



the JOURNEY

Summer 2020

The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada Operation: Good Samaritan Heroes

by Michelle Bonnici, Interim President and CEO



When we talk about simple acts of kindness, one of my top priorities at all times, but especially during this pandemic, is to ensure that our employees know how valued they are. They are our greatest asset, and we would not be successful in caring for those in need without them.

There are simply no words to say or actions to take to thank our employees enough for everything they are doing out there on the front lines to support those in our care. So, as I lay awake one night thinking of all their hard work and sacrifices, I thought of an idea that might show them in a small way, what they mean to all of us and their communities.





I brought the idea forward to a wonderful team of people who immediately got to work to turn it into a reality. Operation: Good Samaritan Heroes was just one way for us to say thank you for all that our employees do each and every day while acknowledging the heroic efforts being undertaken across the organization during this pandemic.

The pandemic has focused a spotlight on essential workers, and we wanted to do something special to thank ours. Thanks to some

extremely creative people in our organization, we were able to develop hero boxes filled with goodies, and special pins that they can wear with pride. Our employees are always essential to us, but we wanted a visual reminder of how important they are and how much we appreciate them during the pandemic. Thank you to our employees for going above and beyond for our residents and clients to make this difficult time a little easier for them.

You are Good Samaritan heroes!



CANCELLED



SPIRIT OF CARING GOLF CLASSIC

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENTS IN SUPPORT OF
THE GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY

Each year we host our Spirit of Caring Golf Classic events, and we know that many of you look forward to attending. Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the safety of our supporters and golfers is our number one priority which is why we have decided to cancel the tournaments this year.

We want to thank all of our donors and participants for supporting our tournaments year after year. Cancelling the tournaments was a difficult decision as they are vital to our charitable organization as funds raised help make life more engaging and comfortable for our residents, clients and individuals. To try to bridge the gap, we are excited to announce a new virtual fundraiser that we will be undertaking. Turn to **page 21** for more information, and we hope you will consider supporting this fundraiser!

We look forward to seeing you back on the links in 2021!

Preparing for COVID-19

The safety and well being of our residents, clients, volunteers and employees of The Good Samaritan Society/Good Samaritan Canada and Good Samaritan Delta View are of the utmost importance to us.

For up-to-date information about visitation protocols, frequently asked questions, regional health authority resources, and more, visit gss.org/preparations-for-covid-19.

Message from the Interim President and CEO



Michelle Bonnici

The past few months have seen our organization and the communities we operate in faced with numerous challenges as we have all dealt with the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. Watching the world events unfold since February has created a path for the organization that has certainly highlighted a need for change, reflection and resilience. The organization was forced to reconcile an emergency management protocol along with pandemic planning and protections as well as organizational sustainability in a very short period of time.

The dedication and resilience our employees show each and every day truly makes them healthcare heroes. Above all, they are human, and in the midst of the pandemic have managed to find the courage to pull together and provide care to our most vulnerable. Everyone from our front line workers to the people who support them behind the scenes have rolled up their sleeves and put all of their effort and dedication into keeping those we care for safe. Thank you for putting our residents and clients first, and for meeting this challenge head-on – that is the definition of a true hero. You should be proud of yourselves, and I hope that you know your kindness, strength and perseverance are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our residents and their loved ones for their continued patience and understanding as we navigate this new normal. I know that being apart from your loved ones has not been easy for any of you and I do greatly appreciate the patience and support you have shown our employees during this difficult time. As we continue forward, I want you to know that our priority is the safety and well being of our residents and we will continue to work hard each and every day to ensure that our care and group homes are safe environments for everyone who lives and works in them.

To our volunteers, thank you for continuing to check-in at the care homes to see how everyone is holding up. We miss you too! While we cannot yet welcome you back, we look forward to the day that we can have you join us again. To all of the volunteers who have started virtual volunteering, know that the beautiful artwork, messages and photos are a bright spot for everyone who sees them. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us and those we serve. In this issue, you will be able to see some of those messages and read a bit more about this initiative that is a daily source of happiness for many.

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Finally, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for all of our donors. Even amid a pandemic, when many people themselves were dealing with the negative outcomes that came along with it, you supported us by making life more for our residents and clients. As we saw the way we had to operate change, including moving to virtual visits, you helped us purchase the technology needed to ensure our residents and clients could connect with their loved ones. Of course that was not all, and as you read along in this edition of *The Journey*, there are many more uplifting stories that were only made possible through generous donations.

Celebrating success is difficult in this trying time but it is important to recognize the amazing people that contribute to this organization because it is through them that we have been able to experience the successes we have had over the past few months. Dealing with the pandemic has been a challenging road and recognizing our achievements along the way is important. It is through our donors, volunteers, residents and their loved ones, and our employees that we have been able to weather the COVID-19 storm as we have. I am humbled to be a part of this team that during a pandemic is still able to bring some light and happiness to our care and group homes, and I am happy that I can share some of those stories with you in the coming pages.

