



April 2, 2020

To our extended Good Samaritan family, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Interim President and CEO and provide you with some comfort in our efforts to see Good Samaritan through this global pandemic. I can assure you that we have taken appropriate measures to protect our residents, employees, volunteers, donors and community partners. Please rest assured we are doing everything in our power to keep those we care for safe and healthy.

We are doing our part by:

- Following all directives from Public Health and the health regions in the communities in which we serve.
- Suspending all volunteer activities within our care homes.
- Postponing or cancelling all events until the end of June and monitoring future events.
- Modifying our resident programs to meet the current requirements of social distancing and helping them stay connected to their loved ones through various technologies.

We began putting this edition of "The Journey" together months before this unprecedented time. Since then, we have seen a significant shift in the reality we live in every day with the COVID-19 global pandemic. Despite the current situation, I still wanted to move ahead with this issue because I am proud to share the stories within. Our teams across Alberta and British Columbia have worked diligently to provide our residents and individuals with inspired care, and we did not want to miss the opportunity to share that with you.

The seniors and individuals in our care will need your support now more than ever as they go through these difficult times. I encourage you to continue your generous support by making a donation online at [gss.org/donate/](https://www.gss.org/donate/). As we adjust to this new reality, we will continue to invest funding into adapting the therapies and support programs that we offer.

If you would like to keep up-to-date with information on what we are doing to prepare and deal with COVID-19 at our care and group homes, please visit us at www.gss.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter at [@goodsamaritanCA](https://www.instagram.com/goodsamaritanCA).

I hope you find inspiration in the stories shared in this publication and the great work currently being done by our Good Samaritans on the frontlines, stories of connecting in unique ways with loved ones, and stories of teamwork.

I wish you good health, resilience and strength as we face this challenging time together.

Sincerely,

Michelle Bonnici

Interim President and CEO



the JOURNEY

Winter 2020

Celebrating a Legacy of Care



Gottlieb Wedman

"The Lord has given me a wonderful family and I was blessed with having some oil on my property. I feel before I die, I would like to do something special — something that would help people who do not have a home. People who are poor and very lonely and who perhaps have lost contact with the Lord."

– Gottlieb Wedman (1949)

Gottlieb Wedman's generous gift of \$7,000 brought The Good Samaritan Society to life and turned a dream into a reality: to provide a comfortable place for senior citizens to live with dignity and receive high-quality care. Over the past seven decades, our exceptional work and achievements could not have been accomplished without our staff, volunteers and donors. We have been privileged to play a part in so many families' lives over the past 70 years.

To celebrate our 70th anniversary, each care home/program hosted a Good Sam's Diner Rock Around the Clock Party. Families, residents, volunteers and friends were all invited to grab their polka dot dresses

or leather jackets, and be ready to "shake, rattle and roll" to celebrate 70 years of compassionate care. Entertainment, decorations and food were all about the '50s. Elvis impersonators, poodle skirts, ice cream floats and pink Cadillacs were just a few of the ways our locations brought the theme to life! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the festivities, food and fun. Read on for a few highlights from specific care homes.



Edna and Anne at Good Samaritan Linden View

Good Samaritan Linden View, Taber, Alta

"We had a costume contest, a photo booth and Elvis even made an appearance. The party was a hit! Volunteers helped hand out glass bottle pops as they took pictures of everyone shaking, rattling and rolling. I am so happy we could take part in celebrating such a huge success; 70 years of service! What a wonderful team to be a part of. I hope you enjoy these pictures."

– Kelly Sran, volunteer advisor

Good Samaritan West Highland Centre & Estates, Lethbridge, Alta



▲ Residents at Good Samaritan West Highland Centre & Estates

We went with a diner theme, creating a 'Highlands Diner' experience, complete with sliders, fries and coleslaw, with anniversary cake for dessert. Our special guests included City Counsellor Belinda Crowson, MP Rachael Harder, Board of Directors Vice-Chairperson Wayne Petersen and senior director of operations Trent Regier.

