



the URNEY Winter 2018

Good Samaritan Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PPDD)

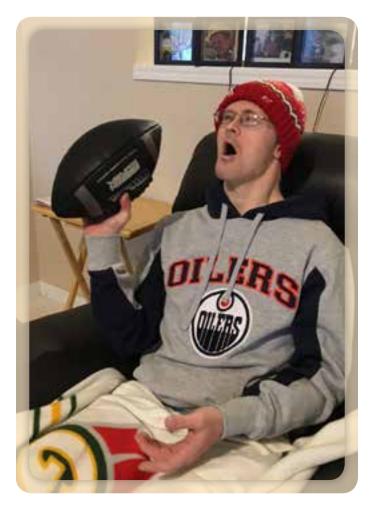
Home Is Where Your



Fifteen years ago, Danny joined The Good Samaritan Society Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PPDD), and for many years, he lived in a condominium that provided supports allowing him to increase and maintain his independent living skills. Danny was very involved in his church, volunteering at Good Samaritan head office, playing soccer, and attending Tae Kwon Do classes. He also enjoyed going to a local convenience store by himself, and travelling on public transit independently to specific locations around the city.

Over the past three years, Danny started to experience a slow health decline and with that came many changes. Mobility became a big issue, and it led to a loss of independence. Due to this, the same motivation did not exist for Danny to do all the things that he once loved. The Good Samaritan PPDD team, his family, and the owners of the condominium did what they could to try to make Danny's day as full as possible with the new roadmap that life had given him, but he continued to struggle. Soon, it became time to consider other options for Danny's living situation, and that brought him to our very own Good Samaritan home, Jackson Heights.

Danny and his family came to visit Jackson Heights a couple of times in the fall, and they decided that it would be the best option for him. The accessible home equipped with a fire sprinkler system would keep him safe and allow easier access to the community.





The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada





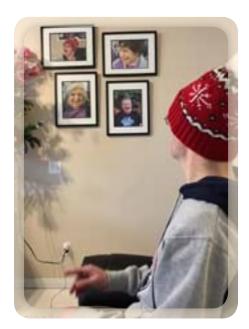
Danny with his new roommates and care team at Good Samaritan Jackson Heights

Understandably, Danny was shy and nervous as this was his first move in a long time and he had only just met his new roommates and care team. For a while, he did not say much.

The first couple of days, he missed his previous home and would say to everyone, "go home." After so many years at his previous residence, the new care team felt for him, and they invited members of his previous care team to help with the transition. They all did their best to chat with Danny and to make him feel less homesick.

Soon, Danny started smiling, speaking, and laughing more. He even started to joke around. Before long, he showed his new care team how much he liked singing in church and taught them that getting Slurpees when passing a convenience store was a must!

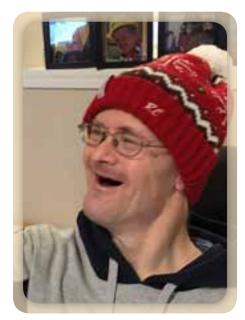
Danny is not a big fan of spending time in his room, and now his care team has him doing things he enjoys while also trying out some fun new activities. This includes relaxing in his recliner in the living



room, watching football, walking around with assistance, playing catch, and folding laundry. The household has even changed the name of their muffins, to Danny pancakes, so Danny is willing to help with the baking.

Good Samaritan Jackson Heights is adorned with great photographs of the individuals that live in the home. Of course, with Danny just moving in he did not have one hung up yet. However, it did not take long for him to request that someone take his picture for that purpose.

When the team coordinator showed him his photo and asked if he liked it, Danny responded, "I want it there," with his finger pointing toward the wall. The coordinator said, "If we put it there, that means this is your home," and Danny said, "Yes."



The photo wall at Good Samaritan Jackson Heights

2 Winter 2018 www.gss.org



What's Inside?

Home Is Where Your ♥ Is	Spiritual Serendipity
Message from the Board Chair	Founder's Day Celebration 19
Message from the Acting President and CEO5	The Slanted Cup
Employee Spotlight - Katelynn Ellis 6	The Gift of Spirit
Employee Spotlight - Karen Ririe	Our Evening of Edible Elegance
Caring Compassionate Ways Change Lives 8	Paintball Action!
As We Come to the End of Another Year	Grandparents Day
	Christmas Spirit
Thanks for Being Awesome	Summer Fun
Good Sam Jam	Bake and Craft Sale
"Raising the Curtain" Underway!	Donors Make Life More!
Volunteers Make Life More Creative! 15	Donations: June 1, 2017 - November 30, 2017
Ministry with Persons with Developmental Disabilities 16	Honour and Memorium:
Pastoral Care Visitor Training	June 1, 2017 - November 30, 2017

Message from the **Board Chair**





Dr. Jeanne Besner

The start of a new year is a cause for celebration and allows us the opportunity to reflect on the past while planning for an exciting future. This time of year is also a time to embrace change, which for us, has included saying goodbye to our former President and CEO, Shawn Terlson. On behalf of The Board, I would like to thank him for his service to our organization over the past four years and wish him well in his future endeavours.

I would like to thank Julius van Wyk, our former Chief Operating Officer, for stepping up and filling the role of acting President and CEO as the Board starts the process of recruiting for the position. Selecting the right person for this job is crucial to the success of our organization, and the Board of Directors will be focusing on the skills needed to achieve our strategic goals while also keeping our mission, vision, and values at the forefront. The recruitment process will take a bit of time, but I am confident that Julius will lead our organization down the right path in the meantime.

As always, our focus will continue to be on providing outstanding care and comfort to everyone who walks through our doors.

I hope you have a wonderful start to 2018.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeanne Besner Board Chair

Message from the **Acting President and CEO**





Julius van Wyk

When I joined The Good Samaritan Society (GSS) and Good Samaritan Canada (GSC) in 2013, I immediately felt a sense of belonging and that this is where I needed to be. It gave me the opportunity to provide a service to seniors in Alberta and British Columbia, something I could not deliver directly to my parents and seniors in South Africa where I grew up. Every day I come to work I want to make a difference. Some days are easier than others, but over the years, the joy and fulfilment that I have experienced in listening, laughing, and being a part of the lives of the people we care for has been truly amazing.