Sincerely,



Michelle Bonnici B.A. LL.M
Interim President and CEO



Kim Pereira

Kim Pereira is the site manager for Good Samaritan Village by the Station (VBTS) in Penticton, B.C. She has worked for Good Samaritan Canada for the past 15 years and is a valued member of our Good Samaritan family. We asked Kim a few questions so everyone can learn a little bit more about her.

How long have you worked at Good Samaritan Canada?

I have worked at VBTS for 15 years; I took the Health Care Aide (HCA) program in 2002 in Edmonton, Alberta, where I worked (not at Good Samaritan) until I returned home to B.C. to work. I started with VBTS on May 31, 2005, as an HCA. During my first five years with Good Samaritan Canada (GSC), I had a site manager that encouraged me to follow my lifelong dream to become a nurse, and in 2010, I went back to college to become an LPN. In December 2010, I returned to VBTS as an LPN where I have gained leadership experience that led me

Employee Spotlight Kim Pereira



to my position as a site manager in October 2017.

What positions have you worked in? If multiple, do you have a favourite?

During my time with GSC, I have worked as an HCA, LPN, Unit Clerk, and FAA. Each position gave me the experience to bring me to the site manager position.

Do you have a favourite memory you would like to share from your time at Good Samaritan Village by the Station?

I started my career with GSC and have grown up with the team here both personally and professionally. There are so many amazing memories with our team that I am not sure I can pick just one. Every day that I can make a difference in a resident or employees life is a memorable one.

What advice would you give a new employee?

Good Samaritan is not just a place to work, but a place to call home. The team at Good Samaritan Village by the Station is a family.

What do you like to do when you're not at work? Any hobbies?

I have three teenage children who keep me busy, and I am an active volunteer and member of two minor sports board of directors: the Glengarry figure skating club and

Penticton minor lacrosse. I enjoy the outdoors, biking, snowboarding, camping and cooking. I also enjoy the wine country of the beautiful Okanagan.

Where is one place you want to travel to?

One day when the world becomes a safer place to travel, I dream of returning to Europe.

What inspired you to work in the care sector?

My mother, who was a nurse, passed away when I was ten years old. My entire life, I aspired to be a nurse like her and to make her proud.

What's the first thing you do when you get home from work?

I probably shouldn't put drink wine lol – I make dinner for my family and watch my children's sports and recreational activities.

What's one thing you are really proud of?

My team at Good Samaritan Village by the Station and how hard they have worked and come together during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada

Spread kindness – it changes everything

by Michelle Bonnici, Interim President and CEO



A long time ago, a dear friend of mine gave me a kindness coin that reminds me to this day of the incredible act of kindness she had done for me. Since then, I have carried and shared the coin with others, and now I am happy to share it with our Good Samaritan family. I have sent the kindness coin out across the organization and have asked any employee that receives it to take the opportunity to perform a small act of kindness for someone that they work with.

Over the next few months, the coin will travel to all our care and group homes across Alberta and British Columbia. I hope that throughout its journey, we can celebrate the impact the acts of kindness have had on one another. In these challenging times, it is easy to forget some of the most important aspects of humanity,

but it is also when we must remember how important it is to hold on to those things we cherish most. Kindness, love, joy, dignity, respect and, of course, laughter.

The coin's first stop was Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village in Lethbridge, A.B., where it stayed for two weeks before making its way to Good Samaritan West Highland Centre and Estates in the same city. From there, the coin travelled to the Sunshine Coast for a stint at Good Samaritan Christenson Village in Gibsons, B.C., before continuing its journey to Good Samaritan Mountainview Village in Kelowna. The coin will continue to travel across Alberta and British Columbia in the coming months.

While this is a new initiative, it has been heartwarming to see the impact the coin has already had on those that have come in contact with it. We have received reports of people sharing everything from coffee gift cards to flowers and handmade artwork. But more important than the items, were the words of kindness that went along with them. Describing their colleagues as someone that's always smiling, or willing to help anyone in need.

While the kindness coin may be small in size, its impact on the organization can already be felt. I look forward to the day when I receive it back knowing that we all helped spread a little kindness.

Spread Kindness
It Changes Everything

A graphic featuring a vibrant rainbow arching over the text. The rainbow has distinct bands of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Below the rainbow, there are stylized white clouds.

Good Samaritan Victoria Heights, New Westminster, B.C.