Our dining rooms were beautifully decorated by our housekeeping aide, Shelley Brown. The first floor dining room was transformed into a diner/soda shop with record centerpieces and backdrop and more records hanging from the ceiling. On the second floor, Shelley created beautiful soda shop backdrops and a jukebox, with vintage-looking signs for the walls. Large ice cream cones served as both decoration and props for the photo booth. The photo booth backdrop featured two classic cars on canvas, so residents appeared to be riding in the cars. Admin, LPNs and recreation staff dressed in their '50s best as Pink Ladies and you could see Grease/Elvis styles galore.

Tom Price entertained the residents as we served ice cream floats. Plus, a few local car enthusiasts brought out their classic cars to show off to the residents. It was a beautiful afternoon for us all to enjoy the cars and visit with the owners.

To end the week, we hosted an ice cream sundae party in the second floor dining room where residents could enjoy the soda shop décor and ice cream sundaes with all the toppings.

Thank you to all of our residents, families, staff, volunteers and donors that celebrated with us. Your support is invaluable to providing excellence in care and service delivery to the communities that we serve.

– Pamela Roy, recreation therapy aide

Good Samaritan Village by the Station Penticton, BC



▲ Kim, site manager, and Robin, resident, enjoying a root beer at Good Samaritan Village by the Station

"We had a classic car show, a photo booth, A & W root beer, along with the A & W Root Bear, hula hooping and a bubble gum blowing contest. For food, we indulged in a popular Penticton food truck — Jeffer's Fryzz! — and cake served by our Penticton royalty. The band Destiny played 1950s hit songs while visitors from the community and residents danced in our laneway. The weather was beautiful! Before the celebration, our kitchen prepared a traditional 1950s meal — hamburgers and fries! It was a wonderful day for everyone!"

– Andrea Jones, recreation and volunteer coordinator



▲ Staff at Good Samaritan Vista Village



Ice cream floats at Good Samaritan Vista Village



Good Samaritan West Highland Centre & Estates



Allan Welke, board director and Elvis impersonator at Good Samaritan Vista Village

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Message from the interim President and CEO



Michelle Bonnici

It is truly a privilege to have the opportunity to lead and serve this incredible organization in my new role as interim President and CEO and I am appreciative of the Board's confidence in me. I started with the organization in December 2019 as Vice President, Employee Experience, and prior to that I was at the University of Alberta as the Corporate Director of Human Resources Integrated Client Services and the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the City of St. Albert.

If you want to know more about me, please visit our website at gss.org.

I joined The Good Samaritan Society as I believe in the philosophy of providing excellence in care, living a life of purpose and empowering people to do amazing things.

From what I have seen in my first few months in the organization, I know that we have a wonderful team of people who are committed to our residents and delivering on our purpose...this is what will get us through any challenging times ahead.

2019 was an exceptional year for the organization; we rolled out a new strategic plan that will guide us to 2024; we celebrated 70 years of compassionate care;

and we achieved accreditation with exemplary status. These are all incredible accomplishments and milestones for any organization but even more so considering that it all happened for us in one year.

September has always been "Mission Month" for us which is a time to uphold and celebrate our mission, remember our humble beginnings and reaffirm our staff. Our mission, based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan, encompasses both compassionate care and a warm place to live. In 1949, Gottlieb Wedman, a farmer from the Leduc area, had a vision to build a home to care for aging people. In 1955, and through his generous donation of \$7000 (equivalent to approximately \$77,000 today) Gottlieb's vision came to life with the opening of a 70-bed auxiliary hospital in Edmonton.

After 70 years, the vision of Gottlieb Wedman has grown into a shared mission that stretches across two provinces and everyday our staff live out our mission to extend Christian Hospitality to those in need or at risk. To commemorate our 70th anniversary, each care home/program held a celebration in September. The theme was **Good Sam's Diner Rock Around the Clock Party** to celebrate everything '50s related and as you can see in the pictures included in the cover story, fifties fun was had by all!

Thank you to all of you that came out to celebrate with us.

October was Accreditation month and several of our care homes were visited by an Accreditation Canada surveyor from October 6 – 11 to determine the extent to which the organization met the accreditation program requirements. Accreditation Canada uses 8 dimensions that all play a part in providing safe, high quality health care;

- 1. Accessibility: give our residents timely and equitable services**
- 2. Appropriateness: do the right thing to achieve the best results**
- 3. Client-centred Services: partner with residents that are in our care and their families**

4. **Continuity: coordinate care of our residents across the continuum**
5. **Efficiency: make the best use of our resources**
6. **Population Focus: work with the community to anticipate their needs**
7. **Safety: keep our residents safe**
8. **Worklife: take care of our employees who take care of our residents**

The organization met 99% of the required criteria within the quality dimensions.

