The children at Young’s Town School receive precious gifts to keep them warm during the cold winter months in Edmonton. On October 1, 2014, Susie, Kamal and Lilly donated hundreds of new, hand-knitted, hats, scarves, and mittens. These three amazing women, who attend our Comprehensive Home Option for Integrated Care of the Elderly (CHOICE) Program, spent endless hours creating these wonderful gifts for the children during their spare time, at home and on the days they attend the program.

After the presentation, along with some of our staff, they read stories to approximately 100 children in their school library filling their Heads, Hands and Hearts with warmth and a sense of belonging. This school was chosen because of the high need they have for these types of donations.

Here are some responses from the children when they received their gifts!

- **Madison** - Gifts made me feel like the Happy Song!
- **Jesse** - Those ladies gave me excellent stuff!
- **Aime** - I felt excited! Was glad I got things to keep me warm!
- **Maya** - Super!
- **Sean** - It was like being a rock star like Michael Jackson!
- **Samy** - Was happy. Surprised to get my best colours!
- **Osa** - I am saving my scarf, hat and mitts until it gets really cold!

Susie learned to knit from her mom when she was 12 years old growing up in Steinbeck, Manitoba with 7 brothers. She knits the mitts and it takes her about 8 months to knit 50 pairs! She enjoys coming to the program to meet people and socialize.

Kamal was born in Kenya but lived most of her young life in England and came to Canada about 35 years ago. She knits the scarves and she likes to make them colorful for the children. It takes her about 10 days to finish 1 scarf! Kamal says the CHOICE Program has given her independence she never had before.

Lilly knits the toques and she says she has knit well over 230 of them. It takes her about 3 days to finish just one! Lilly says that the CHOICE Program is the “best thing that ever happened” to her. Her mom taught her to knit at a very young age. Lilly grew up in Barrhead and later moved to Edmonton. She also crochets and on Saturdays she can be found selling her creations such as, baby blankets, dish rags, tea towels and doillies at the farmer’s market in Capilano Mall in Edmonton.
The knitting group at the CHOICE Program started about 3 years ago and there were about 5 clients who took an interest in knitting. Susie, Kamal and Lilly choose to knit items that can be donated to the community. The program buys the yarn for the group however donations of yarn are always welcome and different options as to where the items can be donated and have donated.

Anne leads the knitting group at the CHOICE Program and has worked at The Good Samaritan Society for 13 years. She started at Mount Pleasant Care Centre in 2001 and then a few years later moved to CHOICE. When I asked Anne what she does at the program, she said, “we do shuffleboard, play hockey, volleyball, bongo ball and that is only a few of the active programs we do here. We bake and also make potato salad and, although I say it myself, it is the best potato salad and they love it! We have a secret recipe. We also do trivia, and we use an iPad a lot and play Sudoku and numerous games that keep one’s brains active. We are quite competitive in a lot of ways.”

She says that the best part of her job is working with the clients and seeing how much they enjoy the programs being offered. She also enjoys one on one time with them.

“I love my job and what I do because of the wonderful group of seniors I work with!”

More information regarding the CHOICE program can be found on our website at gss.org
I want to thank you all individually for the care and support you provide every day.

2. Attract and retain staff who are aligned and engaged
   • Maximize staff resources and talents
   • Promote a safe work environment
   • Develop and require safe work practices
   • Enhance leadership capacity at all levels of the organization
   • Embrace workplace diversity

3. Ensure diligent stewardship of our resources
   • Balance service levels, and client/family expectations, with available resources
   • Improve the quantity of face to face time for client care and resident support
   • Increase cash reserves to sustain the capital infrastructure
   • Use a business case model to begin and manage work
   • Develop a comprehensive accountability framework
   • Remain flexible, and able to adapt and respond to changes
   • Invest in technology to manage our business

4. Advocate for and provide quality faith-based services
   • Strengthen relationships among The Society, its members, church bodies and communities in which it serves
   • Demonstrate the value of quality faith-based services to industry and community
   • Increase pastoral care at sites through increased engagement of volunteers

5. Increase capacity for innovation, research and evaluation
   • Develop a set of holistic indicators – including financial and service delivery, to inform planning, delivery and reporting; so that the need for change, adaptation and termination of programs and services is understood and enabled
   • Use a set of holistic indicators to identify opportunities for continued improvement
   • Increase accountability and oversight to ensure quality care, quality accommodations and finding economies of scale
   • Align programs and services delivered with funding provided
   • Reduce reliance on government funding
   • Explore innovative funding opportunities