Small wonders with big hearts



Meet Rosy and Ginger! These amazing mini donkeys from Small Wonders EFW (Equine Facilitated Wellness) visited the residents of Good Samaritan Victoria Heights in New Westminster B.C. back in February. These girls are best friends and visit care homes to interact and bring joy, laughter, conversation and hope to everyone they meet. Interacting with animals is great therapy for our residents, and some of the comments during the visit were "I have never touched a donkey or a mule before" and "thank you so much!" Another resident got up, walked over and kissed Ginger on her head saying "animals are amazing."

Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village, Lethbridge, Alta.

Friends from the farm

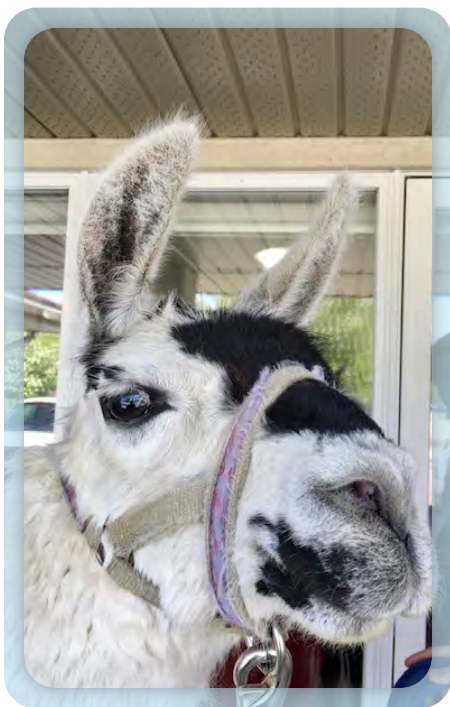


In May, Coulee View Farms came by and brought a lot of joy to our residents. Myla and her calf Ginger-snap, Cari and her cow Ginger and Shealyn and her goats Fiona and Nala were a huge hit with everyone! Our residents continue to talk about the visit and we truly appreciate Naomi Vanderveen for arranging the volunteers and animal visitors. Even with COVID-19 restrictions in place, it is wonderful to see communities coming together to support those in our care.



Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village, Lethbridge, Alta.

A llamazing day



The Moltzahn family with Zia and Stella.

Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village in Lethbridge, Alta., had some exciting visitors back in June - Zia and Stella. With COVID-19 visitor and volunteer restrictions in place at the time, the llama sisters brought much laughter to all the residents and staff they saw during their visit. The curious pair wanted to give everyone kisses, but of course we had to remind them of the importance of physical distancing at this time. Thank you to the Moltzahn family for this amazing pet therapy to make life more joyful for our residents and lift everyone's spirits.

The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada

To our volunteers... we miss you

VOLUNTEERING IMPACT: 2019 SNAPSHOT

*Good Samaritan
Volunteers donated over*

72,000
HOURS!



*That's amazing, and while their
time is invaluable to us, it would
work out to over an estimated
\$1.09 M donated to our charity!*

*Thank you to all of our volunteers for
providing comfort and joy to those in
our care over this past year.*



THE
GOOD
SAMARITAN
SOCIETY

GOOD
SAMARITAN
CANADA

Get **involved**
unteeer

Volunteering comes in many forms and is as diverse as Canada itself. The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada would like to thank our more than 1200 volunteers across Alberta and British Columbia for donating their time and providing support to our clients and residents.

While we can't say it in person right now, due to COVID-19, we want you to know that you are all missed at the care and group homes, and we cannot wait to say thank you in person once things get back to normal. In the meantime we hope you stay safe and healthy!

Good Samaritan Volunteers:

WE WISH WE COULD SAY IT IN PERSON:

**THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT
YOU DO!**



**WE'VE HAD TO POSTPONE OUR
APPRECIATION EVENTS, BUT
CAN'T WAIT TO CELEBRATE WITH
YOU ONCE THAT'S POSSIBLE.**



THE
GOOD
SAMARITAN
SOCIETY

GOOD
SAMARITAN
CANADA

in TOUCH

News and information from mission effectiveness



Change can be a blessing

by Karen Wedman, Director of Mission and Ethics



Karen Wedman

Life involves change. There is a saying; the older you get, the more you realize that the only thing constant in life is change and I think we are really noticing that now with COVID-19.

While we do not always like or appreciate change, we can admit it is a time of growth, of creativity and a time to collaborate with others.

What if we were to view change as a blessing? We need not walk in fear of change but in faith because the one thing that doesn't change is God and his abiding love for us all. Viewing change as a blessing helps us to see the areas where we have grown so that the next change becomes easier.

Good Samaritan has worked extremely hard these past several months dealing with the day-to-day changes issued by the health authorities and medical officers. This meant daily changes for our frontline staff as everyone works to keep residents and each other safe.