Furthermore, Required Organizational Practices (ROPs) are an essential practice that must be in place for resident safety and to minimize risk. The ROPs are part of the standards and each one has tests for compliance that an organization is required to meet. It should also be noted that ROPs are always high priority and it is difficult to achieve accreditation without meeting most of the applicable ROPs which are defined as:

- **Safety culture: create a culture of safety within the organization**
- **Community: improve the effectiveness and coordination of communication among care and service providers and with the recipients of care and service across the continuum**
- **Medication use: ensure the safe use of high-risk medications**
- **Worklife/workforce: create a worklife and physical environment that supports the safe delivery of care and service**
- **Infection control: reduce the risk of healthcare-associated infections and their impact across the continuum of care/service**
- **Risk assessment: identify safety risks inherent in the client population**

The organization met 100% of the ROPs within each standard set.

During their site visits, the surveyors observed the care that was being provided to our residents and talked to staff, residents, families and volunteers. A significant amount of work went into getting our organization ready for the survey — from our frontline staff to our housekeeping staff, food services, and maintenance and leadership teams — this achievement was accomplished together and we would not have been successful without the hard work and dedication from all of our staff.

The organization was commended by the surveyors for promoting a culture that lives its mission, vision and values.

“With the commitment of the board of directors and the senior leadership team, [The Good Samaritan Society/Good Samaritan Canada] continues to be an innovative provider of care that is focused on excellence and engaged in building collaborative relationships to support quality and safety and manage risk.”

“Good Samaritan Delta View Care Centre is to be commended for its commitment to safety and continuous quality improvement.”



I am extremely proud of our accomplishments and proud to be part of the Good Samaritan family. As we head into 2020, I am excited about what the future holds for our organization. We are not immune to challenges but I'm confident that together, we can do great things. And as the next chapter unfolds, we look forward to being the provider of choice in the communities we serve.

Michelle Bonnici



Good Samaritan

Accreditation Corner

ACCREDITATION CANADA SURVEYS: OCTOBER 6 - 11, 2019

The Good Samaritan Society/Good Samaritan Canada have *gone beyond* the requirements of the Qmentum accreditation program and **continue to demonstrate excellence in quality improvement**. With 12 locations surveyed, and meeting **648 of a possible 656 standards**, the organization has attained the **highest level of performance**. All Good Samaritan care homes and services are deemed **Accredited with Exemplary Standing**.

Infection Prevention and Control

Provides a framework to plan, implement, and evaluate effective infection prevention and control activities based on evidence and best practices in the field.

100%

compliance in 2019 and 100% in 2015

Governance

Addresses the growing international demand for an enhanced governance function to promote increased accountability and stewardship over decision-making in health care organizations.

100%

compliance in 2019 and 100% in 2015

Medication Management

This standard provides guidelines to help organizations such as long-term care centres, clinics or home care, provide safe medication and treatment for clients and family members.

100%

compliance in 2019 and 95.8% in 2015

Leadership

Leadership standards help health care leaders pursue excellence in leadership. They address leadership functions across and throughout all levels of the organization, rather than individual or position-specific capabilities.

99.3%

compliance in 2019 and 99.2% in 2015

Long-Term Care Services

For organizations that deliver high levels of care and nursing care to residents 24-hours a day. These organizations may also provide other services like accommodations, housekeeping, recreational and social activities, and meals.

98.1%

compliance in 2019 and 95.5% in 2015

Residential Homes for Seniors

For organizations that provide services to seniors and residents who require low to moderate levels of care and provide a combination of services.

