

the URNEY Fall 2023

Wildfire Trials and Triumphs

By Michael Hennig, Communications Coordinator, Good Samaritan Head Office

This past summer will be remembered as a challenging time for many Good Samaritans. During a destructive wildfire season, some of our care homes in Alberta and British Columbia had to prepare for evacuation relocation of residents and face uncertainty through the days and weeks. However, our team's successful response stands as a testament to the resilience, dedication, and compassion of Good Samaritans.

Pembina Village's Time of Need

Wildfire alerts were first issued for Parkland and Yellowhead counties on April 29. A few short hours later, a province-wide State of Emergency was declared, and evacuation orders were issued for numerous communities, including Evansburg. Good Samaritan faced an immediate challenge: safely evacuating Good Samaritan Pembina Village's residents. Thankfully, our team sprang into action, securing emergency transportation and safely relocating Pembina Village residents to care homes in the Edmonton area. Residents were greeted at Good Samaritan Southgate Care Centre and Stony Plain Care Centre. Throughout the following days, members of the Pembina Village team (aided by the support of numerous other teams and leaders) went above and beyond to ensure a safe and comfortable stay for our residents.





Good Samaritan Pembina Village staff and residents on one of the many buses that ran to and from Evansburg throughout the month.

The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada





Photo of the wildfire near Evansburg, AB, sourced from the Alberta Wildfire Facebook page on May 1, 2023.

Although Yellowhead County initially lifted its mandatory evacuation order for Evansburg on May 2, there was much work to be done before staff and residents would be able to return to Pembina Village. First, members of the Good Samaritan Maintenance and Hospitality teams had to ensure utilities, kitchen equipment, heating, ventilation, and other essentials were all functioning correctly. After a final inspection from Alberta Health Services, the last step was to coordinate transportation of the residents back to Evansburg, scheduled for arrival on the evening of May 4.

Despite our hard work leading up to the day, Mother Nature had other plans for Pembina Village. A few short hours after the first buses arrived in Evansburg (while some were still en route) Yellowhead County ordered yet another evacuation as the wildfires came dangerously close to the town. With the help of Southland Transportation and their dedicated drivers, we successfully re-evacuated residents who had already arrived and redirected them back to Edmonton and Stony Plain.







Following the frustrating false start, our team's work had to begin again. However, we were not alone. In addition to the great work within our team, Good Samaritan was also fortunate to receive support from outside the organization to ensure both residents and staff remained comfortable throughout the evacuation. When Hope City Church learned that staff and residents were reevacuated on a moment's notice, they stepped up to provide support by donating gift cards for the evacuees to purchase personal hygiene products and clothing they were forced to leave at home. It was genuinely touching to receive the generous support of our community throughout this challenging time.

The evacuation order for Evansburg was lifted a second time on May 10. However, provincial and county officials were warning residents that the wildfires in the area were still out of control and that the evacuation might be necessary again. Air quality was also a significant concern, especially with some residents' care needs. After monitoring the situation carefully over the following days, residents of Pembina Village were finally able to breathe a sigh of relief on May 24. This time, the homecoming was successful, and residents were greeted with a celebration prepared by the Hospitality team.

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Photo of the McDougall Creek wildfire by Jocelyn Oland, sourced from www.castanet.net on August 17, 2023.

Standing Ready in Interior BC

While the fires in Alberta dominated the news early in the summer, August saw record-setting devastation in British Columbia, with over 25,000 square kilometres of trees, bush, and grassland going up in flames. Of particular concern were the numerous fires in the Interior, at times getting dangerously close to Good Samaritan care homes in Penticton, Kelowna, Vernon, and Salmon Arm.