The Good Samaritan vision statement is to "grow in strength, excellence and creativity in caring for others," and I would say we have certainly done that these past few months. The community has supported our efforts which helps strengthen us because we are all going through this together. We have had to be creative in how we continue to do our work, and we are seeing wonderful results considering the circumstances. Without the presence of families or volunteers, staff have been assisting

residents in holding virtual visits with their loved ones via iPads and, as some visiting has been allowed, by portering residents to visits with family. Providing quality of life for residents by finding new ways to help them connect with their loved ones is one of the new changes we have implemented. Staff have risen to the challenge, even amid all of the fear and anxiety within society, because they know they are called to a greater purpose by caring for individuals living in our care homes.

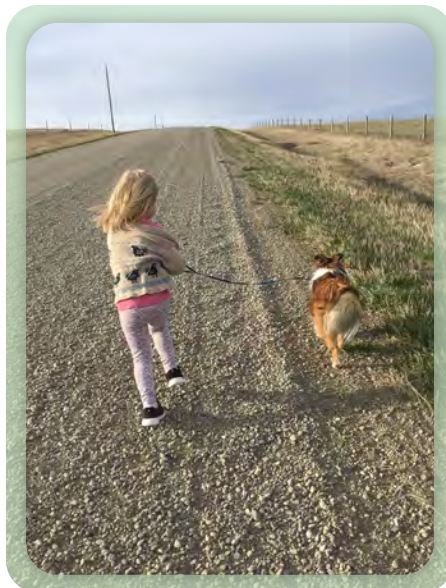
Chaplains and volunteer services are lending a hand to fill in the gaps and to look after the psychosocial and emotional needs of our residents. They have also had to change their approach in providing worship,

well wishes

Hello!

I hope you're doing well during this time. Although it's difficult staying inside all day, I hope you are finding lots of fun activities to keep you busy! One thing I've been doing a lot of is baking. Some of the things I've made are cookies, cake, and bread, although some turned out better than others. Another thing that's fun to do during this isolation is calling your friends and family. Although you can't see them in person during this time, it's nice to hear their voices every once in a while. Even though this pandemic has brought lots of negatives, it's important to look for the positives each day. I hope you are feeling well and your family is safe.

Take Care! Ella
Harry Ainlay High student



rituals and programs to maintain social distancing. Innovative worship is provided for the residents on TVs and through YouTube worship services on iPads. One-to-one visits are very important to help residents feel less isolated.

We miss our precious volunteers and look forward to when we can see them again. To date, we have started a new way of volunteering – virtual volunteering, which you can read more about on page 16.

Blessings come in many ways, from a smile through a window, a beautiful card or piece of art, honking of horns, or a community parade. Throughout this pandemic, we have become creative in how we improve safety and quality of life for those who live in our care. We have grown closer to our communities who show us love, and we are getting to know our families through the various mediums as we assist in connecting families and residents.

Ethically there have been many discussions around what it meant to restrict families and volunteers

from the care homes. We have come to talk more around public ethics rather than individual ethics and how this applies to our residents. COVID-19 is highly infectious and presents a high degree of harm with no prevention. This causes harm to our residents and society as a whole. Everyone is required to help control the situation to the best of their abilities. We follow the protocols set up by the health authorities and Public Health because they are based on what is best for society as well as our residents. We are doing everything possible to provide the best quality of life for our residents at this time. Families are doing their best to support staff and residents as well by respecting the protocols that are in place, and in this way, ethically we are all doing whatever it takes to keep everyone safe.

God continues to bless our organization through the many Good Samaritans within and outside in the community. We know we have a long ways to go but we know God will continue to be with us each step of the way.



Good Samaritan Mill Woods Centre, Edmonton, Alta.

Aboriginal smudging ceremony

by Dean Shingoose, Chaplain for Good Samaritan Mill Woods Centre and Good Samaritan Southgate Care Centre



White sage smudge stick in an abalone seashell (Shutterstock).



Dean Shingoose

Once a week at Good Samaritan Mill Woods Centre, we have an Aboriginal Smudging Ceremony for residents and any staff who can participate. We usually have around four or five residents per week, but we've had as many as 14 participate in the past. The Aboriginal Smudging Ceremony is a prayer and purification ceremony common to Indigenous people throughout North America. Each Indigenous group has its own cultural/spiritual teachings and practices relative to smudging ceremonies. In my indigenous tradition (Salteaux/Plains Ojibway), four sacred herbs

are used in the smudging ceremony: sage, sweetgrass, cedar, and tobacco. Each of the four sacred herbs has its own symbolism, meaning, and teachings. The sacred herbs are placed in a smudge bowl, which can be a hollow rock formation, abalone shell, or ceramic bowl and are lit to form smoke with the aid of an eagle feather. The smouldering smoke is used symbolically to ceremonially wash one's hands, head, eyes, ears, mouth, body, and heart. The ascending smoke is a visible or symbolic sign that our prayers, at that moment, are ascending directly to the Creator. The smoke is also believed to cleanse/purify the

person from negative thoughts, emotions, and energy and replaces them with positive energy, wellness, and healing (mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical). After the Smudging Ceremony is completed, the eagle feather is passed around to each person in the circle to say something if they wish or to offer a silent prayer and then passed to the next person. This part of the ceremony is called a talking or healing circle. Both residents and staff have expressed that the smudging ceremony has been a meaningful experience for them and that they have received strength and been blessed by being part of the prayer circle.