Working at our organization is without a doubt the highlight of my career, and I am honoured to have been asked by the Board of Directors to act as President and CEO. As I undertake this new role, know that my commitment, dedication and vision for the

organization have not changed. Over the coming months, I will work with our staff and continue to focus

- 1. Our core business—care. Over the last 69 years, GSS and GSC have sprung deep roots in the communities we serve. We have done so by living up to our mission, vision, and values and by providing quality care and accommodations. We will continue to be innovative and creative in our approach to holistic care as we fulfill the needs of our 7000+ residents and clients to make them feel safe and comfortable in their Good Samaritan homes.
- 2. Staff and volunteer
- engagement. We cannot deliver a high quality of life for those we care for without our 4000+ staff and over 2100 volunteers. These individuals work long hours every day to care for those in need or at risk. To all of our staff and volunteers, I want to say thank you. I can assure you that your dedication does not go unnoticed and I enjoy our conversations as I work to understand your daily challenges. As an organization, we have to continue to find ways to recognize our staff and volunteers as they perform their very important tasks.
- 3. Stakeholder relations. As our population continues to increase. healthcare for seniors is an important issue, and we all have

- to work together in ensuring we provide the right care at the right place with the right resources. We will continue to build relationships with all of our stakeholders, including our funding partners, residents, families, friends, and the communities we serve. Our focus will be on advocating for those we care for to receive the level of support they deserve through sustainable programming.
- 4. Growth and financial **stewardship.** As a not-for-profit charitable organization, we are dependent on funding from health authorities. Although we are responsible and diligent in how we allocate and spend our funding, we strive to increase our resources and provide additional comforts in our care homes. GSS and GSC will continue to look for growth opportunities that align with our mission, vision, and values and that will allow us to be less dependent on government funding.

It is a very exciting time in the history of our organization, and I am extremely happy I can be part of it.

Sincerely,

Julius van Wyk Acting President and CEO

Employee Spotlight Katelynn Ellis





Katelynn Ellis

Katelynn Ellis is a unit clerk on one of the dementia care units at Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre in Edmonton, AB. She is resident-focused and is always looking to help in whatever way she can. For example, she has taken the initiative to arrange for speakers to be set up at her desk/computer so that she can play music for the residents — they love it! Thank you, Katelynn, for making the lives of our residents a little brighter.

Some more about Katelynn:

1. Where would you like to go on your dream vacation?

If I could go anywhere on a dream vacation, it would be to Ireland as I have always loved the scenery and the accent. I would go for three weeks to a month to be able to take my time and visit all over the countryside taking in all the sights.



2. What is your favourite part of working for The Good Samaritan Society?

Being able to see the residents smile when I bring them a coffee or sit and chat with them for a few minutes about their day and listen to their stories. I try to lighten their day even in the smallest way as some don't have many people come and visit them. I do not have any grandparents of my own, as they have passed away, so our chats bring me delight as well.

3. What is your hidden talent?

I feel singing would be my hidden talent. I have not sung in front of anyone since high school, but I am quite good at it.

4. If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

If I could have any superpower, I think it would be mindreading or to fly so I could skip traffic during the rush hour or take free trips all over the world. Mindreading would help me know what people are thinking so I would know the answer before they asked me.

5. What is your proudest moment at The Good Samaritan Society?

When some of the resident's family members have come up to me and said how comforting it is knowing I am there if they need anything or have a question.

Katelynn was nominated by Melissa Ristau, Care Manager at Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre.

6 Winter 2018 www.gss.org

Employee Spotlight Karen Ririe



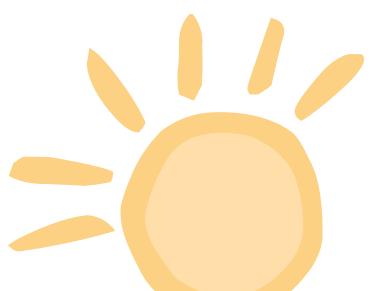


Karen Ririe

Karen Ririe is the regional administrative assistant for The Good Samaritan Society southern Alberta care homes, and she just celebrated her 15th anniversary with the organization! Karen consistently finds ways to help her co-workers, whether that is training staff on computer systems, troubleshooting issues, or formatting documents. She always goes above and beyond to help those around her. Congratulations on 15 years as part of the Good Samaritan family, Karen!

1. What is your favourite part of working for The Good Samaritan Society?

My favourite part of my job is the variety. Every day is different! My position is both challenging and rewarding as I provide information and support to our Southern Alberta care homes. I have become very good at problem solving within my role and working through any challenges I face.



2. What is the best vacation you've been on?

The best vacation I have been on has to be my Vegas trip!! I had to sit through a 3-hour time share presentation in order to "win" a night helicopter trip down the strip — SO WORTH IT!!

3. Tell us something about yourself that would surprise us.

Something that would surprise others about me is that I am shy. This would surprise many of my coworkers, as I am confident in my abilities at work, which appears guite the opposite of shy.

4. What do you like to do on your days off?

Most of my days off are spent with family and friends and especially my grandson, Adam! It is such a joy to have him come to you smiling with arms up and saying "hug."

5. What advice would you give to a recent hire?

I would tell a new employee to show flexibility. It is very important to become part of the team, to help your co-workers, and to put your best foot forward to help create a positive work environment.

Karen was nominated by Allison Copleston, Recruitment Advisor for The Good Samaritan Society in southern Alberta.

> **Employee Spotlight recipients** receive a Good Samaritan theme basket. If you have someone you would like to nominate, email communications@gss.org.

Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre, Edmonton, AB

Caring Compassionate Ways Change Lives



Across The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada, we are lucky to have many employees who have dedicated their careers to our charitable organization. Each year, we celebrate our long service awards, and each year, the number of employees who have worked as Good Samaritans for a long time

One such example is Leanorah, who recently retired after 48 years as a Health Care Aide at Good



Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre. Leanorah has a kind heart and gentle spirit, and she always had a smile on her face while working no matter how busy or stressful the day was.

At her going away party this winter, her colleagues spoke about what a hard worker she was and how they valued her experience especially when it came time to onboard new staff. The residents adored Lenorah, and she worked tirelessly every day to ensure that not only were they well cared for, but that they were happy and had a smile on their faces too!

Leanorah is already greatly missed by everyone at Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre, but we wish her well in her retirement.

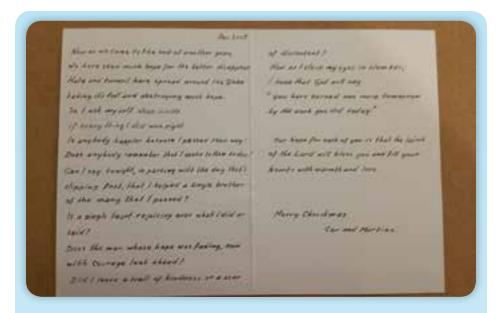


Good Samaritan Christenson Village, Gibsons, BC

As We Come to the End of **Another Year**



Cornelius is the husband of one of our residents at Good Samaritan Christenson Village. He created this beautiful card and poem for staff at Christmas.



Now as we come to the end of another year, we have seen much hope for the better disappear.

Hate and turmoil have spread around the globe taking its toll and destroying much hope.

So I ask myself deep inside, if everything I did was right.

Is anybody happier because I passed their way?

Does anybody remember that I spoke to them today?

Can I say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast, that I helped a single brother of the many that I passed?

Is a single heart rejoicing over what I did or said?

Does the man whose hope was fading, now with courage look ahead?

Did I leave a trail of kindness or a scar of discontent?

Now as I close my eyes in slumber, I hope that God will say,

"You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today."

- Cornelius Zuidema, December 2017

The Good Samaritan Society, Edmonton, AB **Thanks for Being Awesome**







We are honoured and grateful for the outpouring of support we receive from our thousands of dedicated employees, volunteers, donors, and family members. We would not be able to provide the quality care and accommodations our residents deserve without their kindness and hard work.