Teams at Good Samaritan Heron Grove, Hillside Village, Mountainview Village, Pioneer Lodge, and Village by the Station worked tirelessly to manage resident comfort and safety while preparing for a potential evacuation. Due to poor air quality and smoky conditions, many outdoor activities had to be modified or canceled entirely. Residents with respiratory and other conditions required additional care and monitoring. Meanwhile, care homes worked closely with the Interior Health and Central Okanagan Emergency Operations to plan for a potential evacuation. Although the fires were ultimately contained and no evacuation was necessary, the teams in BC handled these highly stressful situations with seeming ease, a testament to their professionalism and dedication.

At the same time, our teams also had to prepare to receive evacuees. Because the fires were so fast-moving, other healthcare providers in the Interior had to be ready at a moment's notice to evacuate. In some cases, our homes were the only locations to turn to. Fortunately, the need never arose, but it did require our teams to be ready, just in case.

In the end, cooler temperatures and wetter weather did stop the fires in their tracks, and the 2023 fire season in Alberta and BC will go down as one of the worst on record.

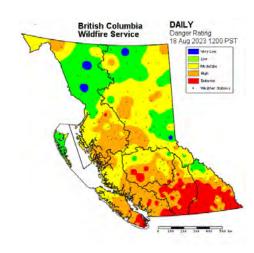




Photo of the McDougall Creek wildfire by Winston Szeto, sourced from www.cbc.ca on August 17, 2023.

The happy ending to this challenging time was only made possible through the hard work of countless individuals and teams across our organization. A huge thank-you is also for all firefighters and first responders in Alberta and British Columbia for their unwavering dedication to public safety. Together, we provided support, care, and compassion to our residents when they needed it most.

Message from the

President and Chief Executive Officer





Dr. Katherine Chubbs, RN, BN, MHS, CHE, DBA

Hello, Good Samaritans.

Fall is now well upon us; we can look back on the summer with pride and admiration. The heat and dry weather brought wildfires to Alberta and British Columbia, and our care homes experienced those impacts. Good Samaritan Pembina Village staff and residents faced two evacuations in early May. In August, our Central Okanagan teams prepared to evacuate our homes in Penticton, Kelowna, Vernon, and Salmon Arm. Fortunately, that did not have to happen. All of our homes felt the effects of this year's wildfire season, with reduced air quality in our communities and outdoor activities curtailed. The

teams in our communities handled these highly stressful situations with seeming ease, which is a testament to their care and professionalism.

We also had many other reasons to celebrate.

Good Samaritan was awarded a significant capital grant from the Government of Alberta to construct a new 280-bed care home in west Edmonton beginning this spring. Good Samaritan Village (yet to be named) will be a collection of 20 independent "small homes," each with 14 residents residing in private rooms, promoting a personalized living environment. Our Village will also be purposedesigned to create culturally appropriate spaces for Indigenous residents, families, and employees. From the physical design of the building and property to the programming and care within it, Indigenous peoples will feel safe and welcomed in our Village.

In June, Good Samaritan was honoured with a national award from the Canadian College of Health Leaders (CCHL) for Excellence in Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and anti-racism for our commitment to upholding these values at all levels throughout the organization, as well as in the delivery of our services. Equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism involve creating an organizational culture that wholeheartedly welcomes and fosters the individuality of others and presents all people within the communities they serve.

Building an equitable, diverse, and inclusive organization requires collective effort and collaboration. To that end, we are continuing our journey toward Reconciliation, and this fall, we launched cultural competency training for our employees and education sessions for residents and families.

This summer also brought much preparation for two key initiatives.

The first significant initiative this fall is finalizing our next Strategic Plan. Our last plan, 2021 to 2024, has served us well, so many of our initiatives are completed or well underway. Many of those initiatives are ongoing for the organization and will continue for years. Over the last several months, we have gathered information and ideas from stakeholders – employees, residents, families, and partners – all in preparation for the next plan, 2024





Good Samaritans at the CCHL National Conference.

to 2029. More details on the new plan will be announced in the New Year, and I'm excited to see what lies ahead for Good Samaritan.

