Why Did I Go on a Trip Around the World in 26 Days at the Age of 95?

by Kay Nash, Life Lease Resident

was with a travel group I have traveled with before.

In the first 24 hours, we had gone from Vernon to Toronto and flew to Delhi, a 12-hour flight. Day 2 we were up at 8 a.m. and spent a day in Dubai, which is a stunning city.

Although it is in the middle of the desert, they make the most of the areas with sustained low bushes and flower gardens. It is a very wealthy city or was when oil prices were high.

Subsequent days were full of activity. We took an elevator to the top of the tallest building in the world, located in Dubai. We had researched an approximate time to get on the high-speed elevators which took us up to the 124th floor!

The panoramic view of the city, desert, and ocean from the observation deck was amazing. We then got to go on a four wheeler ride in the sand dunes, which was quite thrilling! Our trip also included a 19-day cruise along the “Rotterdam” (a Holland-American Ship), and we had private guided tours at each port we stopped at. From Dubai to Singapore there were six ports in total. Then, flying to Beijing, we had the opportunity to walk part of the Great Wall of China (which is one of the seven wonders of the world). It extends for 6,000 kilometres and was built between the 7th and 8th centuries. Throughout our time in Beijing we rode in old fashioned rickshaws through narrow lanes in neighborhoods where wealthy families live. We also spent time in Tiananmen Square, which is crowded with vendors until the police arrive. Once the police vacate the area, the vendors quickly reopen.

Our trip home left at 4 p.m., an 11.5-hour flight. However, as we crossed the international date line, we arrived home on the same day. Tired, but with lots to reflect on!

Remember, it is never too late to follow your dreams!
GSS/GSC Branding Update
Why Do We Have Two Logos?

Good Samaritan Canada is related to The Good Samaritan Society. The two entities are economically dependent on one another, and they share a common Board of Directors and Executive Management team. Both The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada are not-for-profit caregiving organizations with the same Mission, Vision, and Values.

There is a logo for The Good Samaritan Society and a different one for Good Samaritan Canada. Our care homes and employees in British Columbia belong to Good Samaritan Canada, while our care homes and employees in Alberta belong to The Good Samaritan Society.

The most important thing to remember is that both make up our Good Samaritan family.

What's Inside?

Why Do We Have Two Logos? ............................ 2
Message from the President and CEO ................... 3
Spring 2017 Care Home Visits ............................ 4
Employee Spotlight - Marek Kaptur ..................... 5
Music & Memory Program ............................... 6
Millie, Our Artist-In-Residence .......................... 8
Our Board Chair Receives Honorary Doctor of Science Degree .... 9
Lauren - Leader of Tomorrow ........................... 10
Emergency Awareness Training .......................... 11
Grief Support Group .................................... 12
Stories From Real People Living With Dementia .. 13
Volunteer Appreciation Event ............................ 14
We ♥ Volunteers! .................................... 15
Senior’s Resource Fair .................................. 16
Honour Guard Ceremony ................................ 18
Servant Leadership ..................................... 19
Vulnerability Is the Birthplace of Love ................... 20
Tribute to Beverly Ann Boren (Bev) ..................... 22
Tribute to Eudora Thomson (Dora) ..................... 23
Fundraising Initiatives and Donations ................... 24
Mixing Up Some Fun ................................... 25
Celebrating Canada’s 150th Birthday with Blessings, Unveilings, and Fun! ..................... 26
Bicycle Built for Two ................................... 28
Painting Is Good for the Soul ............................ 30
Seniors’ Week .......................................... 32
Leadership Team Paint Night ............................ 33
Spring Fashion and Talent Show ........................ 34
Silverheads Claim Seniors Hockey Championship 35
There Is a Princess Among Us ............................ 36
Lighting Up Our Resident’s Lives ....................... 37
25th Annual Spirit of Caring Golf Classic ............... 38
Donations: December 1, 2016 - May 31, 2017 .......... 41
Honour and Memorium:
December 1, 2016 - May 31, 2017 ..................... 52
As we move through summer, I want to thank those volunteers and staff who ensure that our residents and clients get to enjoy the summer months to the fullest. Whether that is outdoor adventures or a cool treat, it is the little things that ensure everyone enjoys this season.

Summer is one of my favourite seasons, but I have also come to love spring for a very specific reason. Each spring, I have the opportunity to visit many of our care homes across Alberta and British Columbia. This time is my absolute favourite as I get to meet directly with our residents, their families, our volunteers, and our staff. Ensuring that I can attend our staff Long Service awards is something that is very important to me. Without our dedicated and caring staff, we would not be able to provide quality care and accommodations to those we are privileged to serve.

These visits also afford me the opportunity to hear directly from the people who are a part of the Good Samaritan family. We speak about the challenges that we face in healthcare, but also focus on the good things that are taking place in our organization. As you can see from the many photos on the next page, we also have a lot of fun and fellowship.

I would be remiss if I did not also take this time to thank the many volunteers that I had the pleasure of meeting. We are so fortunate to have over 2300 volunteers that help us deliver care to those in need or at risk. Without our wonderful volunteers, we would not be able to deliver many of the fun programs that residents and their families enjoy each day.

I truly want to thank all of the residents, family members, volunteers, and staff who took the time to speak with me. It is heartwarming when I am able to engage with everyone in the typical day-to-day activities and it shows me what inclusive and engaging communities we have.

Providing high quality care and comfort for our residents, clients, and their families continues to be our top priority. We want to guide each person through their journey with compassion and understanding. With that in mind, I hope you will enjoy the Summer 2017 edition of The Journey and all of the wonderful stories being shared.

God Bless,

Shawn Terlson
President and CEO
President and CEO
Spring 2017 Care Home Visits

“Our Residents do not live in our Workplace, we work in their Home...”
Employee Spotlight
Marek Kaptur

This year Marek Kaptur will be celebrating a milestone of 25 years with The Good Samaritan Society (GSS). His journey began back in 1991 when he and a friend were discussing her new place of work, which happened to be at GSS, and Marek was seeking work and thought, “Why not send a resume and see what happens?” He received a call for an interview, and as they say, the rest is history!