On September 10, 2017, The Good Samaritan Society was able to show our appreciation to over 1100 of our friends and their families who came out to enjoy a free party at Fort Edmonton Park that included rides, food, street performers, and games!

This was our opportunity to thank the community for supporting our commitment to providing spiritual care, improved resident comforts, and additional therapies. The autumn wind died down, and it turned into a perfect day to celebrate our mission to extend Christian Hospitality through a continuum of care regardless of race or religious belief.

We look forward to having similar appreciation events for our friends in the other regions we serve. If you wish to be included on the invitation list, please contact us by email at goodsaminfo@gss.org or call us at 780-431-3785.

Together, we have the power to transform lives and brighten spirits.

10 Winter 2018 www.gss.org

Spread the Love

Good Samaritan Village by the Station, Penticton, BC

Good Sam Jam

by Jean Kearney, Recreation, Volunteer and Adult Day Program Coordinator



2017 was our 4th year making Good Sam Jam at Good Samaritan Village by the Station. We always receive generous donations of fresh local fruit, but this year the donations were through the roof! We received over 800 pounds of ripe peaches from a very generous friend of our care home.

Many of our residents have lived in the Okanagan all of their lives, so preparing the fruit is something that they enjoy as a labour of love. The residents and volunteers rose to the occasion, and we held peach peeling work bees for a full week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A huge thank you to this dynamo workforce! They made 1,346 jars of jam including peach, plum, nectarine, blueberry, blueberry and blackberry, cherry, and currant jelly.

Jam is now on sale at Good Samaritan Village by the Station at the front desk. You can also purchase it at Good Samaritan Head Office in Edmonton, AB. It is \$5 a jar and is the tastiest homemade jam ever! Hurry and get your jar of peach jam from the peach city of Penticton!

All proceeds raised will go towards funding a music therapy program to Make Life More Engaging for residents living with dementia at Good Samaritan Village by the Station.







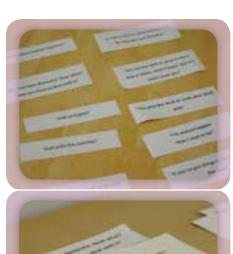
Good Samaritan Christenson Village, Gibsons, BC

"Raising the Curtain" Underway!

by Bruce Devereaux, Recreation and Volunteer Manager







The Imagination Network, a collaborative community partnership between Good Samaritan Christenson Village, Deer Crossing the Art Farm, and the Douglas College Therapeutic Recreation Department, launched the creative workshop phase of our three-year research project "Raising the Curtain" in September 2017 at Good Samaritan Christenson Village. Inspired by Anne Basting's Penelope Project, our organizations are striving to create change in the way we view—and ultimately support—the lived experience of dementia.

Our research project is based on the following question:

"In what ways does the collaborative involvement of older adults with the lived experience of dementia in community-engaged arts practice foster engagement and build social inclusion in a rural community?"

The Imagination Network team is combining community-based participatory research with community-engaged arts practice. We are doing this through creative workshops that focus on specific themes related to living with dementia such as stigma, diagnosis, hopes and dreams, and community.

The result of our three-year project will be an original theatrical

12 Winter 2018 www.gss.org









production co-written, co-produced, and co-performed by people with dementia in collaboration with professional artists, caregivers, students, researchers and community members. Following the original theatrical production, there will be published research enabling us to share what was learned during the process.

The first series of creative workshops happened in the fall of 2017. Working together with research participants, we created a rich environment for learning and growth. As the workshops evolved, we were continually inspired by the level of sharing and openness that led to a greater understanding of

the lived experience of dementia for all.

While our "Raising the Curtain" project is still in the early stages, we are continually asking ourselves, "How can we share this knowledge with other locations within the Good Samaritan organization?" "How could this knowledge scale to fit different care homes based on their size, location, and resources?" The potential to benefit all Good Samaritan homes is very exciting, and a direction we wish to pursue in the future.

We would like to officially thank and recognize that a project such as "Raising the Curtain" takes a great

"You are achieving something with me, in that there is an increase in the life in my surroundings. It has felt very good to be involved in the project and have the resulting increase in creativity."

- "Raising the Curtain" participant with the lived experience of dementia

The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada





deal of support and trust from our organizations, Good Samaritan Canada, Douglas College, and Deer Crossing the Art Farm. They have been supportive and committed to helping us work toward reaching our goals.

Outside organizations such as The Vancouver Foundation, Sunshine Coast Community Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts, British Columbia Arts Council, Vancouver

Coastal Health, the Town of Gibsons, the Sunshine Coast Regional District, and the Gibsons Rotary Club have all made very significant financial contributions. With their support, we were able to ensure that "Raising the Curtain" became a reality and will benefit our broader communities in the future. Thank you.

If anyone is interested in learning more about "Raising the Curtain,"

please contact me at bdevereux@gss.org, and I would be thrilled to tell you more.

All photo credit: to Chloe Langmaid. She is one of our young team members with a great talent. Chloe has been with us for years photographing all our projects. It is so nice to have dedicated talent on board.

vancouver foundation







for the Arts

Canada Council Conseil des arts du Canada









Good Samaritan Pembina Village, Evansburg, AB

Volunteers Make Life **More Creative!**



by Vicki Vincent, Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator













Mission Effectiveness

Ministry with Persons with Developmental Disabilities

by Karen Wedman, Director of Mission Effectiveness



The Good Samaritan Society (GSS) provides supportive living arrangements in homes throughout the Edmonton area for persons with developmental disabilities (PDD). This past fall, Helen Bennett, the Chaplain for these homes came up with the idea to hold a Christmas play so that people could celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Bringing individuals from different homes together, and working with staff and volunteers, a Christmas play was created that will hopefully become an annual event.

This play was the highlight of my Christmas.

When I walked into the auditorium, the first thing I noticed was how wonderfully it was decorated. I learned that staff and volunteers had held craft clubs where individuals from various PDD homes gathered to make huge

snowflakes, large trees, and decorated Christmas gift boxes. They also produced individual hand-made Christmas cards to give to everyone who attended the play.

Our residents were able to come together and interact with the community as a hall was donated and used to hold the craft clubs. New friendships and skills were developed helping individuals feel a sense of belonging and accomplishment.

Those who performed in the play said, "It was a dream come true!" Often, these individuals are isolated and do not have the opportunity to perform in front of others. They loved it, and so did the crowd who enjoyed the spontaneous cheering of participants and the joyous laughter as they acted out their parts with much enthusiasm.



The excitement of the audience gave each performer a sense of pride at being able to give back through their talents. Their gift warmed our hearts and created a magical moment.

Chaplain Helen's dream of providing a community event reached staff, families, volunteers and all the participants. It truly incorporated all our Good Samaritan values and our mission of providing Christian hospitality.

Everyone involved saw the value of collaborating on a simple yet innovative idea and will remember and enjoy the tributes of that Christmas play for a long time. I look forward to next year!