The second is our preparation for Accreditation, which will occur in spring 2024. The surveyors from Accreditation Canada will visit our care homes to speak with staff, physicians, volunteers, residents, and family members. They will observe our employees serving residents and partnering with families in providing care. Accreditation aims to demonstrate to our residents. families, and community that we strive for service excellence; we continue to promote a resident and family-centered care approach to engagement and collaboration and promote awareness and education on evidence-based best practices and standards. This postponement gives our teams a little more time to prepare.

I want to close by thanking all of you, the many residents, families, caregivers, volunteers, and donors at Good Samaritan. You make a huge difference in our work and the lives of the people we care for. I am honoured to serve among you.

Blessings to you all.



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DID YOU KNOW GRANTS ARE INSTRUMENTAL FOR MUSIC THERAPY?

Fast forward to page 20 to learn how our partners are making a lasting impact.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Reconciliation at Good Samaritan



Good Samaritan is on the path to ensuring our workplaces and those in the communities we serve are treated justly. To guide us, we have developed a thoughtful Equity, Diversity Inclusion, and Reconciliation (EDI/R) strategy to address gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, physical and intellectual disabilities, and economic inclusion. Additionally, we have taken a leadership role on our journey towards Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Our Board and leadership have attached resources to our program; we have also secured additional provincial grant funding to make a more significant impact on employees, volunteers, residents, and families.

Good Samaritan will roll out a survey to gather employee feedback on EDI/R. After we have evaluated the results and further fine-tuned our strategy, we will use our learnings to develop specific employee education.

As a faith-based and Mission-driven organization, we must create positive communities where everyone feels safe to be themselves. Through this and other initiatives, Good Samaritan aims to put meaning behind its words and commitments. We seek to quantify meaningful changes and impact by collecting real-world data on our peoples' experiences.





Good Samaritan was honoured at the Canadian College of Health Leaders National Conference this summer with two awards. Our organization received the Award for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion, which was accepted on behalf of the organization by Marlene Raasok (left). This award recognized Good Samaritan's leadership in creating and promoting diversity and inclusion to improve its employees' environment and better serve their residents and the community. President and CEO Dr. Katherine Chubbs (right) received the individual Human Spirit Award for her significant contributions and volunteerism to vulnerable groups in her community that go above and beyond the call of duty.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers play a major role in providing care in our care homes and programs. Last year, more than 375 volunteers contributed over 32,000 hours to assist us in enhancing comfort to over 5,000 residents and clients.

Why Volunteer?

- Make a difference in people's lives and your community;
- Gain education/work experience;
- Develop new skills;
- Experience personal growth and development; and
- Become a Good Samaritan.

If you're ready to make and impact and become a Good Samaritan, submit an application today at:

www.gss.org/volunteer





Centenarians Steal the Spotlight in Magrath

By Michael Hennig, Communications Coordinator, Good Samaritan Head Office





Congratulations to Eldon Coleman (103), Mac Innis (100), Bernice Dickey (100), Letha Lamb (100), Dr. Steele Brewerton (100), and Eleanor Shaver (101).

This past March, Good Samaritan Garden Vista in Magrath hosted a birthday celebration like no other, as no less than six residents celebrated more than a century of living, loving, and contributing to their community.

The guests of honour for this one-of-a-kind celebration included Eldon Coleman, a sprightly 103-year-old, Mac Innis at 100, Bernice Dickey at 100, Letha Lamb at 100, Dr. Steele Brewerton also at 100, and Eleanor Shaver at 101. Each of these remarkable

centenarians has not only witnessed a century's worth of history but also contributed significantly to the rich tapestry of life in Good Samaritan Garden

One couple shone even brighter throughout the festivities: Dr. Steele and LoRee Brewerton. Not only did Steele reach the milestone of 100 years, but they also celebrated their 77th wedding anniversary on May 6th. Their enduring love, with its ups and downs, trials, and triumphs, serves as an inspiration

to everyone who's had the privilege to know them.