Marek embraced several changes in his life during that time. He had decided not to pursue his Law Degree after four years, left his native country of Poland, and moved to Canada searching for new and meaningful opportunities that would make him feel connected to others while doing meaningful work.

As Marek looks back on the 25 years in the Good Samaritan Program for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PPDD) he attributes his success on seeing value in others and that every moment in life is truly a learning opportunity to share with others. He looks back fondly on all his years, although he says he never imagined that 25 years would pass by so quickly. He expressed that he is thankful for the opportunity to influence his work atmosphere while being an active participant and advocate for the individuals we serve in PPDD.

As he laughs, he mentions that the historic Halloween Parties held at the Good Samaritan Kensington home will forever be a highlight for him. When I asked why, he said, “Halloween was not celebrated in Poland when I was growing up, and to see people being silly and dressing up in costumes was such a thrill.” As well, the many camping trips to Kananaskis and the cruise to Alaska with individuals will always remain a highlight for him.

Aside from his work, Marek has a very active lifestyle, and he is passionate about many things in life. One of them is running, and he is a seasoned marathon distance runner and has been in many competitions all over the world. He has shared many victories, however, one highlight was running in Dublin, Ireland with his mother riding her bike by his side. It is a joyful experience that he will always cherish.

Marek’s service to others goes beyond The Good Samaritan Society. In his travels running marathons, he has been involved in causes close to his heart. Over the years he has spent time raising money for the redevelopment and repair after the Tsunami in Thailand, Vietnam earthquake, and the volcano eruptions in Bali.

When I asked Marek about his travels around the world, I wanted to know what was the biggest difference between the many places he has visited. I was surprised and touched by his answer. He said, “Actually from what I saw I can tell you there were much more similarities than differences.” It is this type of response that truly speaks to the person Marek is, and we are very pleased that we have been a part of his journey.

On behalf of all your colleagues and the individuals you serve, thank you, and congratulations on your 25 years of service.

Marek was nominated by Connie Pyne, PPDD Program Manager. He will receive a GSS theme basket for being our Summer 2017 Employee Spotlight Nominee.
In 2016, Good Samaritan Mountainview Village in Kelowna, BC, was the very lucky recipient of two generous grants that have enabled us to implement the Good Samaritan Model of Care in new and meaningful ways.

The Music & Memory concept utilizes meaningful music to help individuals living with cognitive, physical, and sensory limitations to reconnect with a lost sense of identity, and to stay more present so they can interact with loved ones and their environment.

The program does this by developing personalized playlists which are loaded onto an iPod. Residents listen through a headset, earbuds, or a wireless speaker. The music triggers memories and emotions, which help to calm brain activity and enable the listener to focus on the present.

We received a grant through The Good Samaritan Society (GSS) NICE (New Initiatives in Care Excellence) award program, to be used for enhancements to dementia care. A portion of that is dedicated to the Music & Memory program. We also applied for and received a grant of $14,350.00 from Interior Savings Credit Union, through their Community Investment Fund.

The Interior Savings grant has purchased:
• iPods and headsets for all 90 complex care residents;
• a laptop to house the library of music;
• iTunes cards to buy specific songs; and
• extra iPods and headsets for use in palliative care.

The GSS grant:
• enabled six Good Samaritan Mountainview Village staff to take a 3-day training program through the Music & Memory organization, and become a Music & Memory certified care home;
• enabled us to buy closed storage units, to keep the iPods close to the residents;
• purchased extra headsets and splitters so that spouses and friends can listen to the music with their loved ones; and
• paid for staff time to do playlist research for residents who are not able to tell us what music is meaningful to them.

The two grants worked extremely well together, and launched us on an adventure!

GSS Model of Care
The Music & Memory project has enabled us to utilize the Good Samaritan Model of Care principles. Developing a truly personalized playlist can be quite a challenge, but this process creates an opportunity to build relationships by: reminiscing with spouses, adult children and friends of a resident around the time of
their life when certain music was meaningful; delving into their life stories, we are reminded that a resident used to be in a choir or play in a band.

Discussions with staff (therapy, care, chaplain, social work), volunteers, residents, family and friends creates opportunities for people to connect around shared passions and to celebrate their lives.

Self-determination is enhanced by honouring an individual’s history and choices; creating a playlist together is an excellent opportunity to engage, to do things “with” the person, rather than “do for” or “do to.”

Residents and their iPods

Marilynn was a resident who received palliative care for over a week, with out-of-town family always at her bedside. She was unable to speak or move. Her family kept the iPod, headset and wireless speaker in the room. Family members described Marilynn as being more alert when listening to her music, sometimes opening her eyes wider and appearing to be listening intensely and having a “half smile.” Being able to enjoy and share her favourite music was a gift to that resident and her family during her last days with us, and the family expressed that they were grateful for that.

Ellen cannot see and uses a wheelchair, so she is very dependent on others for sensory input and movement. A friend walked with her while Ellen listened to her choices; the friend described Ellen as being noticeably more talkative, content, and making jokes.

Roland lives in a dementia care unit and has limited mobility. He does not participate in group activities but loves to watch people go by and say hello. The first time he listened to his playlist, which contains familiar music from his church and some big band music, he smiled broadly and said “Sunday morning!” He can often be seen now in his usual seat in the dining room, very focused on what he is listening to, and naming bands like “Glen Miller.”

We are experimenting with playlists that include guided meditation for a resident experiencing a high level of anxiety; Bible stories for a resident who misses going out to church; music in other languages; and using CDs that include original music by a younger resident’s brother.

Volunteers

Implementing the various stages of Music & Memory has involved volunteers in new ways, and created opportunities for younger volunteers. Volunteers are downloading borrowed CDs, buying songs with iTunes, loading iPods, and sharing time with residents as they bring the iPod to them!