16 Winter 2018 www.gss.org

Good Samaritan Mountainview Village, Kelowna, BC

Pastoral Care Visitor Training

by Chaplain Sharilynn Upsdell





L-R Chaplains Angela King and Sharilynn Upsdell

It is an exciting time for The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada as our Chaplains are sought after as valuable Pastoral Care educators with a focus on visitation with People Living with Dementia. For the second year in a row, the Kelowna General Hospital hosted a day-long Spiritual Care Visitor Training workshop. Leadership and workshop presentations were provided by Good Samaritan Chaplains Sharilynn Upsdell, of Good Samaritan Mountainview Village in Kelowna, BC, and Angela

King, of Good Samaritan Southgate Care Centre, in Edmonton, AB, and Good Samaritan Good Shepherd Home in Wetaskiwin, AB.

The learning modules presented throughout the day included topics of understanding brain change using the GEMS™ Brain Change Model to help us see retained abilities. Focus was also placed on grief and healing, visiting people who live with dementia, the use of Life Meaning Maps, and finally, offering worship or spiritual moments for those who live with dementia.





Chaplain Sharilynn speaking at the Spiritual Care Visitor Training Workshop in Kelowna, BC

Sixty-two participants who volunteer by visiting in the hospital and community attended, including representation from many different faith communities. The day was very well received and enjoyed by everyone involved. Participants have already begun asking for our Chaplains to return for a third workshop in the fall of 2018.



Good Samaritan Place - CHOICE Program, Edmonton, AB

Spiritual Serendipity

by Chaplain Sarah Rudd





Spiritual and pastoral care is the work of all of us

Sometimes the best-laid plans do not land us where we would expect. Working in spiritual care as a chaplain for The Good Samaritan Society can be an exercise in learning how to undo a to-do list. Putting people first creates an interesting tension in the workplace, a tension that chaplains are not exempt from. This is the reason I am so grateful that spiritual and pastoral care is the work of all of us rather than one person with a clerical collar. Every day it seems I hear stories from our

staff and residents about someone caring for the heart of another in our community. This multiplicity of 'caring over doing' creates something author Richard Eyre calls "Spiritual Serendipity1." Serendipity is not something good that happens simply by chance, but specifically has an important distinction: these opportunities are "made by individuals able to 'see bridges where others saw holes' and connect events creatively, based on the perception of a significant link."²

At one of the care homes I work at, Good Samaritan Place CHOICE Program, our occupational and physical therapy aide, Darlene SplaneGurnett, shared a story about her work visiting a resident. Every time Darlene would work with the resident on physiotherapy, she would sit and talk. After the exercise, she would add a little water to the resident's plant, sitting abandoned and desolate on a shelf in the resident's room. Over the months of their time together, the plant regained its health and started blooming again — the first blooms in a long time. Those cheery purple flowers greeted every staff person and visitor to the resident's room and was a gentle reminder of care and affection; of how looking to care for the person rather than checking things off a task list brought an unexpected blessing into someone's life.

It is a true blessing to be able to minister among such amazing people, bridge builders who care for the person at the center of the care plan. I hope each day we can accomplish our tasks while finding a way to help the flowers grow and all those around us to bloom with unexpected abandon.

¹ Spiritual Serendipity: Cultivating and Celebrating the Art of the Unexpected is a book by Robert Erye that looks at opportunities for creating situations and circumstance of benefit that come unexpectedly.

18 Winter 2018 www.gss.org

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serendipity paraphrasing from sociologist Ronald Stuart Burt.

Good Samaritan Good Shepherd Home, Wetaskwin, AB

Founder's Day Celebration







Founder's Day was celebrated at Good Samaritan Good Shepherd Home, with a High Tea and Blessing of Hands Service.

Good Samaritan Christenson Village, Gibsons, BC

The Slanted Cup

by Bruce Devereaux, Recreation and Volunteer Manager





Slanted Cup participants

This past summer, Good Samaritan Christenson Village hosted our first ball hockey tournament.

Emptying the upper parking lot and moving in the nets and backboards, we set the stage for the "Slanted Cup," not exactly the "Stanley Cup," but more representative of our slanted parking lot.

The Slanted Cup was a bit of a wild idea that ended up taking on a life of its own with the help of Kyle Bergh and Mark Cameron, two passionate volunteers and ball hockey players from Gibsons, BC.

Our goal was to have residents, staff, family, and community play, and it worked perfectly.

After lunch, spectators started to gather around the parking lot getting in position for a fun afternoon.

Wanting to keep it small for our first event, we had two teams made up of a mix of volunteers, staff, residents, and family members. The games were very exciting!

In the first game the green team was the winner and in the second game, the red team won leading to a very exciting tie-breaker!





The coveted trophy

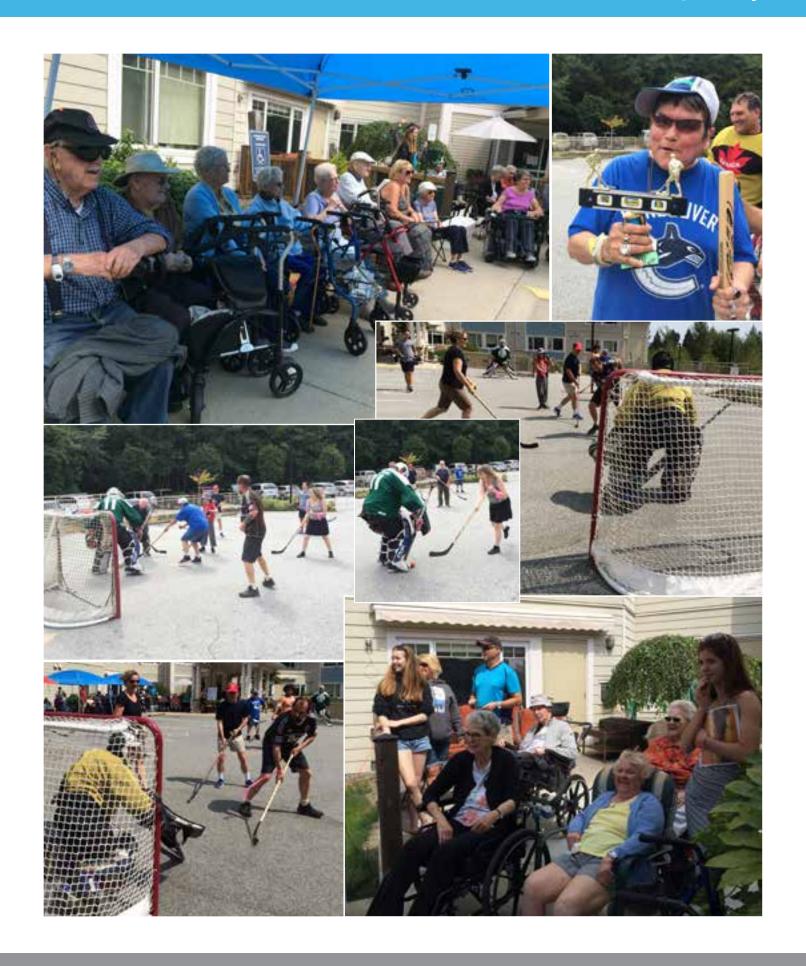
In game three, the green team scored four goals very quickly. The first team to score five goals would take home the coveted "Slanted Cup," so for a second, it looked like the green team had it in the bag.