6. Initiate a new era of organizational growth and diversification to serve our mission
   • Work with stakeholders to identify opportunities for growth – remaining flexible in our model and able to adapt to emerging needs
   • Work with partners as appropriate
   • Engage with funders to develop a sustainable funding model to enhance our quality care and quality accommodations
   • Supportive of continued growth in complex/continuing care, assisted/supportive living and other specialized health and community care services
   • Establish a reputation as leaders in industry

You may be asking yourself how we can achieve all this in 5 years. I’m confident in our Operations team which is made up of highly skilled and competent senior leaders. All members of the Operations team have completed and signed Accountability Agreements as part of our Organizational Excellence Framework which outlines how they will contribute to the success of advancing areas of our strategic plan. These agreements are measurable and are reviewed on a quarterly basis to ensure that we are on track with achieving our directions and goals.

The Good Samaritan Society looks much different than it did a year ago and it is due to the hard work of all of our dedicated staff in our facilities and here at corporate office. I want to thank you all individually for the care and support you provide every day to our clients and residents, as this is what has made us a strong, mission driven, faith-based organization that is prepared to achieve incredible things for many years to come. The healthcare environment is an ever changing landscape and I’m confident that The Good Samaritan Society will be an industry leader in providing quality care and quality accommodations within an efficient and effective organizational structure.

Wishing you all God’s greatest blessings in the upcoming year.

Shawn Terlson, President & CEO
In 2013 local Pentictonite Eric Harry, was elected as President of the British Columbia Eagles, a service club that has been bettering the lives of Canadians for over 100 years.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles, an international non-profit organization, unites fraternally in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality, to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills, and by promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope.

There are 24 Aeries in BC, all working to assist those less fortunate within their communities. As one of the privileges bestowed upon the Provincial President, Eric was asked to choose a charity of his choice; a project that he could encourage the whole province to get behind and support during his 1 year term of office.

Eric had assisted his mom, Grace, who had Alzheimer’s disease, through her journey with the disease. During the latter stages of her illness she attended the Adult Day Program at Village by the Station in Penticton, BC, and eventually she came to live in one of the Village’s dementia cottages.

Eric was overwhelmed with the love and care provided to his mom, both at the Day Program and when she was in full time care. During her stay at the Village, Eric saw firsthand the struggles and difficulties that many residents and their families face, in dealing with losses and confusion associated with dementia.

For his charity of choice he wanted to make a difference, and ease the suffering for the dementia residents who live at the Village. Eric approached the staff and asked, “What piece of equipment could truly impact and improve quality of life for the folks that live here?” When it was explained that for a simple procedure to have their bladder scanned to detect urinary problems, someone with dementia had to be sent to the hospital, and suffer the stress and confusion and fear that going to a strange place created for them, he decided “we are going to try and get you a bladder scanner to have on site, and take away that panic and stress for these dear folks”.

The cost for the bladder scanner was $18,600 and Eric spent a year making this dream come true.

Throughout BC, in the past year, raffles, bingos, burger sales, meat draw and bottle drives were held. The response has been truly overwhelming! As Penticton care providers, we are so proud that other communities have come forward to help us.
THE GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY AND RESEARCH

The Good Samaritan Society is pleased to announce that we are now a member of the Institute for Continuing Care Education and Research (ICCER). ICCER is a collaborative network of post-secondary institutions (e.g. University of Alberta) and continuing care provider organizations. This collaborative exists to create synergies, resulting in leading edge research in continuing care, allowing for innovation and the implementation of best practices. Being part of ICCER positions The Good Samaritan Society to be part of ICCER’s strategic direction to foster continuing care research, improve practice and quality care and to inform continuing care policy. Visit the ICCER website at www.iccer.ca for more information.

Thank you Eric Harry and every single Eagle’s member in British Columbia who has helped make a remarkable difference in offering dignity and comfort to those who live at Village by the Station.