97.1%

compliance in 2019 and 100% in 2015

Accreditation Canada uses eight quality dimensions that all play a part in **providing safe, high quality health care**. These dimensions are:



Accessibility give our residents timely and equitable services **100% in 2019** and 91.7% in 2015



Appropriateness do the right thing to achieve the best results **98% in 2019** and 99.2% in 2015



Client-centred Services partner with residents in our care and their families **100% in 2019** and 97% in 2015



Continuity coordinate care of our residents across the continuum **100% in 2019** and 100% in 2015



Efficiency make the best use of our resources **100% in 2019** and 100% in 2015



Population Focus work with the community to anticipate their needs **100% in 2019** and 100% in 2015



Safety keep our residents safe **100% in 2019** and 95.7% in 2015



Worklife take care of our employees who take care of our residents **94% in 2019** and 100% in 2015



More photos from our 70th anniversary celebrations across the organization

Good Samaritan Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PPDD)

Edmonton, Alta

Celebrating Colin's 39th birthday

by Jacquie Gibson

In the summer of 2004, my husband Brad, my son Colin and I decided to move from our small northern BC town to Edmonton. The move was planned so that our family would have easier access to special needs services for Colin. Colin was 24-years-old at the time and extremely dependent on our family.

Upon arriving, we researched our options and felt that The Good Samaritan Society was the best choice for Colin. He began attending day programs that fall. After a few years of enjoying the day programs, while building friendships and making connections with people, we took the step to move him into a Good Samaritan group home. Colin was so proud of this big milestone in his life — finally he felt he had the independence and freedom that he had seen everyone else experience. He thrived in his new surroundings and we enjoyed our own freedom too, while knowing that he was well cared for. The Good Samaritan staff maintained regular and open communication with us about all aspects of his life.

Over the years, the staff members that work with Colin most closely have gotten to know him well and they go out of their way to do special things for him. For instance, Colin's birthday is a big deal to him and he always wants a party with lots of friends — and he counts a wide range of people among his friends, including church staff, local firemen and police. Emmanuel, the Good Samaritan PPDD Team Lead, took Colin out to personally deliver invitations to every guest on Colin's birthday list, no matter who they were.

On the day of the party, Emmanuel brought his own family (on his own time) and not only did every guest on Colin's list show up, including the church staff, but the police even gave Colin a tour of the police car — flashing lights and all — and the firemen showed up

with their fire truck. They let him wear a fire hat and take a turn spraying the hose! Colin has been thrown a party like this every year and the staff are behind much of the planning.

Here is another story of how The Good Samaritan Society has worked together with us and how we have both benefitted through that process. Colin will be requiring surgery very soon and we want to get him stronger by swimming and exercising more. I asked if the staff would take him swimming regularly, but one of the first times that I went to watch, I learned that Emmanuel himself could not swim. Now I regularly go to the pool to assist Colin and Emmanuel. In four short weeks, Colin has begun entering the water in the deep end and swimming all the way to the shallow end. Emmanuel is now learning to swim alongside him.

Thank you to the wonderful team at Good Samaritan PPDD for continuing to make an impact on the lives of all the residents, including our son Colin.



Colin and his friend at his birthday party



▲ Colin



▲ Colin sitting in the fire truck



▲ Colin posing with Edmonton first responders



▲ Colin wearing a constable hat



▲ Colin posing with officers from Edmonton Police Services

well wishes



Send an online message to your loved one!

Family members and friends now have the ability to send well wishes to their loved ones in our care.

Visit us online, fill in the online form, and click send. It is that easy! We will print your message and hand-deliver your well wishes to your loved one the same day.

Well wishes are a great way for friends and family from far away to send a thoughtful note to someone they care about.

No special occasion is needed ... if you are thinking about someone... you can let them know. Your kind words can brighten their day... *today*.

Visit gss.org/well-wishes for all the details!



THE
GOOD
SAMARITAN
SOCIETY

GOOD
SAMARITAN
CANADA

in TOUCH



News and information from mission and culture



Karen Wedman, director of mission and culture

Song of Songs 2:4b

Let his banner over me be love.

Romans 12:10

*Be devoted to one another in love.
Honour one another above yourselves.*

This past year, Mission Effectiveness changed its name to Mission and Culture, reflecting the priorities set out by our strategic plan and the goal of having a mission-driven culture. This means that in all we do, we hold high the banner of Christian Hospitality; a banner that is rooted in loving-kindness. This is the standard under which our organization rallies, comes together and presses forward in order to live out our values with residents and staff.