Good Samaritan Place, Edmonton, Alta.

In loving memory of Walter Breedevelt



 Walter Breedevelt

Walter Breedevelt was a resident at the Good Samaritan Place apartments in Edmonton, Alta., and he passed away on June 1, 2020. His mother Margaret, and his siblings, Lisa and Jeff, donated a Memorial Bench for residents and visitors to enjoy on the back patio.

Walter was an avid NASCAR fan and loved working on custom car models. He loved traveling to Las Vegas and had a strange sense of humour that would leave you either shaking your head or rolling on the floor laughing.

Walter enjoyed listening to the Moody Blues reflecting on life as a quiet struggle, "Sometimes life is a




complicated endless journey with its hills and valleys encouraging you forward. It is a continuous ride filled with chance and change to help you learn and grow. Happiness is everywhere and may happen anytime if you just patiently wait. Just because you may not see something, it is there yet to still be discovered."



The Good Samaritan Place CHOICE Program and apartment residents wish to thank the Breedevelt family for their thoughtful and kind donation in memory of Walter. Inscribed on the bench is his wish for all to "sit and take a load off." Walter's mischievous smile, willingness to share and quirky sense of humour is greatly missed.



 Walter's mother, sister, and brother on the donated bench.

The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada

Virtual volunteers keep us connected

by Sarah Rudd, Manager of Mission and Ethics



 Sarah Rudd

As the doors of our care home began to close to family members, church partners and volunteers due to COVID-19, we were inundated with requests to support residents. Churches asked about phone visits or sending in cards, new volunteers tried to sign up each day, and community members asked what they could do to help.

'Care-mongering' is a term that popped up in Canada in response to the surge in community engagement due to the pandemic.

Groups formed on social media and around community hubs to offer what they could to help their neighbours. We saw these Good Samaritans popping up all across the country to make a difference.

Working with our partner churches, we began by accepting emails, photos and scanned pictures sent in for residents who may be isolated by the public health crisis. Sunday school students and family members of residents coloured pictures and sent in hand-drawn messages of hope, love and encouragement which our chaplains delivered to residents in need.

Over the past three months, we have received over 165 requests to support residents in this way with 50 people sending encouraging messages in April, 78 in May and many more in June. We've received recipe and book recommendations, videos, quotes, stories, poetry, posters, paintings, drawings and selfies. Some people have sent one message, some a few and some have sent on over a dozen. We've received well over 250 submissions, which the care teams are now sharing to lift the spirit of residents and staff alike. The messages range from funny to eclectic and heartfelt, but they all carry the message of connection.

At Good Samaritan head office, we printed off a selection of the submissions to post to remind the support staff of the amazing community that surrounds our care homes. Several hallways are lined with these messages of encouragement and whimsy. These messages have come from far and wide: Haida Gwaii in British Columbia to Montreal in Quebec and down to Ann Arbor in Michigan. The opportunity to make a difference in someone's life was picked up by family members, business partners, community agencies and health care students.

COVID-19 has taught us just how connected we can be. I am so grateful that when we open our hearts, God sends Good Samaritans to help, whatever the need.

NOTE: We are not able to accept hard copy well-wishes, photos and art at this time for infection, prevention and control reasons. However, we are happy to receive electronic copies to share with our residents. You can use our Well Wishes tool on our website at www.gss.org/well-wishes/ if you want to send to a specific resident, or you can email communications@gss.org.



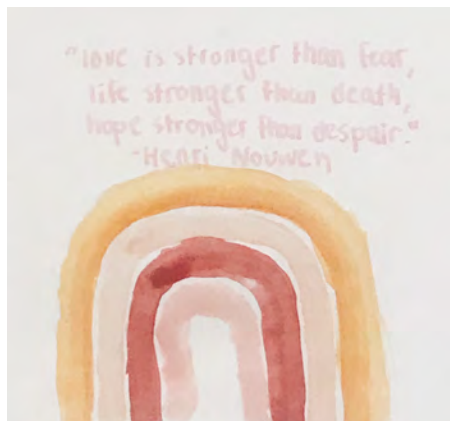
Bring it on – Sara and her sister Sarina attend a speciality collegiate in Toronto and send in artwork made each week for residents along with an explanation about how and why they created their work.



Holding hands – sent from Good Samaritan Village by the Station, a resident sitting with her two visiting sons from before the visitor restrictions came into place during the pandemic.