Thank you to everyone who has helped get this project off the ground! We could not have done it without you!
Millie, Our Artist-In-Residence

by Lana Ross, Site Manager

Millie Von Meerheimb has been a resident of Good Samaritan Vista Village in Pincher Creek, Alberta, since December 15, 2015, and is a joy to all of us.

Millie is an avid artist, picking up the hobby during the retirement years of her life. She woke up every morning and went to work painting. Her favourite medium is watercolour, and some of her many works are displayed in her suite and down the hallway of Good Samaritan Vista Village for everyone to enjoy.

She has many paintings of animals, with horses being her favourite.

As you can see from her photo, Millie radiates light and beauty to all around her. She cares about her caregivers as much as they care about her. Recently, Mille left a card for me letting me know that her caregiver is so unbelievably wonderful, in all regards. She truly feels that her caregiver does everything with all of her heart, no matter the task and that we as a care home are so lucky to have her. We could not agree more!

What made the card even more special is that the artwork on the front of it is a painting of a waterfall that Millie painted before coming to live with us.

Thank you, Millie, for helping making Good Samaritan Vista Village a beautiful and vibrant home.
The Good Samaritan Society/Good Samaritan Canada

Our Board Chair Receives Honourary Doctor of Science Degree

Dr. Besner with University of Alberta President, Dr. David Turpin; Senator, Sheri Somerville; and Chancellor Douglas Stollery

We are proud to announce that our Good Samaritan Board Chair, Dr. Jeanne Besner, received an honorary degree from the University of Alberta (U of A).

In a career spanning more than 40 years, U of A alumna Jeanne Besner excelled as a clinical nurse, researcher, educator, policy developer and health-care administrator. She developed new models of health-care delivery based on her vision and focus on finding the most effective match between patients and practitioners. As president of the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, she helped to influence the shift from diploma to degree as the standard for entry to practice for registered nurses. She received the Alberta Centennial Award in 2005, a U of A Alumni Honour Award in 2007, and was named to the Order of Canada in 2011.

Dr. Besner received an honorary doctor of science degree on June 12, 2017.

Congratulations!

Dr. Besner with the outgoing Dean of Nursing, Anita Molzahn

Dr. Besner with President and CEO, Shawn Terlson
The Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Volunteer Recognition Program is held annually in Lethbridge, AB, in conjunction with National Volunteer Week. This event recognizes youth between the ages of 5 and 24, who have made outstanding contributions to their community through volunteerism. By recognizing these exceptional volunteers, the “Leaders of Tomorrow” Awards inspires other youth to make a positive impact in their community.

On April 26th, Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village had 14 of our fantastic youth volunteers nominated for this distinction!

One in particular, Lauren Wesley, was awarded an excellence award. As well, she was also the recipient of a $1000 scholarship from the Lethbridge Rotary Club to pursue an education in nursing. We hope she will consider Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village when she’s done school.

Congratulations to Lauren and all of the volunteers who were recognized! We are so fortunate to have you all on our team!
Good Samaritan Program for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PPDD)

Emergency Awareness Training

Education Coordinator, Frank Laucher, led the training

Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PPDD) created Emergency Awareness Training for our most independent individuals that we serve. These individuals all have different support models that we have modified to meet their needs: they may live independently, spend time alone in the community, spend time alone in their shared living home, live with aging parents, and/or in any living situation complete their care with limited staff involvement.

The Emergency Awareness training is important because despite them demonstrating their ability to live with their varying levels of independence, it gives them the opportunity to refresh their skills and to discuss issues that they may be facing with someone outside of their direct support network in a learning environment.

We also feature additional items for learning based on their suggestions or events that have occurred within our services. Most recently we added a quick module on lumps and bumps on your body, which focused on reminding them to report changes in their body to a medical professional or someone they trust such as a staff or family member. Many of them are aging and as we all know with that comes changes to body and well-being; they may be seeing or experiencing something they have not before. We want to eliminate them feeling embarrassed, so they will talk to the right people about their body changes so we can assist them in getting the help they may need.

Offering the training on a quarterly basis allows this to be ongoing and responsive to the changing needs of those we serve while still keeping them as independent as possible.

Participants learned a lot during the one day course

Subscribe to The Good Samaritan Society YouTube channel
After completing a Pastoral Care Visitor Training Workshop recently, Dallas Hjorth, our Chaplain for Good Samaritan South Ridge Village, initiated a grief support group at the care home. This group is comprised of residents and pastoral care volunteers who desire to meet with each other along with the chaplain every second week to discuss their thoughts and feelings around the losses they experience as they grieve.

In a recent group meeting, a resident attended who had lost their spouse months ago. This resident was instructed by their spouse before the death “not to cry.” So for many months, this resident had not cried. In this grief support meeting, while we were discussing the thoughts and feelings we all experience as we grieve losses, this resident for the first time broke down and began crying. Our pastoral care volunteers and other residents gave support during the meeting and afterwards, while our volunteers were comforting this resident, the resident cried again. Later, the resident told the Chaplain how good it felt to open up and to be vulnerable with a group of people who care in a safe place. God’s fruit working through this workshop and our volunteers has been experienced, and healing is happening in the lives of those participating.
People of Dementia

Stories From Real People Living With Dementia

The Good Samaritan Society Seniors’ Clinic and CHOICE (Comprehensive Home Option of Integrated Care for the Elderly) programs are proud to be a part of a unique project that is helping to reduce the stigma and raise awareness for dementia.

People of Dementia is a dedicated team of physicians and researchers whose ambition is to provide a voice and empowerment to a marginalized group of persons in society, and those who support them.

According to their research, people living with dementia will continue to rapidly increase, along with the associate health care costs. People with Dementia hopes that by providing a voice to those who live with dementia and their support network, they can provide a compassionate platform for their viewers to learn more about the successes and challenges associated with this disease.

To read the stories from real people living with dementia, visit peopleofdementia.com.

There are 564,000 Canadians currently living with dementia; this number will rise to nearly a million by 2031.