Our mission-driven culture is the lens we look through to carry out the work of The Good Samaritan Society/ Good Samaritan Canada/Good Samaritan Delta View Care Centre. This intentional orientation helps to integrate our mission of Christian Hospitality, a vision of creative caring, and values dedicated to the support and care of positive and healthy environments, relationships and servant leaders. We are committed to engaging our staff and residents by meaningfully and purposefully creating communities of kindness, respect and significance as we work together at all levels of the organization.

Our mission defines who we are as an organization. It provides our purpose and our fundamental way of being. As a faith-based organization, all of our staff are called by God to the work they do. Each person has unique talents gifted by God for this work. To highlight our mission perspectives, I want to take a moment to reflect on a few examples of how these values are being carried out within our care homes among our very gifted and dedicated staff. These stories give us an opportunity to enjoy the approach to loving care and companioning, which resonates across the organization under our banner of Christian Hospitality.

The first story I would like to share is written by chaplain Sharilynn Upsdell, at Good Samaritan Mountainview Village in Kelowna, BC.

Honour Guard Ceremony

Honour Guard: "In life, in death, in life beyond death — we are not alone."

The Honour Guard Ceremony at our Good Samaritan care homes is an experience treasured by residents, families and staff alike. As Chaplain Dean of Good Samaritan Southgate Care Centre and Good Samaritan Mill Woods Care Centre says, our Honour Guard Service creates a "beautiful, heartwarming story of honour, care and dignity for the person who has died within our circle(s) of care."

When an individual arrives to live in our care homes, they are greeted with enthusiasm and a warm welcome, so that they, and their families, feel supported and can begin to trust that we will care for them with dignity and warmth. When they die, we continue to offer care and respect to the resident and their families. We also provide poignant moments for staff to recognize the resident, as they share memories in honour and gratitude, during our Honour Guard Ceremonies, for the person who has lived in their care.

It is a common scenario at Good Samaritan Mountainview Village, where a resident remains until their last breath, in the home that they have established with us. When they die and the family calls the funeral home to transport their body, staff are notified that the final goodbye opportunity is about to begin. Staff appreciate the opportunity to gather with family and sometimes other residents in the hallway outside the resident's room. When all is ready, the funeral home staff bring the deceased into the hallway, with our dedicated Honour Blanket covering their body and the gurney.

Regardless of whether it happens during daytime or on nightshift, staff and family line the hallway and pause from their busy duties while the Chaplain (when on duty), or more often other care staff, guide those gathered in a few moments of final respect and thanksgiving. A short reading may be included, suited to the person's spiritual life or religious tradition. Then staff and family are invited to share brief stories and memories of their time with the resident. Tears of laughter and grief intermingle at this poignant time. A prayer of Thanksgiving is offered before commending




An honour blanket used in the Honour Guard Ceremony

the resident to God's care and the resident's body is escorted by all staff to the awaiting funeral car.

Funeral home staff members comment regularly that this meaningful ritual of deep love and respect enhances the positive experience of gathering residents from Good Samaritan Mountainview Village. Occasionally, a funeral home staff member will share their own memories, especially if they have cared for another member of our resident's family. Recently one funeral director in attendance thanked staff for their care. Our care manager Tannis Gamble summed up the director's comments. " ... what an honour it is to witness a community that takes a moment, shares some wonderful stories, speaks about the person that has left us, offers them dignity and shows that they are a part of our families." This affirms how important it is to recognize that our jobs are difficult, but that what we do makes such a difference in the lives of the ones that we care for. Funeral care staff went on to add that the Honour Guard Ceremony is an impactful time and she has not been to another home that offers as much dignity and respect as our small service offers.

Community education and support is another offering by Good Samaritan Pastoral Care Chaplains. About a year ago, the manager of a local Baptist housing care home requested our support to share this tender and valuable process with their leadership team. Within just a few days of sharing our Honour Guard philosophy and process, the Chaplain at Village at Smith Creek,



 Resident art project at Good Samaritan Victoria Heights

West Kelowna, began implementing the Honour Guard Ceremony at their care home and subsequently the process has been instituted across other BC Baptist housing sites.

The tradition of care in life, in death, in life beyond death continues!

Our volunteers are also a large part of our culture, interacting and reflecting hospitality with residents and staff alike.