However, the red team did not give up and pulled out all the stops to score four goals in five minutes! The crowd was cheering and hooting for their favourite team!

After about 15 minutes of battling it out, with a beautiful pass, the green team slid the winning ball past the red team goaltender and became the 2017 "Slanted Cup" champions!

The Slanted Cup was a fantastic event for building community, and after the final goal was scored, many were asking when the next tournament would be. We were planning on only one per year, but after such a resounding success, I think that will change. Who knows, maybe other Good Samaritan care homes will want to get in on the action?

20 Winter 2018 www.gss.org



Good Samaritan South Ridge Village, Medicine Hat, AB

The Gift of Spirit

by Susan Gray

The following letter was sent to us from the daughter of one of our residents.



If you take care of my mum, Elaine Gray, then this letter of deep gratitude is for you. I am writing to thank you for helping mum and me out with the phone calls I make to her every day. Every morning you take time from your work to walk my mum to her room, make her comfortable on her chesterfield, put her glasses on her head, and put the fairy book (that she reads aloud from) in her hands. Then I call, and we are set up for a meaningful experience. I could not do this without you, and it is impossible to describe the gift that you give us.

I appeared to my mum in a dream before she even met my dad. One night, before she was married, she dreamed me in the exact form that I would actually take (at the age of one) in real life. Did I choose her, or did she choose me? I am only sure that something mystical happened that night. At my birth, a whole lot of terrible things happened, and both of us almost died. Her water broke on the morning of Friday, September 2nd, but I was breach — upside down and backwards — and really overdue. She needed a C-section, but on that Labour Day weekend her obstetrics specialist was away on a fishing trip. No one else would touch her, and I was finally taken out of her body at 11:29 p.m. on monday the 5th! It is a miracle that we survived.

The two of us have always shared a kind of other-than-human connection. This does not mean we have always got along! We fought a lot. However, (if this makes any sense) we have always had a profound and quite surreal connection. I have learned that the strength and trueness of our connection have nothing to do with the dynamics of our relationship or whether she was a "good" mother or

whether I was a "good" daughter. Our connection is simply there — the way the stars sit in the sky or the way woodsmoke smells in October. Now, with her dementia, this weird and wonderful connection has yielded a crystal-clear channel between us. I know that someday the channel will close, but for now it is wide open.

In our phone calls, she connects amazingly. She is filled with insight and humour. She reads aloud with a dramatic flair that only she can muster. Our little fairy book, as you will know, has themes (such as strength, vision, reward, joy, etc.). Each theme has a little write-up and a beautiful picture. My mum reads the text aloud and describes the picture. Then she links the ideas in both picture and text. How, for example, does the concept of "faith" link up with its accompanying picture of a fairy standing on the back of a goldfish? When she connects the ideas, she always has some new, fresh, and interesting take.

My mum was an artist. Because of that channel that (for now) exists between us, her dementia is actually transcended by our connection. So, when she talks to me she still is an artist. We both have an artist's mind. My mum has always been able to, in a heartbeat, connect dots that some people might never even realize exist in the first place. When the two of us talk, she can still do this.

In our calls of miracle and wonder, my mum sings with me and participates in the tales I create about my little cat, Vienna. From day to day, she is wide open to Vienna and is enchanted by the stories. Vienna always wears a pink dress when we call Gramma — she says Gramma is the only one who is worth a She has enormous damn. tantrums, throwing bananas and packing her little pink suitcase to leave me and go to live with Gramma at Good Sam. My mum is captivated by the events and always offers me good parenting advice. We always discuss how Vienna and mum will one day hold hands and fly together up and up, through the night sky looking like they are in a Marc Chagall painting. They will fly all the way up to the moon, where Vienna will treat her Gramma to a banana. Then, they will go swinging on a star!

So you see, you are how all this amazingness actually happens. Because of your kindness, you take time out of an outrageously busy time of your day to help create joy. Moreover, you do it with unfailing and unerring grace. I am not a religious person, but there is no question that you women carry the grace of God.

I wish I could give you something in return. I can tell you that your gift of spirit helps me to do better in this world; to give others the generosity and heart that you give mum and me.

Love and peace to all of you, Susan



Good Samaritan Heron Grove, Vernon, BC Our Evening of Edible Elegance





L-R: Good Samaritan Heron Grove residents Anne Chernenkoff and Elise Mooney

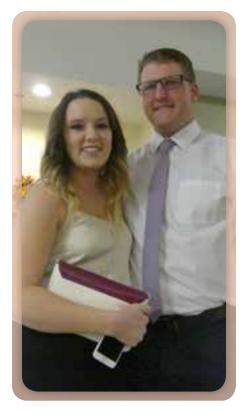


The Evening of Elegance was a huge success





Guests were treated to the musical stylings of a professional Harpist



All of the guests had a wonderful time

On Saturday, October 14, 2017, Good Samaritan Heron Grove, held their 5th annual fundraiser to raise donations for their entertaining environments room. The successful evening of elegance raised close to \$7,000!

Thank you to the volunteers, residents, and staff for helping to make this event a tremendous success. Thank you to all of our sponsors! A special thank you to Sysco for sponsoring the food and Southward Medical, a local medical supply company, for being the Title Sponsor.

Proceeds raised are being used to create custom cabinet sets in the entertaining environment rooms. These cabinets will house recreation equipment specifically for dementia and complex care residents helping us Make Life More Engaging for our residents and their families.

Good Samaritan Mill Woods Centre, Edmonton, AB

Paintball Action!







In November, the staff at Good Samaritan Mill Woods Centre took eight residents to "Paintball Action Games." Thank you to Sue Kreutz, the Recreation Therapist at the Centre, for working with the Manager from Paintball Action Games to make this outing possible.

The local business went above and beyond to host our group on an afternoon with no other group bookings, and they also reduced the cost so that it was more affordable for the residents. As well, they arranged for the group to come in the back, through



a garage door, so that there would be no accessibility issues with the wheelchairs, and also supplied the masks, guns, paintballs, coveralls, and a staff member working directly with the group the whole time! The

resident's shot at the targets and also at Sue who ran around to give them a moving target! Everyone agreed it was a fun afternoon and they hope to do it again.

Good Samaritan Good Shepherd Home, Wetaskwin, AB

Grandparents Day

by Angela King, Chaplain











Samaritan Good Shepherd Home celebrated Grandparents Day with good food, live music, a petting zoo, a photo booth, and a silent auction.

Wonderful live music was provided by local musician, Lisa Leschert.

Our vendors for the day included Scentsy representative, Shaunice Hurley; Mialisa/South Hill Charms representative, Kathy Leith; Knot Just a Box owner/artist, Lisa Leschert; and clothing and scrubs were provided by Rijo Raju.