- People of Dementia

Go the Distance. Be the Difference. Volunteer!

Providing service support to our clients and residents, volunteers play a major role in the quality of life provided to individuals in our care.

Check out gss.org/about/news to stay up-to-date with GSS
Volunteer Appreciation Event

On May 24, 2017, Good Samaritan Village by the Station in Penticton, BC, held its annual volunteer appreciation event, honouring the over 120 volunteers who make the Village such a special and warm home.

Volunteers were treated to a great afternoon honouring not only their volunteer contributions but also Canada’s 150th birthday. They enjoyed a photo booth, hockey game, curling, lacrosse, beaver toss, moose throw down, a snowshoe obstacle course, the lumberjack log nailing championship, beer pong, the red rose tea station, and a Tim Horton’s coffee booth.

The events included a lovely meal of Tourtiere (French Canadian meat pie) with salads, followed by ice cream with maple syrup and maple cookies. Special guests included (imitation) Justin Trudeau, Celine Dion, Stompin’ Tom, Anne Murray, Tommy Hunter, and Shania Twain. It was a great afternoon for the whole gang!
This remarkable lady is Emmeline Kleinsorge (born in 1937). She is a beloved resident and a registered volunteer at Good Samaritan Victoria Heights in New Westminster, BC. Her volunteer duties include delivering memos and assisting the new residents as they find their way around. Emme is upbeat (from the loud, happy laughter that trails her to the fancy coloured finger nails she enjoys having done), kind, and an amazing card player! The inspiration she brings to those around her is truly a blessing because even with her visual impairment, she focuses on her abilities rather than her disability.

Thank you, Emme, for being such a wonderful part of our Good Samaritan family!
Good Samaritan Hillside Village and Good Samaritan Pioneer Lodge, Salmon Arm, BC

Senior’s Resource Fair

The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada take part in many different “fairs” across Alberta and British Columbia. Pictured here is Vikki Marrs, Chaplain and West Martin-Patterson, Recreation Therapist who both work for Good Samaritan Hillside Village and Good Samaritan Pioneer Lodge in Salmon Arm, BC. Not only does this provide them with an opportunity to speak directly with seniors and their families as they consider their many options, but it also allows them to speak with potential volunteers. We are happy to report that this Seniors Resource Fair has led to three potential volunteers for the fall!

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit www.gss.org/volunteer.
FURRY, FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS...

WE WANT YOU!

If your furry pal is friendly, adaptable and healthy, s/he could be a wonderful addition to the lives of our elderly and disabled residents at The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada.

We are looking for individuals and their “best friends” to join our pet visiting program. Many of our residents are animal lovers and would love to have a regular visit from you and your dog or animal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PET THERAPY REQUIREMENTS, VISIT gss.org/volunteer OR EMAIL volunteerservices@gss.org
Losses affect us all, and when someone we love dies, we all grieve. The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada values community and the Honour Guard Ceremony, with the use of a lovingly hand-crafted “dignity quilt,” is an opportunity to enhance shared community as we embrace this experience together. Ensuring that a resident is reverently accompanied on this final stage of life’s journey, the Honour Guard allows staff to take a moment to offer thanks and praise for the resident’s life and for the time they spent with us. In the face of our collective sorrow and loss, we share treasured memories and offer prayers.

Once the resident’s body has been prepared to leave the building for the last time, they are covered with the Dignity Quilt, effectively hiding the harsh, black, zippered bag. For many of our residents, this practice of using a homemade quilt is a familiar one that they grew up with in a time when families used to care for their dead.

At Good Samaritan Good Shepherd Home in Wetaskiwin, Alberta, we give thanks for the Wetaskiwin Quilter’s Group, whose members generously donated time, energy, and talent to lovely create our first Honour Guard Dignity Quilt.

For everything there is a season
And a time for every matter under heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance;
For everything there is a season,
And a time for every matter under heaven.
- Ecclesiastes 3: selected verses
Mission Effectiveness

Servant Leadership

by Karen Wedman, Director of Mission Effectiveness

This year, The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada are focusing on the value of “Servant Leadership.”

Micah 6:8 states, “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Justice, mercy, and humbleness are key for servant leadership.

Some of the characteristics of a servant leader are found by the giving of oneself through listening and being a positive presence as well as having empathy for those you work with. Recognizing that all people have worth and are unique, leaders need to empower the gifts within each person they serve.

The value of Servant Leadership respects every employee and is designed so that leaders are just in the way they deal with people. They are fair and merciful to those who make mistakes. Through living out this belief, leaders are walking humbly with God.

Robert Greenleaf, who is considered to be the father of the Servant Leadership movement, defines Servant Leadership as, “A feeling that one wants to serve and then a conscious choice aspires us to lead.”

In many ways, Servant Leadership is counter-cultural. Society says it is about “Me,” what I want, where I am going. It is about power and looking out for oneself.

Servant Leadership is about doing what is right, showing love and mercy towards others and walking humbly with God. It is not about what I do but rather how can I inspire and support others. It is about mercy and forgiving others to continue to help them to grow, knowing that we cannot do this on our own. We need to look to God who is bigger than ourselves and WHO IS mercy and righteousness.

Empathetic leaders are genuine and authentic. They acknowledge their struggles as well as their strengths and as they lead they share their true selves with others. This vulnerability can come at a cost, but the benefit of being real allows one to say, “I am not perfect either.” God’s spirit can change weakness into strength usually through relationships with other people.

As leaders accept their weaknesses, they can empower the gifts of others to help. Empowering people to live out their calling in the work they perform strengthens both the leader and the employee, and the work is done by “We” rather than “I.” Through this, strong lasting relationships are built on the power of vulnerability.

Edward D. Hess, Professor of Business Administration at the University of Virginia, Darden School of Business says “Servant leaders do not think they are better than the people they lead. They treat people with dignity, acknowledging the contribution of others. They understand that their behaviour either builds trust or destroys it and without trust one cannot generally achieve success.”