Volunteer Appreciation

Jacquelyn Loh, who supports volunteers at Good Samaritan Victoria Heights in New Westminster writes:

"We are very grateful to volunteers Sue Ward and Judi McQueen for their dedication as they bring smiles and fun to our residents. Sue and her dog Lacey visit every Tuesday evening with armloads of board game activities. Judi brings her grand-dogs Farley and Paddington every Monday morning for cuddles and conversations. Once every season, Sue and Judi team up to organize a culinary event, wine party or a craft activity. They bring a great sense of community and friendship with every visit. With both of them living in the area, they feel a personal connection with Good Samaritan Victoria Heights. The passion and energy they have are powerful! As they engage our residents in activities and art projects, they bring out the residents' creativity and enhance the home-like environment at the care home."

Ethics

Part of the way we put our mission-driven culture into action is by promoting an ethical culture throughout our community. This past year, Mission and Culture provided training at the care homes for staff, residents, their families and volunteers around ethics. An ethical culture ensures that the organization follows the standards set by the mission and upholds the values of an organization.

Ethics is part of our organizational decision-making, as well as our consultation processes. We follow ethical principles such as autonomy (the right of an individual to make decisions based on their values), beneficence (to do good, while following the individual's decisions), non-maleficence (to do no harm), justice (to be fair), fidelity (to keep your promises) and veracity (to be truthful).

Ethical consults engage the community, and everyone contributes towards the process. They are used to assist the community in the midst of difficult decisions or situations. In this way, they form a vital part of our mission-driven culture.

In all that we do, we carry on our work under this banner of Christian Hospitality and continue to look for opportunities to partner with all Good Samaritans across our community.



 Rock painting

Good Samaritan Mountainview Village Kelowna, BC

Christmas pageants

by Sharilynn Upsdell, chaplain

At Good Samaritan Mountainview Village, we celebrate every Advent season with three Christmas pageants, one in each of our programs — assisted living/life lease, complex care and dementia care cottages.

Everyone who attends is offered a simple costume: crowns and royal robes for wise ones, white capes and halos for angels and humble robes for shepherds. Mary, Joseph and Caesar's herald each receive their own costumes as well. No one has a speaking role in these pageants.

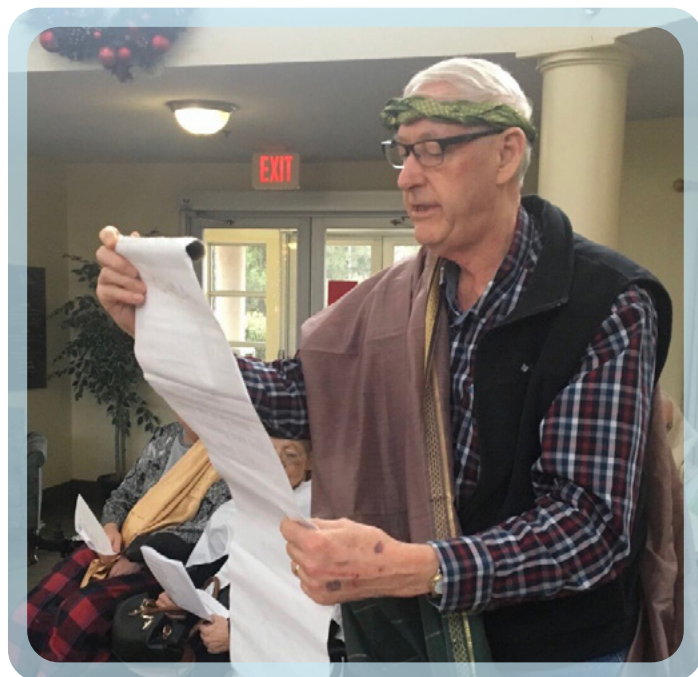
I serve as the narrator who walks the whole group through the story, bringing the angel to Mary to tell her good news, then to Joseph to reassure him and finally to the Shepherds to share the news. Mary and Joseph are guided through Bethlehem as we knock on doors looking for a room at the inn, and then the angel "delivers" the baby at the appropriate time. Each group's pageant is unique, and they are always poignant, lovely and touching. Sometimes they take a humorous turn or fill the residents with such emotion that they tear up.

We sing various hymns that move us along through the story and our chimers play a few precious pieces, ending with everyone taking photos and singing "Go Tell It On The Mountain."

These pageants are always a much anticipated dramatic production, loved and eagerly awaited by residents, family and staff alike.