Kathy Coroluick, a former site administrator during the years 1990-2003, won the 50/50 draw with a payout of \$438.00.



Thank you to the Wetaskiwin Quilters' Club who graciously donated a beautiful quilt to support our fundraising efforts for our residents' comfort. The Ouilt Raffle raised \$344.00, and the winner of the raffle was Delilah Blech, an assisted living worker at the care home.

The petting zoo was very popular with young children, and the photo booth was enjoyed by everyone!

Special thanks to Jacquie and Louise for assisting in organizing this event, helping set up and take down, and for taking time away from your families to be here on the day of the event to volunteer. As well, thank you to John for providing us with a tent to



host our event in, for setting up tables and chairs, and for helping clean up. To the many staff who baked, donated to the silent auction, and came on the day of the event to volunteer, thank you for going above and beyond to make this day extra special for those we care for. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to Dom Couturier for her amazing ability to organize the event and the volunteers so that everyone could enjoy the day!

Good Samaritan Heron Grove, Vernon, BC **Christmas Spirit**

by Chris Smith, Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator







Good Samaritan Heron Grove embarked on a new adventure this year. The residents of Life Lease and Assisted Living, with some help from our recreation and chaplain staff, pulled off a Christmas play this year — twice!

The performance was done twice so we could bring as many of the complex care residents out to view it. The play was written by one of our Life Lease tenants and was about a low-income family who had a turkey donated to them by their normally "grumpy" boss. His Christmas spirit rubbed off on this family, and a joyous occasion ensued.

Throughout the play our Chaplain, Robert Korth, would speak about the meaning of Christmas at brief interludes. The resident choir also sang Christmas songs throughout to bolster the play as well as add participation from our audience. The Good Samaritan Heron Grove recreation team is focusing more and more on having our main building residents (life lease and assisted living) give back and volunteer their services to make the quality of life better for our complex care residents.

It was a huge success!





Good Samaritan Mill Woods Centre, Edmonton, AB

Summer Fun

by Susan Kreutz, Recreation Therapist









Jessica, Site Manager of Good Samaritan Mill Woods Centre, prepares to go for another dip

The Good Samaritan Mill Woods Centre residents and recreation therapy team had a fantastic summer in 2017 with plenty of campfires in the evenings. Residents and staff roasted marshmallows, made original s'mores, s'mores with peanut butter and Nutella, and cooked cinnamon buns in an orange peel! The campfires were a big hit, complete with a crackling fire and smoke, jokes, singing, and ghost stories.

In June, residents also celebrated Canada's 150th birthday with a carnival. Residents and their guests enjoyed games, tattoos, balloons, a photo booth, popcorn, drinks, ice cream, music, and a dunk tank! Our site manager, Jessica, was dunked many times to much cheering and laughter. Dunking "the boss" was a lot of fun!

We held our summer BBQ in early September and had a lot of help from volunteers and staff. Great food, tremendous service, music by fiddler Georgia, and door prizes made the evening a night to remember. Residents and their families and friends left with full bellies and big smiles!

Good Samaritan Victoria Heights, New Westminster, BC

Bake and Craft Sale

by Jacquilyn Loh, Volunteer and Program Advisor









Thank you to everyone who supported the sale, whether it was by supplying goodies to sell or purchasing them. You have helped us Make Life More Beautiful for those who call Good Samaritan Victoria Heights home.





Fund Development

Donors Make Life More!

by Shannon Goralski, Fund Development Coordinator





Good Samaritan Board Members with Honourable Danielle Larrivee, Alberta Minister of Children's Services, at the Make Life More campaign launch

Make Life More Launch

The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada could not create exceptional experiences for our residents and their families without generous donations. We are proud to unveil a new fundraising initiative called Make Life More, and are excited to share with our supporters, donors and staff how they Make Life More...well everything.

On November 16, 2017, we launched the Make Life More Campaign with a small gathering at Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre in Edmonton, AB, that included government greetings from the

Honourable Danielle Larrivee, Minister of Children's Services. In 2018, we will focus on how we can Make Life More Joyful and look forward to sharing our message with everyone who believes in the spirit of the Good Samaritan.

Make Life More Soulful

Our Spring Appeal raised over \$10,000 towards our Pastoral Care Program, which Makes Life More Soulful for our residents and their families in all of our care homes. Chaplains help create spaces where our residents can feel safe and secure as they search for new meaning and purpose at this time in their life.

Make Life More Innovative

Our successful 25th Annual Servus Spirit of Caring Golf Tournament raised over \$150,000 towards the Good Samaritan New Initiatives in Care Excellence (NICE) program, and we are looking forward to an even more successful Golf Tournament on June 7, 2018, at the Quarry in Edmonton, AB. NICE Makes Life More Innovative by turning ideas from our staff into reality and has helped pave the way for award-winning programs like The Imagination Network and the Music & Memory program.



Make Life More Active

Project REJOYCE, a fundraiser that is spearheaded by the mother of one of our resident's, Zac, continues to raise money for a REJOYCE Joystick to Make Life More Active for the residents at Good Samaritan Mill Woods Centre in Edmonton, AB.







A resident demonstrates how to use the REJOYCE Joystick at the Make Life More launch

"This machine is absolutely amazing! Not only was Zac excited to play it, what it is capable of doing for strengthening and enhancing his range of motion is incredible. I took Zac down to play this game as many times as I could while it was loaned to the care home on a trial basis. He absolutely loved it, and it was not long before I could see improvement in the short time that it was there."

- Shannon, Zac's Mother

Make Life More Engaging

September 10th was Grandparents Day, and across Alberta and British Columbia, our Good Samaritan care homes celebrated the impact grandparents have within our community. Good Samaritan Good Shepherd Home in Wetaskiwin, AB, Makes Life More Engaging for their residents and their families by having a barbecue and fundraiser that raised nearly \$3000 towards the purchase of a bladder scanner.

Make Life More Beautiful

The Courtyard Update Project continued this summer at Good Samaritan Linden View in Taber, AB. and a \$20,000.00 donation from the Taber and District Health Foundation will help Make Life More Beautiful by providing our

residents with the opportunity to experience the beauty and tranquillity of nature without having to travel; just like enjoying their own backyard!

Make Life More Peaceful

Pet therapy is a proven tool to ease stress and anxiety and improve overall wellness, but sometimes it is challenging to provide real pets in our care homes due to allergies, access to properly trained pets, and limited qualified volunteers. The team at Good Samaritan Pembina Village in Evansburg, AB, are working to Make Life More Peaceful by raising funds to purchase two JOY FOR ALL Companion Pets that look, feel and sound like real pets. They respond to petting, hugging and motion much like the real pets you know and love, but don't require any special care or feeding.





JOY FOR ALL Companion Pets

The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada

Make Life More Comfortable

The team at Good Samaritan Heron Grove in Vernon, BC, helps Make Life More Comfortable by creating entertaining environments that give residents and their families a space to be involved in meaningful activities that will improve the quality of life for all involved. Their Evening of Elegance event this past fall raised almost \$7500 to transform an existing living room into a recreational space that will include age-appropriate music, custom cabinetry, professional murals, and furnishings.