During the 2013/2014 campaign for The Eagles President’s Charity of Choice, funds have been received from:

- Vernon Aerie: $1,000
- Prince George Aerie: $1,000
- Rossland Aerie: $1,000
- Cranbrook Aerie: $1,050
- Vancouver Aerie: $1,000
- North Vancouver Aerie: $1,000
- Port Alberni Aerie: $1,000
- Parksville Aerie: $300
- Duncan Aerie: $250
- Victoria Aerie: $500
- Chemainus Aerie: $1,000
- Ladysmith Aerie: $1,000
- Nanaimo Aerie: $200
- Kamloops Aerie: $100
- Trail Aerie: $1,000
- Mainland Zone Conference $100
- Maple Ridge Aerie: $750
- Hope Aerie: $2,000
- Abbotsford Aerie: $885
- New Westminster Aerie: $1,000
- BC Provincial Aerie $4,665.55
AND from Penticton’s own Eagles Aerie $5,400.00! This brings the total to $26,220.55 that has been given to Village by the Station.

Eric Harry’s vision and hard work has not only enabled the facility to purchase their new bladder scanner, it has also provided them with the funds towards their ongoing fund raising project to buy new bath tubs for the dementia cottages.

Anti-psychotic use in long-term care has become a hot topic recently.

At The Good Samaritan Society we are meeting the provincial standards but looking to improve how anti-psychotic medications are used and, even more importantly, how we are providing care to our residents who sometimes exhibit behaviors that are challenging to us. At Christenson Village in Gibsons, BC they have participated in a provincial initiative with good success, and in Edmonton, AB, Southgate Care Centre was an early adopter site for the Alberta Health Services (AHS) initiative. Now we are working with a unit at the Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre, also in Edmonton, as part of a Canadian Foundations for Healthcare Improvement collaborative which has an emphasis on how we are going to spread this initiative to reduce the use of anti-psychotic medication to our other sites and sustain it.

The journey at Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre for reducing the inappropriate use of anti-psychotics in long term care began in September 2014. We all quickly realized that this was much more than simply discontinuing anti-psychotic medications! It was about changing our approach with our residents and building a knowledge base around dementia care needs in general.

Empowering and educating our staff was the first order of business. Staff meetings and discussion in ‘real time’ with staff, families and volunteers were held to explain the need for a reduction in these medications and what they, as staff, can do to make the lives of our residents even more meaningful. Staff quickly got ‘on board’ to start reflecting on the way they have been doing things and what they could be doing differently. Daily huddles were started, and continue to be held with staff to discuss different things such as resident and staff behaviours, and our feelings when we are at work.

October 7, 2014 was our ‘Kick Off’ party! Decorations, cake, an information board and conversation were had between families and staff and the response was very positive from all. Our goal of further educating families and getting them on board through this kick off was successful! The information board continues to be displayed at the entrance of the unit and is a great way for us to share our knowledge and spark conversation. In November we were able to highlight our work with our families as we shared in a webinar with the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement (CFHI) that was broadcast across the country.

We have brought the inappropriate anti-psychotic use to the attention of our staff, and their response is inspiring for all of us! Our staff is engaging with residents in a way they had not before, by organizing extra activities and engaging themselves in our Model of Care by being resident focused. Joy and laughter are quickly returning to the faces of both our staff and residents as they are reminded of why they are here doing the job they do.

Our role going forward is to spread this initiative to our 2 North unit and then to other sites at The Good Samaritan Society. Stay tuned for further updates as we move forward and continue to make a difference in the lives of our residents!
“Just let me get some barn-paint on and put my teeth in, and I’ll be right over!” says 93 year old Emily Wadge, when I call to remind her that worship starts in half an hour and the piano is waiting…

Funny thing is Emily still possesses her very own beautiful teeth, all of them still there! She tells me of using salt and baking soda as tooth paste. Looking at Emily’s smile, who needs Colgate?

She’s as feisty as ever, readily cracks a joke, all the while so very considerate.

“When I came to Mountainview, I did wonder what I could do – how I could contribute – but I bid my time and watched, until I asked you Chaplain, if I could help you? “I remember responding to Emily with “what can you do”? and was I ever delighted and surprised. Thanks to Emily, we now sing hymns where we sway, tap our feet and clap our hands.

Emily remembers as a big, good-looking guy, who was charged with murder. (The notes she shows me even has his signature). She reads the pencil-written cards and I hear a moving story of gratitude from this murderer who later was hung, according to Emily. From the notes I hear of Emily and her music as an “angel” who brought the gospel to this soon convicted man, whom she no longer was allowed to visit.

We speak of Jesus and how he spoke of those who visited him in prison: “What you do to the least of these, you do unto me…”

Emily is getting older, and feels the aged take its toll: “I am not remembering well any more, not really looking for things to do any more. I’m sitting in my chair and can readily fall asleep. And I don’t like it!”