Beautiful day – Wendy and her children undertook a drawing day to send in pictures for seniors.



Watercolour – sent in by Julia, a recent grad from Kings University in Edmonton who wanted to make a difference in her community.



Together connected – Gwyneth wanted to apply to come and volunteer in person but is contributing notes until our restrictions are lifted.



Coco – Shandy sends in notes each week 'from Coco' that remind us to find the wisdom in simple things, like napping, warm sunshine and good friends.



Love yourself – sent in by Rupri, a young woman living in Edmonton while her family is back at home in India.



God loves you – our first 'virtual volunteer', Mackenzie, is a member of a Lutheran church who wanted to share something with the seniors.

**Go the distance...
be the difference...**

Get involved!
uniteer

The Good Samaritan Society Community heroes

by Janelle Brideau, Fund Development Assistant

Unfortunately, sometimes we have to deal with villains in our communities. In January 2020, the catalytic converter was stolen off of the bus that provides service to 200 residents at Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre.

Then in March 2020, the villains struck again when the catalytic converter was stolen off of our Good Samaritan bus that provides service to 216 residents at Good Samaritan George Hennig Place, Stony Plain Care Centre and Spruce Grove Care Centre.

These buses are crucial to our care homes, providing wheelchair accessible transportation for those living in our care. These buses allow residents to live a well-balanced life by being able to go out on outings and to enjoy other recreational activities.

But don't despair! Community heroes came to our rescue!

After the January 2020 theft, we received a call from Jasper Auto & Truck Parts in Edmonton, Alta., and they offered to replace the catalytic convertor free of charge! Thank you to Max Cohen and his team for their incredible generosity.



Delnita Thorhjelm, Therapy Aide at Good Samaritan George Hennig Place, delivers a giant thank you card made by the residents to members of the Atlas Auto & Exhaust Team.

In March 2020, after our second theft, we were lucky enough to have another fantastic business offer to help us by replacing the catalytic converter and installing a guard to prevent future theft. Thank you to Kristina Szabados and her team from Atlas Auto & Exhaust for doing the work and to Bumper to Bumper on 99 Street in Edmonton for donating the parts.

We know that things are not easy for many small businesses right now, and we appreciate that even during this time, they are stepping up to help. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping bring joy and accessibility to those in our care!



The Good Samaritan Society Poppy Fund

by Danica O'Neill, Director of Community Engagement & Fundraising



Three of our Good Samaritan care homes in Southern Alberta received funding from the Royal Canadian Legion General Stewart Branch #4 in Lethbridge through their Poppy Fund.

Good Samaritan Garden Vista in Magrath received funding to install personalized door wraps that made each resident's door unique, familiar and more home-like. The door wraps have given the care home such a warm ambiance and neighbourhood feel.

Good Samaritan West Highland Centre in Lethbridge was able to purchase infrared temporal thermometers, blood pressure monitors and mobile stands. The trolleys have all the necessary equipment needed to monitor our resident's health or respond quickly in the event of an emergency.

Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village in Lethbridge received funding to support the purchase of two wheelchair accessible planters, and personalized door clings for two of the dementia cottages. The



residents are grateful to be outside gardening, especially during these difficult times. The door wraps immediately made a positive impact on the residents and helps them to find their way better.

The residents and staff appreciate the generous support and positive impact these purchases have made on those in our care.

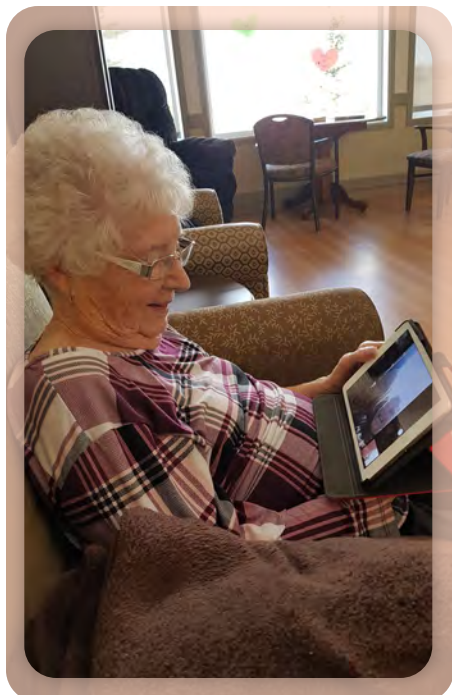


Legion 

The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada

Keeping our residents connected

by Danica O'Neill, Director of Community Engagement & Fundraising



SPIRIT OF CARING GOLF CLASSIC

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENTS IN SUPPORT OF
THE GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY

In the wake of COVID-19, keeping our residents connected to their loved ones is more important than ever. Made possible by funds raised through the 2019 Spirit of Caring Golf Classic events and the 70th Anniversary Campaign, 87 iPads were distributed to Good Samaritan care homes across Alberta and British Columbia. These devices have helped our residents stay connected with loved ones through video calling and provided hours of entertainment.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support from our sponsors, golfers, and donors. Our residents and staff are grateful for the continued support!



