversity by way of their “Spiritual Think Tank” Program. Clients themselves have taken a turn each week to talk about their faiths. Individuals came alive as they talked about their history, beliefs and customs. Week after week clients shared their faiths about Mormonism, Christianity, Catholicism, Jehovah Witness, Sikhism and Judaism, a new sense of meaningful living had been formed.

Many other contest submissions demonstrated that purposeful activities that contribute to the well-being of others is important to us at all stages of our lives.
The Hosanna Quilters group is a group of women who have been getting together for more than 35 years to laugh, build friendships, share joys and sorrows, but most importantly they have been getting together to fulfill needs within their community and around the world. This very special group of women make up to 300 quilts a year. They host two sales a year which raises money for both local charities and for Canadian Lutheran World Relief.

All the quilts that are made by this giving group are made from materials that have been donated by Hosanna congregation members and the community at large. A second group of women wanting to learn to quilt come together twice a month, in the evenings – they are called the Wannabees!!!!

This year, The Good Samaritan Society was blessed to be one of the recipients of Hosanna Quilters Group Christmas sale. Our Pastoral Care Endowment Fund received a cheque for $500 which was a welcome and much needed gift. We thank the ladies of the Hosanna Quilters Group for the hard work and dedication in making the world a better place.

Endowment Fund received a cheque for $500 which was a welcome and much needed gift. We thank the ladies of the Hosanna Quilters Group for the hard work and dedication in making the world a better place.


As a charity, The Good Samaritan Society depends on the support of our donors to help secure items not otherwise funded such as our beds and specialized equipment needed to care for our residents. The generosity of our donors help make this happen - thank you!

DONATIONS

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GIVING HEARTS AND BUSY HANDS AT WORK!
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In Memory Of Peter Dedda
Anna Eggert
Catherine Bratz
Evelyn MacAulay
Hans Buhmann
Harold Brown
Irene Dedda
Leo Robbins
Lynne Lynne
Mary M. Fallis
Pamac Investments Ltd.

In Memory Of Peter Moore
Chinh Pham

In Memory Of Peter R. Brougham
Beverley Lennox
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Elaine Dawson
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Judith Scott
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Mercedes Link
Ruth Allen
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Ladies Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion
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In Memory Of Richard Haag
A. R. McBain
Anonymous
Brenda Brusnyk
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Susan Smith

In Memory Of Richard Herrmann
Errol Caruthers
Len Herman
Martin Maschmeyer
Samis Funeral Chapel

In Memory Of Richard Kereluk
Bill Everts

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Patricia Merko
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In Memory Of Ron Groves
Ruth Groves

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Gillian M. Ames

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Albert Wedman

In Memory Of Rose Panylyk
Joyce Wedman

In Memory Of Roy J. Wilson
Colleen Wilson
Donald W. Storch
Roy Woodward

In Memory Of Roy Nelson
Frieda Pohl

In Memory Of Ruth Dahlin
Carol Leewu

In Memory Of Ruth Ford
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