Yet, we agree to take it a week at a time, trusting that next week she’ll feel up to playing and singing again…

“Angel” who brought the gospel to this murderer who later was hung, according to Emily. From the notes I hear of Emily and her music as an “angel” who brought the gospel to this soon convicted man, whom she no longer was allowed to visit.

In July 2014, Chaplains and Recreation Staff of Heron Grove in Vernon and Hillside Village in Salmon Arm spent a day together sharing resources and creating new ones for the wider Good Samaritan network of Chaplains and staff.

JOINT MISSION MONTH PLANNING:
Our first task was planning our Mission Month theme activities. The extra voices gathered, enhanced our enthusiasm, and sparked off new strategies for each of us to put into action at our own sites. This is a highly effective way of planning that benefits both sites with creative ideas and time effective planning.

HONOUR GUARD CEREMONY VIDEO:
In the afternoon we created a video demonstrating an Honour Guard Ceremony rehearsal, for the ongoing education of staff at Good Samaritan sites. The Honour Guard Ceremony happens as the funeral home arrives to transport a resident from the site one final time.

Taking a moment to pause and remember a resident together gives dignity and honour to the one who has died, and provides the staff an opportunity to give thanks for the life of that person they have come to know and love. As the funeral car arrives - staff, family, friends, and residents - are invited to gather in one of our public areas to offer brief words of remembrance and thanksgiving, stories of joy and struggle, and for the end of suffering and pain. This ritual also serves to support each other in strength, compassion, and hope.

At Heron Grove, many staff have expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to pause and say a formal goodbye to their beloved residents since most staff will be working and unable to attend outside Memorial or Celebration of Life services. Family members have been most appreciative that their loved ones have been cared for with such dignity, even beyond their last breath. A local funeral home member indicated that in his work, this is the most meaningful way for removing a body he has experienced. He wished all facilities had a similar service prior to the removal of a resident for the final time.

I am grateful that The Good Samaritan Society has mandated this meaningful service. It is now available in a simple, easy to follow procedure, with options for both Christian and non-denominational spiritual components. This unique piece of our ministry provides deep fulfillment and offers staff and families concrete ways to begin their formal grieving process with our support. Special thanks to Pleasant Valley Funeral Home in Vernon - for providing an attendant and funeral car for our filming debut.
The Good Samaritan Fund Development Department would like to recognize, and thank all our donors, sponsors and grant funders. We also would like to congratulate all the sites and programs for all the extra effort they are putting into fundraising for site initiatives. The extra effort put forth makes a huge difference in the lives of our residents through quality care and safety.

- Southgate Care Centre in Edmonton has completed the upgrade to all of the nourishments centres. The Family Nourishment Centres were funded through the proceeds of the 2013 Annual Spirit of Caring Golf Classic Tournament which totaled $83,770.19. They enhanced the service to the residents and families on each unit. They can be accessed 24 hours a day and are stocked with beverages, light snacks and coffee/tea.

- The Stony Plain Rotary Club donated $20,000 towards the Close to Home Capital Campaign. In recognition they received naming rights to the Family Dining Room which they have fittingly named the “Gathering Room.” The Gathering Room is available for residents and families to use for private and special occasions such as birthday celebrations. A total of $30,000 was donated from the Stony Plain Rotary Club towards the campaign.

- Vista Village - Pincher Creek successfully reached their fundraising goal of $83,293.77 towards the purchase of a new bus. A new bus will create comfort and safety for the residents and staff throughout their future travels. The purchase of this bus was made possible by the late Ernie Hahn.

We are forever grateful for all our grant funders and for our continuous donors for their generosity. With these funds it has allowed us to enhance the quality of life and services that we offer to the individuals in our care.

FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

Our Founder’s Day Celebration and Reaffirmation of Staff in September was well attended by staff and residents.

Along with our founding story, Chaplain Angela King shared a brief yet provocative reflection on the Mission Month theme, Leading With Spirit, and what it means to choose to commit to love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control at the beginning of each day. If successful, one gives thanks to God; if not, one seeks God’s grace.

This provocative reflection was followed by the Reaffirmation of Staff/Blessing of Hands which was deeply meaningful to all present. The Fruit of the Spirit Social including white cake, fresh fruit, and whipped cream then occurred, during which residents and staff were delighted to enter into the playful nature of the event by selecting specific fruits that represented a spiritual fruit they wanted more of in their lives.