Great leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa served the people before they ever became leaders. Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” This losing of oneself in service transforms work from a job to a calling that promotes faith, hope, and love for all people.

In our organization, we endeavour to live out the value of Servant Leadership. We acknowledge that everyone can be a servant leader and together we can nurture a culture of Christian hospitality – to love each other.

“Good leaders must first become good servants.”
- Robert Greenleaf, 1904

Tweet GSS on Twitter @goodsamaritanCA
Vulnerability Is the Birthplace of Love

by Chaplain Andrew Craig

“Vulnerability is the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, courage, empathy, and creativity. It is the source of hope, empathy, accountability, and authenticity. If we want greater clarity in our purpose or deeper and more meaningful spiritual lives, vulnerability is the path.”

— Dr. Brené Brown

Let’s try a little experiment. Think about something in your life that makes you uncomfortable. Maybe it is a memory of something you did where you are not proud of how you acted. Heck, maybe you are inexplicably afraid of balloons but you have never told anyone because you thought they would make fun of you for being silly. Take a moment, think about the feelings that are there. It may be fear, shame, guilt, any number of things. Go ahead; I will wait... Now think about sharing that thing with someone you have just met. It might be a little scary to consider that. The idea of being that vulnerable can be a whole other level of discomfort.

Most people are not built to be OK with being vulnerable. Showing weakness and being open goes against what most of us are accustomed to. When’s the last time you saw a movie where the big burly hero instead of fighting declared, “I never really felt that close to my Dad!” He breaks down and his opponent wells up, and they hug it out. What about a romantic TV series in which the main characters simply state how they are feeling, their history and their fears and just support each other? Grey’s Anatomy would have lasted half a season! The truth is we are surrounded by the message that vulnerability is dangerous and scary.

Now imagine you have just gotten back from an appointment with your Doctor and she tells you that it is time to make some changes, that it is not safe to be at home anymore. You have reached a point where you need people to care for you, maybe you agree with that, maybe you do not. It means saying goodbye to your home, possibly giving up your driver’s license, and moving to a place where people are looking after you. Inside you know that this is important and even vital and yet it is hard to accept it. That only scratches the surface of the vulnerabilities many seniors face as they transition into the care of organizations like The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada.

Allow me to hit you up with some truth though. It takes tremendous strength and courage to be vulnerable. It takes tremendous strength and courage to accept change. Dr. Brené Brown is a research professor at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work. She has spent the past thirteen years studying vulnerability, courage, worthiness, and shame. Her research has found that those who embrace vulnerability live fuller and more genuine lives and find a greater sense of purpose than those who hide from their shame and fear. To me, this means that I regularly spend time with people who are incredibly brave, courageous, and inspiring. They inspire me to be vulnerable and truthful.
I believe that one of the ways the values of The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada (Healthy Relationships, Hospitable Environments, and Servant Leadership) are brought forth is when residents, staff and volunteers admit that we all want to be loved, to belong, and to have joy in our lives.

I took a lunch break while I was writing this, I left the building briefly, and when I came back, I saw a dear lady I have gotten to know pretty well coming out to check out the post-storm conditions. I asked, as most of us do, “How are you doing?” She replied, “Not great; life is not going the way I would like it to right now.” So we sat, and we talked. I did not solve her problem; she did not need me to. I sat and listened, and she knew it was not the end of the world, nor was she lost in despair, it was just kind of a lousy day. I find it fascinating that in everyday life it is hard to find that kind of honesty and yet in my experience at Good Samaritan Vista Village here in Pincher Creek that kind of truthfulness and vulnerability is a constant presence. It is invigorating and inspiring to be around, not to mention contagious.

If you support The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada but have been hesitant to volunteer, I encourage you to give it a shot. Your efforts may help someone feel like they belong. Who knows you may make someone feel joy like they have not known in a while. It might even be you!

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### Seeking Member for Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of The Good Samaritan Society is currently seeking nominees to join a diverse group of members who collaboratively contribute to the well-being and sustainability of the organization. The Board of Directors is a governance Board of twelve (12) Directors and as such defines the organization’s mission and sets its strategic directions and priorities but delegates responsibility for staff and the day-to-day management of activities to the President and CEO.

The Board meets regularly to:

- Establish policy;
- Exercise its fiduciary responsibilities, including investment strategies;
- Monitor, advise and support the achievements of the strategic plan through the CEO Contribution Agreement; and
- Focus on visioning for the future in an ever-changing healthcare and service delivery environment.

**Interested candidates will have:**

- Demonstrated ability to communicate the mission, vision, values and objectives of The Good Samaritan Society to our partners, stakeholders, and broader community;
- Willingness to take an active participatory role in The Good Samaritan Society Board meetings, committees and projects;
- Previous board experience, in particular on not-for-profit governance boards;
- Specialized skills and experience relating to finance, project development, legal, communications, fund development, labour relations, information management and/or government relations; and
- Demonstrated ability to understand and contribute to business processes, including financial and strategic planning in a meaningful, constructive way.

**Current Openings:**

- Central British Columbia – one position for a one (1) year term with opportunity for reappointment for a second and third three (3) year term.

For further information on The Good Samaritan Society visit our website at [www.gss.org](http://www.gss.org). To receive a nominee package please contact Paola Gatica at pegatica@gss.org.
In October 2016, we lost Bev Boren, a dear friend and supporter of The Good Samaritan Society. Her father, Bert Boren, served on the Board of Directors of The Good Samaritan Society for over 40 years and Bev continued his tradition by serving as a board member and volunteer as well. Bev also supported the Society’s Spirit of Caring Golf Classic by annually sponsoring a hole in memory of her father.

Bev’s ongoing devotion to our community was apparent through her philanthropic and spiritual endeavours showing time and time again her commitment to living the parable of The Good Samaritan. She truly lived each day as a good neighbour to all those around her and left a significant gift to The Good Samaritan Society’s Pastoral Care Endowment Fund as part of her legacy.