GOOD SAMARITAN'S VIRTUAL **RUN, WALK & ROLL**

AUGUST 15 - SEPTEMBER 15

1KM, 3KM, 5KM OR MORE

The Good Samaritan Run, Walk & Roll is a virtual event where YOU can become a SUPERHERO to support the seniors and individuals in your community.

Be one of the first 50 people to register and raise \$100 to receive your special prize package. Additional prizes available for Best Costume, Social Media Superstar, Top Fundraising Individual, Top Fundraising Team and MORE.

**DRESS UP AS
YOUR FAVOURITE
SUPERHERO!**

Sign up and fundraise now or
pledge a superhero at

gss.org/events



THE
GOOD
SAMARITAN
SOCIETY

GOOD
SAMARITAN
CANADA

CareRx

servus
credit union

Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village, Lethbridge, Alta.

Building Memories and Connecting Communities Project Fundraiser

by Janelle Brideau, Fund Development Assistant



The Building Memories and Connecting Communities Project is focused on creating a beautiful, accessible and secure outdoor courtyard where residents at Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village can enjoy the outdoor space free from barriers.

The project will allow the fences around each dementia cottage to be removed and create a feeling of independence, community and nature. Due to the high volume of people living with dementia at the care home, it is crucial that we fundraise to make this amazing project come to life. The employees are so passionate about this project, and they have been working hard to bring their vision to reality.

On January 18, 2020, the team raised \$5,000 for the courtyard project by partnering with Girl Guides Canada and The City of Lethbridge to pick up discarded Christmas trees around Lethbridge. They picked up 18,500 trees in 6 hours with the help of 30 dedicated people!

Thank you so much to everyone who made this possible as it takes us that much closer to our goal!



Good Samaritan Southgate Care Centre,
Edmonton, Alta.

CN's 101st Anniversary: Giving Back to our Communities

by Danica O'Neill, Director of Community Engagement & Fundraising



Cheque presentation with CN representatives and Good Samaritan Southgate Care Centre employees.

On June 6, Canadian National Railway Company (CN) celebrated their second annual *In Your Community Day*, which is an initiative that was created to mark CN's 100th birthday last year. The goal is to create a legacy of lasting benefit to communities where they operate. One of the ways CN is giving back is by supporting frontline healthcare workers who are working tirelessly to keep us all safe and healthy during the pandemic.

CN employees Tyler Banick and Norm Hart celebrated both CN's *In Your Community Day* and Seniors' Week in Alberta (June 1-7) with a visit to Good Samaritan Southgate Care Centre. They distributed CN100 caps and presented a cheque to support the renovation of an outdoor space that will benefit the care centre's residents and employees.

Thank you so much, CN, for your generous contribution and congratulations on your 101st anniversary!

"It was an honour to represent CN locally and to see the joy and genuine appreciation from the healthcare staff after receiving the monetary contribution made by CN in recognition of their efforts. The hats were a hit too."

- Tyler Banick,
Manager, Public Affairs

The Good Samaritan Society INEOS Community Fund

by Danica O'Neill, Director of Community Engagement & Fundraising



Resident Phyllis proudly models the over-bed table placed in the dining room at Good Samaritan Clearwater Centre. Thanks to their generous support, we were able to purchase over the bed tables to make it easier for residents to physically distance during meals and activities such as bingo and handbells!

INEOS

INEOS is a global petrochemical company with 183 sites in 26 countries including a site located near Red Deer, Alta. INEOS products make a significant contribution to saving lives, improving health and enhancing standards of living for people around the world. Their business produces the raw materials that are essential in the manufacture of a wide variety of goods like solvents used in the production of insulin and antibiotics.

During COVID-19, a \$15,000 contribution from the INEOS Community Fund was given to support the purchase of isolation carts and over bed tables at Good Samaritan Clearwater Centre in Rocky Mountain House, Alta., and Good Samaritan Good Shepherd Home in Wetaskiwin, Alta.

The £1m INEOS Community Fund was established by INEOS Chairman Sir Jim Ratcliffe in March 2020 in tandem with the company's COVID-19 "Hands On" campaign, which set up new production lines to provide millions of bottles of free hand sanitizer each month to hospitals and frontline healthcare workers.

Thank you INEOS!

Good Samaritan Mill Woods Centre, Edmonton, Alta.