- Love—strawberries
- Joy—kiwi
- Peace—pineapple
- Patience—cantaloupe
- Kindness—honeydew
- Goodness—watermelon
- Gentleness—banana
- Faithfulness—grapes
- Self-control—blueberries

Along with dedicated staff and volunteers who made the day such a wonderful success were two very special musicians, a husband and wife team, Irene and Walter Goerzen. These two people have given many hours of service and through their beautiful music, lifted the spirits of residents, staff and volunteers.
In the fall of 2014, Pastor Curtis Aguirre of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (ORLC) in Penticton and I, got together to talk about growing the relationship between his congregation and the community of Village by the Station. Once we started talking, it was clear that this relationship could be mutually beneficial! Pastor Curtis was interested in building a versatile pastoral care team whose members could make hospital visits or home visits to shut-ins, provide meaningful pastoral care encounters with those living with dementia as well as ministering to the dying and their loved ones within a congregation that is aging. I am always hopeful that new volunteer pastoral care visitors will come to love working with persons living with dementia as much as I do!

So we agreed to use our Volunteer Pastoral Care Visitor training workshop with the intention of creating a new pastoral care team at ORLC. Typically, our training workshop brings together people from many different denominations within a community which creates opportunities for dialogue between the local churches. This can be a creative, healing, and enlightening exercise in itself! As the workshop approached, I found myself becoming more excited about the training's capacity to deepen relationships within the group. And of course, worrying about all the things that could possibly go wrong!

Friday evening's presentation began with Rev. Terje Ness, Assistant Director of Mission Effectiveness, leading us in praise and worship, with his robust voice and guitar playing. Five women of the congregation had gathered, and Pastor Curtis joined us. Saturday dawned grey and rainy but the weather didn't dampen our spirits or eagerness for learning, laughing, and growing together. Early Saturday morning one of the participants reflected that, “Even though we’ve all known each other for years, we really don’t know each other that well at all.” Everyone concurrd. As we intentionally shared our stories of grief and loss, collective wisdom, and startling new insights into our own stories, we began to trust the process, allowing ourselves to respond to God's call to love our neighbor deeply, unconditionally. By the end of the second day, we were exhausted by our efforts to journey together. It was hard work! But my heart was also filled with deep gratitude for the women who attended the training—in their willingness to be vulnerable they have become wisdom figures, sources of hope and love, each with a unique and profound ability to soften the suffering of others.

A life of service may seem counter cultural in a world based on getting the best economic deal, but residents of Heron Grove sure understand that offering service, even in a spirit of fun and April foolery, brings great meaning, memories, and joy for all involved.

For April Fool's, the Heron Grove Site Manager, Lisa Kelly, and Recreation staff put out a playful plea for Assisted Living and Life Lease residents to volunteer to work in our kitchen—10 hr shifts, making meals of all kinds, cleanup, etc. Residents, good sports that they are, joined the fun, playfully signing up for duties such as cooking perogies and chili, dishwashing and sweeping floors at 2 am!

To continue the playfulness, Chaplain Sharilynn met with the entire good sport servant volunteers to welcome them to our “volunteer” team. They were presented with “uniforms” aprons, t-shirts & ID pins. The spunky volunteers were promised we were doubling their wages from last year, and continual doubling of wages every year, from this time forth. As you can see by the smiles, Heron Grove has no Fools on April 1 – just good sports with the best qualifications—a GREAT sense of humour! What fun! No fools here… just great team building between residents and staff.

Ps. One volunteer “reported for duty” in the kitchen, April 2 all decked out in his uniform and a HUGE SMILE!
This year something very special became a reality, something I have been wanting ever since moving to Linden View. A safe place, guarded from our harsh winds and partially shaded so residents can enjoy the outdoors by themselves or with friends and family to visit. We hope the staff might make use of it as well.

The pergola can be seen across the parking lot from our front doors. All done by volunteer efforts:

- Robin Hansen Construction, a contractor whose mother-in-law resides here
- Riverbend Rock Products, friends who supplied all the concrete
- John Donahue Excavating who supplied his backhoe services
- Boston Pizza for providing 6 extra-large pizzas for lunch
- Our kitchen staff for providing coffee
- Mom for providing cases of pop
- A group of volunteers who helped Robin with the concrete work before 10 more fantastic friends and volunteers came to help build the pergola, giving up 6 hours on a windy, cool and cloudy Saturday. They also helped clean up in the pouring rain happy to see the space they had helped create for our residents.