Garden Vista's "Centurion" Party was more than just a celebration of age; it was a tribute to the wisdom, resilience, and unwavering spirit of these remarkable individuals who continue to teach us the value of living life to the fullest. The event was a reminder that every day is a gift, and there's always a reason to celebrate, no matter how many years have passed.

Good Samaritan Announces New Chairperson, Board of Directors

By Michael Hennig, Communications Coordinator, Good Samaritan Head Office

A new Board of Directors was announced at the Good Samaritan Annual General Meeting on September 14. Three members of the Board have completed their terms and two new members were elected.

Board Chairperson Wayne Petersen and Directors David Dorward and Rev. John Boyd completed their terms. Former Vice Chairperson Marlene Raasok was elected as the new Chairperson, while Gordon Freund was elected Vice-Chairperson and Nadine Lung as Secretary. Three new board members were also appointed as directors: Rev. Karen Johnson-Lefsrud from Victoria, Dr. Ayodele Adebayo from Airdrie and Mr. Mark Razzolini from Edmonton.

Marlene Raasok has been on the Good Samaritan Board since 2020 and served a Board Vice-Chairperson since last year and Chair of the Mission and Quality Committee. Marlene is a visionary leader with strategic planning and execution expertise, as well as strong engagement, conceptual, analytical, and communication skills. She is a recognized leader in Alberta for transformation of systems and services toward Alberta's vision of healthy aging and quality of life for older Albertans.

Marlene has experience in continuing care and postsecondary education operations, with a track record of improvements in operational outcomes and financial sustainability. She has a lifelong passion both personally and professionally - to enhance quality of life for older persons based on her experience as a family caregiver.



Marlene Raasok Chairperson Irma, AB



Gordon Freund Vice-Chairperson Edmonton, AB



Nadine Lung Secretary Sherwood Park, AB



Ayodele Adebayo Airdrie, AB



Biyi Adeniran Red Deer, AB



Karen Dyberg Edmonton, AB



Rev. Vida Jaugelis Vancouver, BC



Rev. Karen Johnson-Lefsrud Victoria, BC



Pamela King-Jesso Edmonton, AB



Hoa Quach Edmonton, AB



Mark Razzolini Edmonton, AB



Allan Welke Pincher Creek, AB

2024 to 2029 Strategic **Planning is Underway**











With 2024 soon approaching, 2021 to 2024 Strategic Plan will be concluding. That plan served as foundation building for Good Samaritan over the last three years. There are still opportunities for continued success into the future. Instead of starting from scratch, our next Strategic Plan for 2024 to 2029 will build on some of these current priorities as we consider exploring other areas to enhance our success.

Over the past six months, we have been surveying our employees, residents, families, and different stakeholder groups to assess where are and where we are heading. This information will be collated and our next plan will come from our findings.

Your participation has been vital as we determine our goals and objectives as an organization as we build our future plans. We will share some of the highlights of the plan in the coming months.

As we approach the end of this 3-year strategic plan (March 31, 2024), here is an update what we have achieved of our strategies. All of the initiatives we stated in 2021 are on track for completion.

Quality of Living		
Develop and implement a quality model.		
Create new quality council structure.	Completed	
Create quality dashboards for quality councils.	Completed	
Implementation of client relations process.	Completed	
Participate in accreditation surveys.	In Process	
Develop and implement a strategy for resident/client/family collaboration.		
 Develop a process to engage residents/families in resident and family councils and volunteerism. 	Completed	
Complete a resident/family survey to understand needs and wishes.	Completed	
Create quarterly family education series.	Completed	
Develop and implement a capital asset management plan.		
Complete capital asset management plan.	In Process	
Develop capital asset budget planning process.	Completed	
Complete annual OHS site inspections.	Completed	
Complete deferred maintenance.	In Process	
Implement the just culture policy.		
Implement the policy.	Completed	