▲ In our Cottage Pageant, Wise Ones Shirley & Manny bring gifts to Mary, Joseph & Baby Jesus



▲ Len, from Life Lease, claims center stage with the decree of Caesar Augustus for the Census, sending Mary & Joseph to Bethlehem



▲ Life Lease tenant, Joe, holds the scroll of Caesar Augustus' census order as he tenderly watches over his wife Vicki — one of our special Cottage Angels



▲ In our Life Lease/Assisted Living Pageant Angel Julie and Wise One Irene (with her sidekick "Elvis") await their moments of drama



▲ Mary (Bahiyih from Assisted Living) & Joseph (Eugene from Life Lease), are visited by Angel Judith of Assisted Living, as she informs them of the forthcoming pregnancy and arrival of Jesus



▲ Mary (played by Barbara) & Joseph (played by Chris) share laughter and a warm bond as co-residents in Cottage Pageant

Good Samaritan West Highland Centre Lethbridge, Alta

Birch Tree Art Program

by Pamela Roy, recreation therapy aide

In November 2019, a group of 14 residents participated in the new art program at Good Samaritan West Highland Centre. The program was so well received by its first participants that the enthusiasm resulted in the program becoming ongoing. Residents have tried watercolour, salt art and marble art. They've created art with dry paint, water and even bubble wrap!

During the November program, we had residents select a canvas for their art project that was taped with painter's tape in various directions to form trees. Each resident was given blue and green paint and shown how to paint the bottom of their canvas green to

represent grass, and the top blue to represent the sky. After the project had time to dry, the painter's tape was removed so that residents could begin to add 'bark' to the trees using the side of a hard, plastic card and dipping the edge into black paint. The edge of the card was then swiped across the blank space left by the removed tape and the bark effect was created. Staff and volunteers assisted residents as needed in this process.

Our residents are proud of their accomplishments and enjoy sharing all the projects they have completed so far.



Two of our residents painting their birch tree artwork

Good Samaritan CHOICE Program Edmonton, Alta

Spreading the warmth

The Good Samaritan Society CHOICE Program (Comprehensive Home Options for Integrated Care for the Elderly) started in 1992. The program promotes independence and socialization through a structured program, run by consistent, trained staff that are familiar with each client's past history and present-care needs. Activities build life skills by using what the client is familiar with and extending that learning, which provides clients with feelings of success and accomplishment.

This holiday season, the clients at the Good Samaritan CHOICE program at Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre worked hard and made more than a dozen handmade fleece knot blankets. The beautiful handmade blankets were then donated to Edmonton Emergency Relief Services Society (EERSS) and The Youth Empowerment and Supportive Services (YESS) to help provide a little extra warmth this holiday season.

A huge thank you to the Edmonton Public Teachers' Charity Trust Fund for their generous donation to the Good Samaritan CHOICE program that helped make this initiative possible.



Tamara, fund development officer,
dropping off blankets at YESS

Good Samaritan Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PPDD)

Edmonton, Alta

2019 Christmas Concert: Traditions from Around the World

by Minnie Dawyd, PPDD program manager

2019 marked the third year that PPDD individuals and staff from all of our supported living group homes joined together as performers to celebrate the Christmas holidays. Families and friends came to join us and celebrated the season with music and carolling.

This year's theme was about celebrating Christmas traditions from around the world. As The Good Samaritan Society is a faith-based organization that serves individuals from a variety of cultures around the world, this concert provided an opportunity for us to share our Christmas traditions with one another. This was a wonderful opportunity to catch the Christmas spirit, have some family fun and celebrate the traditions for the season. Everyone was encouraged to wear their best "ugly" Christmas sweater for the occasion.

The fun started when the Christmas Concert Committee announced a drawing contest for the best Christmas-themed picture. These drawings were featured in the 2019 PPDD Christmas Concert wall decorations. All PPDD individuals were encouraged to submit Christmas pictures and Christmas videos of their traditions, which were then incorporated into the concert. Wooden Christmas trees that represented the traditions from around the world were decorated and each tree included information on the origin of the tradition.