Everyone at The Good Samaritan Society is sincerely grateful for the life-long contributions of both Bert and Bev Boren, and we were deeply honoured to receive a generous bequest from her. This recent donation from the Bev Boren Estate is a significant investment in what we hold dear and what sets The Good Samaritan Society apart from other organizations in the care industry: our commitment to provide spiritual care to the residents we serve. Thank you, Bev!

The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada are registered charities that are focused on providing the best support for those entrusted to our care. We remain accountable to our residents, clients, their families and our donors by directing 95% of donations to our residents’ comfort and care, and we believe that together we can do more.

If you would like more information on how you too can provide a lasting legacy by leaving a bequest in your will, please contact Shannon, our Fund Development Coordinator at 780-431-3814.
Good Samaritan Prairie Ridge, Raymond, AB
Tribute to Eudora Thomson (Dora)

The staff and residents of Good Samaritan Prairie Ridge would like to pay tribute to the oldest resident who lived here.

Dora was born on September 23, 1914, in Magrath, Alberta. She was the third child out of the eight kids in her family. She grew up on the family farm and learned to work very hard alongside her family, and she became a perfectionist from watching her mother.

During her school years, Dora played Basketball on the girl's team for her school. Her position on the basketball team was center.

When Dora was married, she moved to Raymond, Alberta, and raised two children. She has seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Some of her passions in life were growing a vegetable garden and beautiful flowers, embroidery work, and researching her family history to learn about her ancestors. Up into her 80's, she canned many jars of food. Baking sweet things that would make you fat was one of her favourite things to do. She was famous for making Black Licorice Popcorn balls at Halloween time to hand out to all the ghosts and goblins.

Making sure everyone else around her was well taken care of was very evident in the career she chose. Dora was a care giver at the Raymond Care Center for 28 years.

All throughout her life, she served others without ever complaining. She was always concerned about others well-being before her own, which was evident in her faith as a Christian serving in many capacities in her congregation as a member of the Latter-Day Saints (LDS) church.

After Dora retired at the age of 65, she received her driver's license for the very first time. She also purchased a custom ordered 1973 Chevelle Malibu car which was her pride and joy.

Dora moved into Good Samaritan Prairie Ridge in Raymond on January 5, 2012. She quickly took over making sure everyone was doing all right. She would smile at everyone and ask them how they were doing, and would always make sure she complimented the person she was visiting.

While living at Good Samaritan Prairie Ridge, Dora got sick and needed a pacemaker. When she had a checkup, she asked the doctor, “How long will this pacemaker last?” He stated 5 to 7 years. Her response was, “I have to last for another five years!”

Everyone at Good Samaritan Prairie Ridge, whether you were a resident or a staff member, loved Dora. She was our oldest resident at 102 years of age.

It was an honour to serve her and to get to know her. She will forever be in our hearts.

We will miss our little Eudora Thomson who made the room light up with her smile whenever she came into a room.

Love,
Good Samaritan Prairie Ridge residents & staff
The staff and volunteers at our cares homes and programs throughout Alberta and British Columbia have been busily planning activities and fundraisers to engage residents and their families. It is a big job because our donors and supporters need to understand how much fundraising and donations help The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada to provide resident comforts that make everyone feel at home.

We are thankful for our supporters who Nurtured the Spirit and responded to our Spring Appeal in support of our Pastoral Care Endowment Fund. With your help, we can continue to provide spiritual and pastoral care to our residents through our chaplains, volunteers, and programming.

For the second consecutive year, Tides Canada Foundation committed to our vision of growing in strength, excellence and creativity in caring for others by donating $4500 through their Deer Crossing the Art Farm fund. Their donation goes to support The Imagination Network at Good Samaritan Christenson Village in Gibsons, BC, as part of the Creative Care Recreation Program.

Good Samaritan Pembina Village in Evansburg, AB, held its 1st Annual Tradeshow and Fundraiser that raised nearly $1000 towards exercise equipment, wheelchair umbrellas, and other pieces of equipment that will have a huge impact on resident mobility and independence.

We are truly honoured when Good Samaritans choose to include our charitable organization in their estates as a legacy and testament of their goodwill. In the past six months we have received estate donations from Adam Ernst Hahn directed to Good Samaritan Vista Village in Pincher Creek, AB, and from Katie Sontag, directed to Good Samaritan Christenson Village in Gibsons, BC. We cannot express enough how grateful we are for their gifts.

As a longtime partner and valued supporter of The Good Samaritan Society, The Edmonton Community Foundation continues to connect like-minded philanthropists with our mission of extending Christian hospitality through a continuum of care to those in need or at risk, regardless of race or religious belief. With their support, we received donations from the A.I.R.S Fund directed to Good Samaritan Mill Woods Centre in Edmonton, AB and from the Milton Bablitz Memorial Fund directed to Good Samaritan Good Shepherd Care Home in Wetaskiwin, AB.

In Hinton, AB, Good Samaritan Mountain View Centre raised money for their recreation program by raffling off a round of golf complete with food and drinks. They successfully sold over 90 per cent of the tickets!

Finally, Krista Dutot, Program Manager for Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PPDD), and I accepted a grant totalling $6,000 from Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees Charitable Donation Fund for a ramp at out Westaway group home located in Edmonton, AB, that will increase accessibility for the individuals who live there.

Thank you to all of our supports! With your support and donations, it is possible for us to deliver to best, essential, faith-based care and accommodations.
Good Samaritan Mountain View Centre, Hinton, AB

Mixing Up Some Fun

We’re so thankful to be a part of wonderful communities that come together to make our residents days a little brighter.

The Giggles & Scribbles Daycare in Hinton, AB, often visit Good Samaritan Mountain View Centre to enjoy fun activities. Pictured here, the kids and residents enjoying making pancakes together.

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Good Samaritan Mountainview Village, Kelowna, BC

Celebrating Canada’s 150th Birthday with Blessings, Unveilings, and Fun!