Mission-Driven Culture		
Develop and implement a workforce strategy.		
Develop a workforce strategy.	Completed	
Establish leadership development program.	In Process	
Create leadership succession program.	In Process	
Develop and implement a strategy for employee engagement.		
Enhance onboarding process.	In Process	
Enhance performance review and employee development process.	In Process	
Create mentorship program for leaders.	Completed	
Develop and implement a diversity strategy with focus on Indigenous Health.		
Institute cultural competency training program.	In Process	
Create Indigenous Health program.	Completed	
Enhance Indigenous stakeholder engagement.	Completed	
Organizational Sustainability		
Complete Organizational Design.		
Complete organizational design process.	Completed	
Meet financial targets.		
Enhance manager knowledge of financial management.	Completed	
Engage managers in the annual operating budget process.	Completed	
Create contracts management process.	Completed	
Consolidate operational/capital/technology budget development process.	Completed	
Complete a comprehensive review of each site for efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, and innovation.		
Complete comprehensive site reviews.	Completed	
Determine service options for homes.	Completed	
Impactful Partnerships		
Develop and implement a donor engagement strategy.		
Fund development strategy.	Completed	
Grant review and application process.	Completed	
Process for partnership for fund development.	Completed	
Develop and implement an employee recognition program.		
Kudos program.	Completed	
Employee recognition fund/standardizes process.	Completed	
Employee preference related to recognition.	Completed	
Develop and implement an external stakeholder engagement strategy.		
Comprehensive external engagement register.	Completed	
Plan for external stakeholder engagement.	Completed	
Annual stakeholder engagement event.	Completed	

Accreditation is Coming





With mandatory masking required at care homes in British Columbia, Good Samaritans (L-R) Brent Kirby, Jane Neale, Susan Stewart, and Michele Holmes are demonstrating their commiment to quality, safety, and accountability at Good Samaritan Mountainview Village in Kelowna.

Every four years, Good Samaritan goes through Accreditation. Accreditation is an ongoing process of assessing our organization's services against national standards of excellence. We are measured against internationally recognized standards of care related to: Governance, Infection Prevention and Control, Leadership, Long Term Care, Medication Management, Residential Homes for Seniors, and Service Excellence. These standards include assessment to essential practices which must be in place in order to be accredited.

Early next year, surveyors from Accreditation Canada will be visiting our Head Office in Edmonton and many of our care homes in Alberta

and British Columbia. Accreditation Canada works with healthcare authorities, hospitals, and community-based programs and organizations to improve resident quality, safety, care, and services. We have been busy preparing for the last year, reviewing our standards to ensure we are aligned.

The surveyors will be observing processes and interacting with staff and residents when they are on-site. They are not evaluating individual performance, but rather assessing compliance with the standards.

Accreditation demonstrates to our residents, families and the community that we strive for



inspiration



(L-R) Roselyn Delorme, Vicki Hawkins, Jim Riedlhuber, and Holly Jo Boehme are at Good Samaritan West Highland Centre in Lethbridge, AB, and ready to shine a light on our excellence in quality care and services during the upcoming surveys.

> service excellence in our organizational priorities of quality and safety. It promotes and fosters a resident and family-centered care approach and engagement. It enhances resident safety and minimizes risk. Accreditation also improves communication and collaboration and promotes awareness and education on evidence-based best practice and standards.

At Good Samaritan, we are committed to quality and safety in the delivery of the services we provide. Accreditation is a quality improvement process that helps us to identify what we are doing well and where we need to improve.

GOOD SAMARITAN EDUCATION SERIES

For Residents, Families, and Caregivers

Scan the QR code for upcoming webinar topics and dates







The Good Samaritan's 2021 to 24 strategic plan includes the development of a family education series. The Learning and Development department created a series of short webinars that are being delivered this fall. The first session is "Reconciliation in Healthcare: A Good Samaritan Journey," and was delivered on September 28, presented by our President and CEO Dr. Katherine Chubbs and Director of Mission, Ethics, Research and Reconciliation Matt Joy. "Being and Belonging: Good Samaritan's Person-Centered Approach to Care" was delivered on October 26 by Matt Joy and Vice-President and Chief Quality Officer, Cheryl Sarazin.