Make Life More Creative

Good Samaritan Canada was blessed to receive a \$10,000 donation towards the Recreation Program at Good Samaritan Christenson Village in Gibsons, BC, in memory of one of our beloved residents, Bernice, to Make Life More Creative.

"During her time at Good Samaritan Christenson Village, Mom spent many happy years in Assisted Living where she had a wide circle of friends and enjoyed many recreational activities, especially those involving music and bus trips."

- Lynn, Bernice's daughter





L-R: Lynn presenting Bruce with a donation in the memory of her mother

"Bernice loved movies, music, live entertainment and social functions. We have purchased a new sound system for our movie theatre to increase resident enjoyment of films and a high capacity digital storage drives for archiving our photos, audio, and video. Funds will be used to print and frame resident art and photography that will be hung throughout our care home."

- Bruce Deveraux, Recreation Coordinator, Good Samaritan Christenson Village

Make Life More Accessible

The Good Samaritan Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities received \$4000 from the St Paul's Foundation to help renovate the bathroom at our Dunvegan residence. By installing new fixtures, flooring, and lighting, donations are helping us Make Life More Accessible for the four individuals who call this Good Samaritan-owned house a home.

Make Life More Joyful

In November, The Southern Alberta Bikers once again donated \$2400 toward Good Samaritan Park Meadows in Lethbridge, AB, to help fund their Christmas Angels Program. This initiative helps Make Life More Joyful for residents who have no family or friends to bring them gifts and shows them that they are remembered and cared about every day.



If you have any questions about donating to The Good Samaritan Society or Good Samaritan Canada, or if you would like to know more about how you can make life more joyful for our residents and clients, please call Fund Development at 780-431-3814 or visit <u>www.gss.org/</u> makelifemore.



June 1, 2017 - November 30, 2017

Donations

As charities, 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 helps make this happen—thank you!

2017 Spring Appeal

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Thompson

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Ed J. & Lillian Kumish

Edna & Arnold Nelson

Emil & Eva Schoettle

Emmanuel Free Lutheran

Church

Gertha & Walter Hubick

Good Shepherd Lutheran

Church of Coquitlam

Hope Lutheran Church ELW

Inger Bartram

Janice E. Heddon

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Samson Security Solutions

Servus Credit Union Ltd.

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Tamara Korassa

Teryn Wasileyko

In the last edition of *The Journey*, we incorrectly listed Harry & Hertha Klann. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in acknowledging your gift.

The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada

2017 Christmas Appeal

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Alma Kyle Angela King

Arlene Couves

Audrey & Pat Stenbeck

Audrey Hansen Barbara Morgan

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Bill Tardiff

Bonny & Earl Hubert

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MacLaine-Pont

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Grace & Dennis Lunt

Michaelle Lemay

Walter May

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Shirley Leachman

Good Samaritan Southgate

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Anonymous (3)

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Doreen & Clifford R. Driver

Edgar & Jane Richard

Heinz & Monika Kleist

Louis & Grace Richard

Louise L. & John C. Lowie

Marifel Purvis

Norbert Witt

Patrick B. & T. Ann Dafoe

Ross & Sophie Brander

Rudy W. Kornelsen

Shelley Stadnyk

Stanley & Cecile L. Evans

Stephen W. & Gloria Hobday

Good Samaritan Spruce Grove Centre

Mike J. & Frances E. Walmsley

United Way of the Alberta

Capital Region

Good Samaritan Stony Plain

Agnes Dreger

Alice Jamha

Ameen Suleman

Andrea Hanson

Anonymous

Chris & Holly Brunelle

Christopher & Ellen Thompson Clarence & Minnie Schoepp Colleen & Marty Van Keullen

Darcy & Tim Shenfield

David Dixen

Denise & Michael Carniato
Diane & William (Bill) Purdy

Douglas & ail Schultz

Faye A. Grant Faye Afshar

Fred & Jean Proft

George & Elsie Mayhew Gerald & Doreen Stroh

Harry Zeller

Heritage Court Condominium

Plan 932229

Jill Worthington

Laurie Browning

Leanne M. & Bradley Njaa

Leonard & Myrtle Kettner Linda & Irvin Berge

Lloyd & Marilyn Doige

Maxine & Edward Frank

Milton C. Joneson Myrna Hammer

Norman & Elda Wentland

Rose & Marvin Hennig

Stark & Stark Wallis Specht

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Albert Stekelenburg & Claudette Stekelenburg

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Carol Lydiatt

Centric Health Corporation

Corrinne Turnbull

Dale Wood

Deborah Johnson

Diane Banera

Dr Cam Essery Inc.

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Fred Balork Gary B. Kuhn

Huber and Bannister Chevrolet

James & Victoria Brown

Lauren J. Cornish

Lola & John Richards

Margaret Johnson

Mary Fitterer

Meryln & Norman Hundon

Nellie Malakoff

Ray & Doris Bradley

Robert Jackson

Royal Canadian Legion Branch

227 Gaming Account

Rulie Hofman

Susanne & Roberto Lionello

Good Samaritan Vista Village

Anonymous (2)

Bernard Leins

Betty A. & Edwin L. Whipple

Blanche Biswanger

Caroline & Andy Hartholt

Charles A. Price

Dolores & Al Robertson

Donald & Carol Haavardsrud

Doris Damberger

Edward & Patricia Moskaluk

Ephriam & Jean May

Fred & Alice Ames

Gerald & Marlene Lewis

Hazel H. & Dennis Burns

Howard & Judy Christiansen

James L. & Donna Cisar

Jane Bruder

Joseph & Penelope Leins

Ken & Dorothy Lewis

Kim & Sylvia Barbero

Lana C. Ross

Lionel & Doreen Thibeault

Lions Club of Pincher Creek

Lois Johnston

Lynn Bruder

Lynn Ortt

Marjorie Sinnott

Melvyn Kubasek

Miriam Hillyard

Patricia Neifer

Patrick & Sheila Shenton

R & L Soum

Robert & Janet Stobie

Trinity Lutheran Church

Wayne & Irene Hollander

Wilfred & Hannah Riley

Good Samaritan Wedman House and Village

Bruce Plante

Diana A. Edy

Kuldip K. Bachhal

Good Samaritan West Highland Centre

Coca-Cola Bottling Company

Lillian Evanoff

Rose Helmer

June 1, 2017 - November 30, 2017

Honour and Memorium

In Honour of Zac Greenough—Rejoyce Joystick

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Corine Fowler

Denise & Corey Beaupre

G. Dufour

Garry Shirley Wurm

Henry & Gerde Schoorlemmer

John Barbarich

Mary Sandul

Noreen Sandul

Penny Stone

Roberta Allison

Rod & Bev Gibson

Sandra Sopko

St. Peter and St. Paul Catholic Women's League

In Honour of Eric Kadatz's 90th Birthday

Edwin & Voilet Jantz

In Honour of David & Sharon Taeger's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Martha & Peter Seculak