At this time I would also like to thank Paul Thibodeau, Council’s Treasurer and a resident’s husband, for volunteering his time doing all the unseen things like setting up tables for coffee, taking the coffee cart out after making sure everything was provided on it, picking up the pizzas, picking up all the thank you cards and writing the thank yous and delivering them all.

We’d also like to thank the Lion’s Club for taking on the financial end of making this a reality in the small window of time that we had before April, when Robin and his wife would be leaving on a family mission to do some carpentry work.

Also thank you to all our donors who took on the project and have made the items that will be needed in and around the pergola a possibility. The Knights of Columbus, The Taber Kiwanis Club, F. Miller Excavating, Taber Excavating, Summit Motors, The Noble family and Bonnie’s Vision.

This all represents the many faces of volunteering, which can make all things possible, big or small.

Thank you friends and volunteers who have made this a possibility. In these pictures it is not finished as of yet, the handrails on either side of the sidewalk leading up to it are still being made and provided by Eastend Iron and the landscaping to be done.

Another very successful Evening of Dessert Decadence was held at Heron Grove organized to celebrate Grandparents Day.

Proceeds from the event supported Heron Grove’s “Raise the Roof” campaign, to cover the second floor patio so that activities can be organized for residents outdoors during warm weather.

Thank you to all the committee members for taking the time to once again plan an amazing event, to all the community volunteers, everyone that donated silent auction prizes, and our residents.

A special thank you to Southward Medical Supplies as our title sponsor for the event, with special recognition to Paul Southward and his team.

A huge thank you to Sysco for donating all the desserts for the evening with special recognition to Lauren J. Comish, Account Executive Healthcare & Hospitality, for making it all happen.
OF STAFF

THE GENEROSITY

WEXFORD CREEK, NANAIMO

OF STAFF

BY GRAEME LOGAN, LPN

of fun who was, most of the time, happy to just “wear her head” when we were out and about. She has grown up this way, this is her. It is her normal!

My brave little girl, however, is fully aware that her appearance is different, and that as she gets older, more people stare and want to know “what’s wrong” with her. She is normally happy to explain to strangers all about Alopecia, but there are times she just wants to hide under her very extensive hat collection. At times like this, it becomes very obvious that she does wish to just blend in and be “normal”. It can be a bit heart breaking.

While we have managed to provide her with a couple of child sized wigs over the past few years, each of her ‘regular’ wigs also have drawbacks. They can be uncomfortable to wear, even painful at times, and sometimes do not stay in place.

My mother-in-law had found a company that makes a custom molded, full cranial prosthetic (wig) that creates a vacuum to the wearer’s head. Once it’s on, she could swim, climb trees, go dancing, jump on the trampoline… do all the things she does, and any kid does but without the fear and embarrassment of her wig falling off. These custom [wigs] cost a few thousand dollars, not the couple of hundred that her previous wigs have run.

Our family realized that we would need to fundraise for a vacuum wig and here is what we came up with. I would grow out my hair, long enough to make a decent, donateable ponytail and we’d hoped to gather pledges for doing it. At the end of this, the person that made the largest donation would get to cut the ponytail off! That was the plan. The way it all played out however, I would never have expected what actually happened.

We never made a big deal about my growing hair at first, just a Facebook group for close friends to monitor the growth. A few shaggy months in though, I started noticing some odd glances at work. I’m sure the bandanas I’d resorted to weren’t really helping with that. A few brave co-workers began to ask about my mid-life crisis, and if I was planning to get a haircut soon. The whole plan was never a secret, so I’d tell them what I was up to. The next thing I knew, a group of co-workers at Wexford Creek were approaching me with their plan to raise the needed funds for my little princess’s wig. Before I knew what was happening, there was a large, organized group of colleagues planning an event night, gathering community donations for auction, making advertisements, selling tickets, and running the show. It was amazing to see our Wexford Creek team, from all departments, working together to support one of their own.

At the tender age of only 10 months old, my daughter developed Alopecia which was triggered by a bad fever following a routine vaccine.