PPDD Chaplain Helen Bennett and manager of mission and culture Sarah Rudd delivered the devotion and the welcome message. Jackie Lovely, MLA for Camrose, brought greetings on behalf of Premier Jason Kenney and the Honourable Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Community and Social Services. The concert started with everyone singing the opening song, Jingle Bells.

Videos and lyrics on-screen encouraged group participation. All those participating also had the option to play an instrument. Nine performers spelled out the word "Christmas" and each spoke about a cherished holiday tradition. After each letter was presented, we all sang another song or carol.

Christmas pictures were collected from the homes and played as a slideshow. Assistant director of operations for community programs Bonnie Morrison delivered her closing message all the way from Mexico. Christmas greetings from all 28 homes were played and then we all sang the closing Christmas song, We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

Thank you everyone for an amazing PPDD Christmas Concert and for spreading the holiday spirit! We hope to see you again next year.



MLA Jackie Lovely with chaplain Helen Bennett, The Three Wise Guys and PPDD program manager Minnie Dawyd



Good Samaritan Mill Woods Care Centre Edmonton, Alta

A night at the races

by Evie Varelas, recreation therapist

No matter the superstition, Friday, December 13 did not stop our residents at Good Samaritan Mill Woods Care Centre in trying their hand at the horse races. This was a long-anticipated event, and what better way to spend a Friday evening than surrounded by friends and cheering? Residents were excited to place bets on the strong and beautiful horses that were racing that evening. These Standardbred horses were harness racing, which is a form of horse racing in which the horses race at a specific gait (a trot or a pace). They usually pull a two-wheeled cart called either a sulky or a spider, which is occupied by a driver. Residents learned a lot about the terminology of racing and how to pick based on odds and past purses.

Century Mile Racetrack only just opened in Edmonton in the spring of 2019. Since it is a new addition to the local entertainment scene, our residents were keen to check out the new space. The staff at Century Mile went above and beyond to make this event possible for us. Our residents were treated to great views of the racetrack and received a warm welcome to our group on their television screens. The staff helped all our residents settle in for an evening of food, laughter and cheering.

We want to thank everyone who helped make this outing possible, from our staff, volunteers and families to all the staff at Century Mile. If you're ever looking for a night out, I recommend talking with the staff at Century Mile as they were so friendly and accommodating to our group.



Resident flashing a smile from Century Mile



Staff and residents from Good Samaritan Mill Woods Care Centre at Century Mile



Residents watching the horse races



Residents watching the horse



Welcome message on TV screen at Century Mile

Good Samaritan Fund Development Office Edmonton, Alta

At the rink with the Edmonton Oil Kings

by Danica O'Neill, director of fund development

On Sunday, January 19, 2020, more than 40 Good Samaritans, including staff, clients and volunteers, could be found at Rogers Place as the Edmonton Oil Kings took on the Medicine Hat Tigers!

One of our PPDD clients, Colin Gibson, and former President and CEO Julius van Wyk, participated in the ceremonial puck drop to get the game started. Our amazing staff and incredible volunteers could be found selling 50/50 tickets and Chuck-A-Pucks to raise awareness and funds for the 70th anniversary campaign supporting recreation therapy across the organization.

The volunteers sold \$15,935 in 50/50 tickets and hundreds of pucks totalling \$1,085. Thank you to all who gave their time and support!



▲ Colin gets a handshake from Oil Kings Captain Scott Atkinson



▲ Ceremonial Puck Drop



▲ Volunteers selling 50/50 tickets and "Chuck-a-Puck" pucks.



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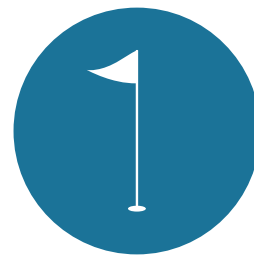
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**Proceeds from these annual tournaments will benefit our
New Initiatives in Care Excellence (NICE) program, helping
us deliver the best possible services to those in our care.**

Visit gss.org/events to register.



**Stay tuned to gss.org for more information and follow us
[@goodsamaritan CA](#) on Facebook and Twitter for updates.**

One round of golf can make a world of difference.

June 1, 2019 - November 30, 2019

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As charities, The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada depend on the support of our donors to help secure items not otherwise funded for, such as our beds and specialized equipment, which are needed to provide high-quality care for our residents and clients. The generosity of our donors helps make this happen — thank you.

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