Donor dollars at work

by Janelle Brideau, Fund Development Assistant



▲ The Pac Man machine is a big hit at Good Samaritan Mill Woods Centre.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a difficult time for everyone around the world as strict measures are put in place to ensure everyone's safety. Unfortunately, these measures can also heighten isolation for those that we provide care for. Thankfully, because of donors, we are able to go above and beyond to enrich the lives of the residents by investing in new and innovative recreational therapies.



▲ Wheelchair accessible planter boxes.

Evie Varelas, the recreation therapist at Good Samaritan Mill Woods Centre, wanted to purchase something creative for the younger demographic at the care home. She made sure to include the residents to help determine what would make the most impact during this difficult time.

The decision was made to purchase a Pac Man arcade game which was made possible because of a donation from the Edmonton Millwood's Breakfast Lions Club! This game created excitement and anticipation amongst the resident and was a great way to create some diversity in their recreation activities. Of course, it has also been providing endless hours of entertainment.

We also have to sincerely thank an accumulation of amazing donors for collectively donating to the purchase of custom made, wheelchair accessible planter boxes for the courtyard. Now residents can go outside and enjoy the beauty of gardening regardless of the size of their wheelchair.

Thank you to the Edmonton Millwood's Breakfast Lions Club and all our donors for making life more active!

The Good Samaritan Society Brunch

by Prasad Sankaran, Regional Hospitality Manager

Brunch is a combination of breakfast and lunch, and regularly has some form of alcoholic drink (most usually champagne or a cocktail) served with it. It is usually served any time before 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The word is a combination of *breakfast* and *lunch*. Brunch originated in England in the late 19th century and became popular in the United States in the 1930s.

In many regions of Canada, particularly in Southern Ontario, brunch is popular on Sundays when families will often host relatives or friends in their dining room. The typical brunch can last a few hours and go late into the afternoon.

Brunch parties are a whole lot of fun as you can get together during the day, and then afterwards you still have the whole afternoon and evening ahead of you.



Good Samaritan Clearwater Centre in Rocky Mountain House, Alta.

The sound of Christmas carols, good conversation and laughter, the smell of fresh baking and coffee and the decadent taste of a gourmet brunch fit for kings and queens made December 14th extra special for residents and guests at Good Samaritan Clearwater Centre. Brunch was served shortly after 11 a.m. and included items such as Eggs Benedict, fresh fruit, fancy sandwiches, fresh-baked pastries, a mimosa bar, and an array of mouthwatering desserts.

Between the site manager, hospitality manager and the lead cook, we had few meetings to plan this event and to make this as a memorable occasion for everyone. After a lot of challenges and planning, we were able to host the brunch successfully. We invited families and special guests to come for brunch, and approximately 200 people attended. The food offered was amazing with creativity from our culinary team, and

with their hard work, we were able to host the brunch in four locations at the same time. Residents and families thanked the staff for hosting such a special event and for the amazing afternoon they were able to have with their loved ones.

"Residents and guests enjoyed live music and a visit from Santa throughout the brunch. Chef Denia Baltzer and her team showcased their talents beautifully executing this amazing brunch. Celebrations continued while residents enjoyed live music into the evening. What a wonderful day!"

- Kiza Trentham, Site Manager



Good Samaritan Good Shepherd Home, Wetaskiwin, Alta.

On February 21, 2020, the brunch concept was repeated at our care home in Wetaskiwin. With the assistance of the site manager, hospitality manager, recreation team, culinary team and Jacquie Fricke as our culinary lead, we were able to offer the winter brunch for all our residents at the home. A few residents from Good Samaritan Northtown Village, which is our independent living location in Wetaskiwin, were also able to attend. The brunch started around

11 a.m., and residents were so excited to dig in. Residents were able to view the buffet and pick out what they would like to eat, which made a big difference for them.

Every resident enjoyed his or her meal so much, and we received 24 comment cards from our residents sharing their happiness.

Both brunch concepts we have executed so far have been very successful with excellent resident satisfaction. The next one is being planned at Good Samaritan Pembina Village in Evansburg, Alta.,

however, as we continue to live with the realities of COVID-19, there is currently no confirmed date at this time.

Working with all of our care homes, once we are able, we hope that each location could host this type of event at a minimum of once every six months. These special events make our residents happy, and at the same time, are an excellent opportunity for our culinary team to highlight their talents and skills.

Thank you to our culinary heroes for doing an excellent job!

well wishes



Send an online message to your loved one!

If you are unable to visit a loved one in our care/group homes, please consider using our “well wishes” form on our website at www.gss.org/well-wishes to send them a personal note. Messages are delivered by our employees the first business day after they are received and employees will help your loved one read them if necessary. We have recently upgraded the platform so now you can send photos.

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



THE
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SAMARITAN
SOCIETY

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CANADA

December 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020

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 for such as our beds and specialized equipment needed to care for our residents. The generosity of our donors helps make this happen—thank you!

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December 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020

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