Tree planting and blessing
Good Samaritan Mountainview Village, Kelowna had a fun and energizing day when President and CEO, Shawn Terlson, came to visit on May 10, 2017.

In honour of Canada’s 150th birthday, Assisted Living residents purchased a Northwoods Maple tree and had a bench built to create an enhanced ‘sacred gathering space’ where residents were encouraged to nurture their community ties. The tree was planted by our President and CEO, Shawn Terlson, President of Resident Council, Grant Smith, and Site Manager, Neal Shelton-Green. Chaplain Sharilynn Upsdell provided a blessing for the tree, bench, and the community.

All the earth is God’s and praises God with its very being.

We dedicate this tree and bench in honour of Canada’s 150th Anniversary Year.

We celebrate the great diversity in this country and the diversity of folks in Good Samaritan Mountainview Village.

May this tree and bench be a blessing to this site providing a sacred space under its sheltering limbs. A place to welcome and nurture community. A place of harmony, a place of peace.

May those who live and work in this place care for this area and this tree so that it will grow in strength and reputation as a safe and cherished place for the whole community of Good Samaritan Mountainview Village.

In the name of the One who came to bring abundant life, we pray. Amen.
Canada 150 celebrations continued with a courtyard BBQ and special “Canada Flag” dessert shared with residents, staff and visitors.

Resident Logo Project
Assisted Living Resident Debbie Martin brought to fruition a long-time dream of enhancing the common living areas with her creativity. Along with Life Lease resident Mary Honing, the two worked for a year hand-felting a beautiful banner of the Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada logo to adorn the walls of Good Samaritan Mountainview Village. All were delighted to see it unveiled on this special celebration day.

Duet Bike Demo
Moments later, Debbie was a willing volunteer as President and CEO Shawn Terlson showcased servant leadership while being a good sport by demonstrating how a DUET-Bike works. Good Samaritan Mountainview Village is raising funds to purchase our own duet-bike and we are grateful to Good Samaritan Heron Grove for allowing them to borrow their bike for the week to be able to show families, residents and staff this wonderful innovative way to engage residents and volunteers.

End of Life Lamp & Bible Dedication
A moment of gentle pause was taken amid the celebrations for a dedication of the End of Life Lamp (lit when a resident is in their final days or hours of life) and a Bible placed for times of spiritual reflection.

Hawaiian Celebration tops off the Day
Following the ceremonies, residents in Complex Care enjoyed the festivities with Hawaiian Music and pineapple sundaes. A fun day was had by all.

Staff Long Service Awards were presented by our President and CEO to twenty of our staff who have served with Good Samaritan Canada for the past five, ten, or more years. We are grateful for their long service and deep commitment to compassionate care.
A few months ago while flipping through a seniors supply magazine the recreation therapy staff at Good Samaritan Place CHOICE (Comprehensive Home Option of Integrated Care for the Elderly) Program noticed a three-wheeled bike for purchase. Knowing that they had raised money at some bake sales and had donation money in the budget, they thought how wonderful it would be for the CHOICE clients to feel the wind blow through their hair once again while riding a bike.

On June 1, 2017, the bike arrived and since that day many clients have ridden the bike with the assistance from the recreation therapy staff.

Staff have seen a transformation within the clients as each day a few new clients try out the bike.

Ferida H. said, “I cannot believe that I am riding this bike. For me, I have had many challenges, but this gives me the feeling of freedom.”

“It has been years since I have ridden a bike and never one like this,” expressed Barb V. as she rode down the street.

Many clients with physical and psychological challenges have said they could not ride the bike, but with encouragement from their peers and the CHOICE staff they have gotten on the bike and overcome their limitations.

The goal for this summer is to have all 90 clients and CHOICE staff ride the bike at least once and to ride 6,521 km which equals riding across Canada for Canada’s 150th celebration.
There is no charge for this event but free will offerings will be accepted. All proceeds will be directed towards the Pastoral Care Endowment Fund.
Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre, Edmonton, AB

Painting Is Good for the Soul

The Sabbath School class at Edmonton South Seventh-Day Adventist Church was inspired by a lesson on community service to reach out to their community. The group contributed their individual ideas and areas of expertise; using visual art was just one of many. Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre has 200 beds for residents with physical limitations, dementia and Alzheimer’s, many who do not have the chance to get outside because of physical restrictions. Ultimately they wanted to spread joy through painting ceiling tiles to help create a more home-like atmosphere and stimulate the minds of the residents; to bring a little of the outside in.

So far they have had three successful paint nights with their last one being on May 3, 2017. Everyone felt blessed to put paint to tile in order to provide art for the residents to enjoy.

Thank you to the members of the Edmonton South Seventh-Day Adventist Church for your beautiful gifts.
The Journey

Subscribe to The Good Samaritan Society YouTube channel
Seniors’ Week takes place in June and is an opportunity for us to take the time to celebrate the special senior citizens in our lives and our Good Samaritan homes.

Good Samaritan Pembina Village had a fantastic Seniors’ Week filled with guitar music, a concert from the local Kindergarten class, bag piping, and ice cream sundaes. On June 8, the Pembina Village Society stopped by to cook a delicious pancake breakfast for the residents. They do not usually get fried eggs for breakfast with their sausages and pancakes, so they were thrilled and couldn’t thank the Pembina Village Society enough. They LOVED it!

Thank you to all of the special guests who stopped by to visit with the residents. As well, thank you to the local businesses who donated gifts for fun draws. Together, the community of Evansburg, Alberta, ensured our residents had an exceptional Seniors’ Week!
Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre, Edmonton, AB

Leadership Team Paint Night

The leadership team at Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre decided to follow the example set by the Edmonton South Seventh-Day Adventist Church whose members donated several beautiful painted ceiling tiles. The staff appreciated these donations so much that they decided to contribute some artwork of their own. The team enjoyed this opportunity to give to the residents in a fresh, new way.

Thank you to the Edmonton South Seventh-Day Adventist Church for the inspiration!