Following a flurry of appointments with medical experts, we were finally given her Alopecia diagnosis at just under 2 years of age. Fast forward a few years to when my little girl was turning 8. Our “little cue-ball” is a few years to when my little girl was under 2 years age. Fast forward a given her Alopecia diagnosis at just 10 months old, my daughter developed Alopecia which was triggered by a bad fever following a routine vaccine.

Following an event night, it was a huge success. Money was raised with event tickets, 50/50 draws, donations, and a huge silent auction. How much money? Almost to the penny, the amount we still owed to have the wig made, after paying the deposit: $3336.25. Because of the generosity and dedication of the Wexford Creek staff, Lynnea was able to have her comfortable, life altering new wig by early November, 2013 instead of waiting 2 years for my hair to grow out.

That however, brings us to the present. While the wig was paid for, and she’s been wearing it for 1½ years now, I did continue to grow my hair as per the original plan. Over the course of the 2 years since we began this, both Lynnea’s older, and younger sister have both donated their ponytails. Now, it’s finally time to cut mine. 14 inches of my own hair, combined with her sisters’ matching locks, are ready to be combined for her next wig. The current wig is still in great shape, and fitting well, but on the verge of turning 10, she is continuing to grow and will eventually require another one. Freedom Wigs, the company that makes the vacuum wigs, is willing to blend our family donations into her new one, when we are ready to have it made. March 28, 2015, 2 years and 1 week since my wife thought up this crazy scheme, another, smaller scale event was held at Wexford Creek. Through the continued generosity of the Wexford team, we now have a few hundred dollars to put towards the new one, when it is needed.
DONATIONS

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!

JANUARY 2014 - MARCH 31 2015

2014 Golf Tournament
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Alberta Elevating Devices Amusement Rides Safety Association
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“To you I lift up my eyes………” Psalm 123

As a faith-based charity, we are committed to providing Pastoral-Spiritual Care for all our residents and clients. As you can imagine, it takes a good deal of financial resources to fund our Chaplains. Our goal is to raise $50,000 through our Spring Appeal so we can continue to enhance the quality of life for our residents by offering Pastoral-Spiritual Care services.

We invite you to accompany us on this journey by prayerfully considering making a financial contribution to our Spring Appeal. Donation forms are available at front reception or you can donate online at www.gss.org.

Thank You!
Donate Today
Phone us at 780.431.3757 or 1.877.437.3600
HONOUR & MEMORIAL
JANUARY 2014 - MARCH 31 2015

In Honour of Edwin Jantz
Lillian & Eric Kadatz

In Honour of George Turcotte
Alberta Health Services - Calgary
Audrey Kulay
Jeff Fowler
Leonard Turcotte
Louise Kittle
Royal Bank of Canada
Victor Saly

In Honour of The Rother Family
Lina Cho

In Honour of Teddy and Betty Whipple's 40th Anniversary
Adeline A. Sorge
Betty A. Whipple
Clifford R. Elle
Dianne Popp
Frieda Bruns
Kyla Bruns
Shirley Kiffkai
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In Memory of Ada Bell
Maurieoe Manderville

In Memory of Adam Neumiller
Ronald F. Bender

In Memory of Agnes Angus
Jackie Angus
Lilly Kadatz

In Memory of Al Colby
Teresa Colby

In Memory of Alice Bitango
Don Aos
Juanita McKenzie

In Memory of Alice Kirkwood
Betty Henderson
Gordon Kirkwood
Isobel Duffy
Marlene Nicholson
Myrna G. Fox
Rob Fox

In Memory of Allison Cox
Gordon Catherwood

In Memory of Alvin Bailer
Eleanor Bailer
Frank Bailer
Maire Tarry

In Memory of Andrea Mcblain
Frieda Pohl

In Memory of Andrew Chamberlain
Barbara Chamberlain
Beverley A. Boren
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Carla Gregor
Dale Olsen
David Brodmann
Doug Elkow
Gary Mack
Howard Welch
Ian Stewart

In Memory of Anna
Alfreda Unsworth
Darlene McIntyre

In Memory of Anne Ferguson
Alfreda Unsworth
Darlene H. Macintyre
Dolores Francoeur
Peter Sundell

In Memory of Anne Howard
John J. Robertson

In Memory of Anne Masterson
Anta Kinasewicz
Bernie Masterson
Orest Kinasewicz
Ray Kinasewicz
Robert Kinasewicz
Robert Lazaruk
Ruth W. Smith

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Joanne G. Dusterbeck
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Lynn Didrikson
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