In Memory of Francesca Ambler

Anonymous

In Memory of Lois Argue

Doris I. & Ed Webber

In Memory of Earl Becker

Robert & Karen Zmurchyk
Ron Smart

In Memory of Alex Bignall

Anonymous

Colleen & Marty Van Keullen

David Dixen

Faye Afshar

George & Elsie Mayhew

Heritage Court Condominium

Plan 932229

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Wallis Specht

In Memory of Jean Bond

Doris Damberger Fred & Alice Ames

In Memory of Magareth Borzush

Anonymous (3)

In Memory of Frank Bruder

Kim & Sylvia Barbero Lois Johnston

In Memory of Veronica Bruder

Bernard Leins

Betty A. & Edwin L. Whipple Caroline & Andy Hartholt Edward & Patricia Moskaluk Jane Bruder Joseph & Penelope Leins

Lynn Ortt

Marjorie Sinnott

Miriam Hillyard

R & L Soum

In Memory of Michael Brunelle

Ameen Suleman

Chris & Holly Brunelle

Clarence & Minnie Schoepp

Denise & Michael Carniato

Douglas & Gail Schultz

Fred & Jean Proft

Harry Zeller

Myrna Hammer

In Memory of John Burgwal

Rosalind Csurka

Valerie & Richard Boras

In Memory of Allison Cox

Gordon & Pat Catherwood

In Memory of Bertha Danbrook

Jeannette Block

In Memory of Enid Davies

James L. & Donna Cisar

In Memory of Ken Dickie

Lionel & Doreen Thibeault

In Memory of Shirley Doherty

Bob & Maureen Laidlaw

In Memory of Marjorie Dyck

Anonymous

In Memory of Don Eberly

Anonymous (2)

In Memory of Olive Elorson

Diane Porter

In Memory of Margaret Fulberth

Doris I. & Lance Jacobi

In Memory of Mildred Fuller

Jenny Stolk

In Memory of D Goertzen

Christine Fichter

In Memory of Evelyne Gray

Richard & Rita Schultz

In Memory of Benjamin Gross

Rebecca Dalphone

In Memory of Jozef Hajduk

Sharon Trelenberg

In Memory of Nel Haller

Agnes Derbowka

In Memory of Joan Heard

Anonymous

In Memory of Raymond Heard

Anonymous

In Memory of Herbert P. Hennig

Gerald & Doreen Stroh Rose & Marvin Hennig

In Memory of Herman Honing

Mary Honing

In Memory of Donald Hunley

Charles Whitesell Heli Source Ltd.

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Marty & Karen Kaga

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In Memory of Pamela Kiss

Doris I. & Ed Webber

In Memory of Olga Kremeniuk

Andy Kremeniuk

Barry Bieleny

Dorothy Erickson

Frank Neuhold

Jean Ditner

Lorraine Lysak-Lesher

Michael & Norma Peck

Mildred Setzer

Wanda Wood

Wayne Deines

In Memory of Walter Kufeld

Anonymous

In Memory of Bob Lanman

Doris I. & Lance Jacobi

Edith Kendall

Ianice Nadon

Lynda Fitzgerald

Marilyn Hoffman

Verna & Richard H. Bennett

In Memory of Linda Leavitt

Graham & Debra Thompson

Kelly Peskett

Lise & Robert Peskett

Pat Leavitt

In Memory of Bernice Lockwood

Lynn Illingworth

In Memory of Margaret Lomas

Anonymous

Elsie Baker

In Memory of Norman Loo

Pauline Loo

In Memory of Ivan Mack

Blue Willow Restaurant (1983)

Ltd

Pauline Loo

Teresa Ko

In Memory of Germaine Maloney

Edgar & Jane Richard Louis & Grace Richard

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Barry Mansfield

In Memory of Bob May

Adele Blais

Caralee & David Robinson
Christine J. & Graham Place

Doris Ungarian

Elsie Christie

Ewald & Inez Pgetzke

Joy May

Patricia E. & Raymond Lutz

Ronald W. Durda

Walter May

In Memory of Daniel May

Ephriam & Jean May

In Memory of Patricia Nelson

Betty A. & Edwin L. Whipple

Charles A. Price

Gerald & Marlene Lewis

Ken & Dorothy Lewis

Melvyn Kubasek

Wayne Kubasek

In Memory of Gladys North

Anonymous (2)

In Memory of Penny Oczkowski

Anonymous

In Memory of Herbert Oja

Charles Whitesell

Chris Sande

Iona Oja

In Memory of Jim Opperman

Anonymous

In Memory of Ruth Osterhout

Anonymous

In Memory of William Padlewski

Mary Yaroshuk Michaelle Lemay

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Carole Parker

In Memory of Harry Pederson

Anonymous

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Brad & Valerie Baber

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Anonymous Terri Ross

In Memory of Florence Ouick

Lillian Evanoff

In Memory of Gertrude Rainer

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In Memory of Herb Reisdorf

A. Ray & Arlene Skow
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Maxine & Edward Frank

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Kathleen A. Darling

Patricia Hunt

In Memory of Jean Shields

Anonymous

In Memory of Jean Shirlaw

Anonymous

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Laine Pond

Robert & Lynn C. Pond

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Anonymous

In Memory of Regina Sieg

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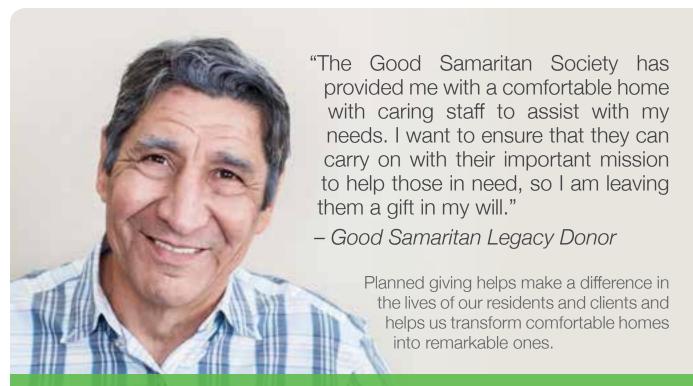
Carol & Gary Lamont

In Memory of Doris Yarimchuk

Carol & David Wagstaff Charlotte & Neil McKellar Ioan N. Redman Leona Dispenbeck Phyllis J. Morhaliek Ray & Beth Yakimchuk Sylvia & Alvin Grumbach

In Memory of Willy Zoschke

Stark & Stark



For more information about leaving a financial legacy, please contact Danica O'Neill at daoneill@gss.org or 780-431-3910.









For more information about **The Good Samaritan Society** or **Good Samaritan Canada** please contact:

Good Samaritan Head Office

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Email: goodsaminfo@gss.org

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f in DegoodsamaritanCA

Your comments and feedback are welcome. Please contact The Good Samaritan Society Communications Team at 780-431-3791 or email communications@gss.org.

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