The staff enjoyed painting beautiful sunset scenes for the residents to enjoy.
Residents, family members and staff enjoyed a fun spring time fashion and talent show at Good Samaritan Victoria Heights. Staff and volunteers dressed up in outfits from different eras, and treated the audience to a fun filled day that included dancing, singing and music!
Enthusiasm was high and concentration intense as teams from six retirement and care facilities vied for the coveted Shuswap Seniors Hockey League Championship.

Competing in the chair hockey tournament were the Hillside Village Silverheads, the Pioneer Lodge Pistols, the Harmony Haven Heroes, the Senior’s Outreach Hotshots, the Shuswap Lodge Shooters and the Bastion Blazers.

Following a round-robin format, the final came down to the Blazers facing the Silverheads.

After the first period, the Silverheads were running away with the game, leading 4 – 0 but, in an exciting comeback, the Blazers tied it up at the end of the second. Fans and players alike were on the edge of their seats. Pompoms were shaking, noise makers bleating, coaches high-fiving their players.

The comeback was not to last, however, as the Silverheads forged ahead once again, winning 11-7.

Silverheads’ coach West Martin-Patterson had this to say following the game: “This wraps up a solid, all-around season where the Silverheads only lost one game all season to the Bastion Blazers but defeated that very same team 11-7 in the final gold medal game...

The Silverheads, backed by outstanding goaltending, defence, offence and coaching were simply too strong this season with no obvious weaknesses. There was a lot of talk during these playoffs of a potential hockey dynasty, but our players were much too focused on the task at hand to worry about that!”

Over at the bronze medal game, the Senior’s Outreach Hotshots were victorious over the Shuswap Lodge Shooters.

Blazer Sonya Makayev, who played in the gold medal game, said she loves hockey.

“I’ve got boys that play hockey, so I have to learn,” she smiled.

Aileen Bland of the Shooters, who scored her share of goals during the tournament, said she was really enjoying the day.

Asked the secret of her skill, she didn’t hesitate: “Sheer luck!”
There is no denying that Janine Donovan is a princess among us; from her fashion sense to her keen sense of style. If you ever meet Janine, she even introduces herself as “princess.”

Janine never misses the opportunity to make a grand entrance wherever she goes. You feel her presence immediately. You will have never met anyone who can capture your heart as much as she does.

Janine began speaking about her 50th birthday party the day after she celebrated her 49th birthday. She dreamed of having a princess party to celebrate her significant 50th birthday milestone. Janine also adores “Prince,” who is a singer-songwriter of the 70’s-80’s. From that day onward her family and our staff began to plan for this special event. Mandie (Team Coordinator at Good Samaritan Dunvegan Home) took the lead in the planning along with her friends and family. Mandie, with her trusty helper Debbie White from Good Samaritan Head Office, had every detail worked out from the purple raindrops to the sparkles and continuous dress fittings for everyone. There was an endless amount of glam to be created!

Within months of planning it was clear that this party was going to be the PPDD event of the year! The hard work behind the scenes by Janine’s family and GSS support workers helped make her birthday party a magical and memorable day.

On the day of the event, Janine arrived and emerged out of the Limousine looking every bit the princess she imagined she would be and danced the night away under the purple rain. Not only did Janine have the “princess” experience, but all of her family, friends, and support staff who attended did as well.
Thank you to Light Up Your Life Tri-Community Palliative/Hospice Care Society for their generous donation of $63,795.05 to enhance the comfort of our residents at Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre, Good Samaritan George Hennig Place, and Good Samaritan Spruce Grove Centre. These funds will be used to purchase electric beds and mattresses, ceiling lifts, over bed tables, and much more needed equipment. Over the years Light up Your Life has provided more than $550,000 in support!
The Good Samaritan Society

25th Annual Spirit of Caring Golf Classic


On Thursday, June 8, 2017, The Good Samaritan Society along with our title sponsor Servus Credit Union held our 25th Annual Servus Spirit of Caring Golf Classic with very successful results! 195 golfers gathered for a great day of fellowship, fun, and beautiful weather. We are thrilled to announce that together, and with your support, we have managed to raise over $150,000!

As a leading faith-based, not-for-profit registered charity in Western Canada, we are committed to providing quality accommodations, health and community care services and programs to aging individuals in need. For 25 years, sponsors and donors, through this tournament, have helped change thousands of lives for the better. We pride ourselves on providing the highest level of care and comfort for our residents and their families, and with their continued support, we can do even more.

This year, 100% of the proceeds from the Golf Classic will go towards several different initiatives at our care homes, including:

- **A Creative Care Recreation Program.** The last thing we want for our residents is for them to be bored while living in our care homes. The Creative Care Program is a project that will assess, explore and define the most effective methods for integrating creative engagement into our existing care model. This program will focus on shifting the therapeutic recreation model from one where residents are recipients of programming to one in which they are active participants, and sometimes creators of, the programming. This shift has a positive impact on the residents and the staff and volunteers who surround them.

- **Rejoyce Rehabilitation Joysticks.** A Rejoyce is a gaming system that provides intensive exercise through the form of a computer game. This initiative will help our residents physically, emotionally, and cognitively. They will gain strength and functionality, which will decrease their pain and increase their independence, sense of well-being, and a sense of purpose.

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Karina LeBlanc, our guest motivational speaker, strikes a pose with golfers

Shawn Terlson, President and CEO, with the first place team
A music therapy program. With a growing dementia population in our care homes, we know that the love of music is one of the last memories that a person retains. The response to music therapy for those living with dementia is incredible; verbal and physical aggression decreases and moods improve. Music therapy will help our residents experience a sense of familiarity and comfort during a time when much of that is lost.

Words cannot express our gratitude for your contributions and participation, which help make this major fundraiser a huge success to enhance the lives of those in need!

Thank you again for sharing your Spirit of Caring with us.

We look forward to seeing you out on the course again next year on Thursday, June 7, 2018!
Thank You to Our 2017 Sponsors!

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As a charity, The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada depend 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!

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51
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