On November 28, a session on Wills and Estates in Alberta will be delivered by Lethbridge lawyer Tiffany Franklin. A Palliative Care session is planned for December and further sessions will be announced in the New Year.

All the sessions will be delivered via Zoom and will be recorded so people can watch them at their convenience.





Visit ww.gss.org to learn more about our Resident Family Education Series and sign up for upcoming webinars.



As we approach our 75th year, Good Samaritan continues to improve the lives of those in our care, including their families and caregivers.

News and information from Mission, Ethics, Research, and Reconciliation

ROOTED: Know Your Why. Choose How You Serve.

By Matt Joy, Director, Mission, Ethics, Research, and Reconciliation



Good Samaritan is best anchored in our mission, vision, and values. We are all at our best as Good Samaritans when serving and living from a place of purpose. Why we show up is mission-critical. In conjunction with my role as a Director here at Good Samaritan, I also serve as a Chaplain and Officer in the Primary Reserves of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). Duty, loyalty, integrity, and courage are the core values underpinning the CAF as they protect and represent Canada at home and globally. These are the core values that underpin the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) as they serve to protect and represent Canada at home and globally. It is these values that speak to WHY behind the hours of arduous and challenging training, the tasks of domestic operations such as Operation Lentus this summer - as CAF personnel were deployed to the frontlines of fighting wildfires in multiple provinces. It is also the WHY behind Canadian men and women serving in the most difficult and risky combat and support missions around the globe.

When the WHY is defined and made a part of the DNA of an organization, the WHAT becomes clearer in each and every opportunity. This goes for our individual stories as well. Whether we have taken the time to define our WHY or not, there are values that you ascribe to that determine your actions.

Holocaust Survivor and author of 'Man's Search for Meaning' (written in 9 days after leaving a concentration camp), Victor Frankl believed that meaning was instrumental in surviving some of the worst evil and conditions one could face.

In this book, Frankl sums it up this way:

"Those who have a 'WHY' to live, can bear with almost any 'HOW."

In the CAF, we refer to this deep sense of meaning as a key part of a soldier's Spiritual Fitness that feeds into the Resilience of the individual. This is the ability to face stress and see not merely an obstacle to be overcome but something that could bring about growth that may not happen otherwise.

As we pause to reflect and consider another Remembrance Day, we honour the men and women who were driven by a WHY that was greater than self; a WHY that propelled them into the most dangerous conditions with many facing the direct of conclusions. The risk taken and sacrifice made was great, but it paled in comparison to the WHY these brave soldiers fought for. As we remember them, it motivates us to reflect on our own WHY.

What is it that drives you to live how you live; to do what you do? As we reflect on such selfless service this Remembrance Day, I can't think of a better time to explore these questions.

A New Testament writer, Peter, wrote a letter to believers spread throughout Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). They were suffering tremendous persecution, with Peter writing to encourage them in the midst of their pain and stress:

⁸ Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. – 1 Peter 4:8-9

Into this space of uncertainty and adversity - look at the actions Peter calls for them to live out:

- 1. Love each other deeply.
- 2. Be hospitable.

He continues:

¹⁰ God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ¹¹ Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. – 1 Peter 4:10-11

- 3. Everyone is gifted.
- 4. The purpose of these gifts are to serve others.

So much of what we read and learn in improving ourselves seems to be with the motive of making life better for US. It can sound like, "if you want to achieve A, B, and C, then take steps 1, 2, and 3." But Peter's words and the example of those who have served our country calls us to change the script and ask what we can do for others with what we have been given.

It is a completely different narrative with impact well beyond what we could ever imagine. You and I are gifted to serve and most fulfilled when we are doing just that.

Know your WHY. Choose HOW You Serve.

Don't limit your service to only what you have seen in others or what you think it should look like. You are an original.

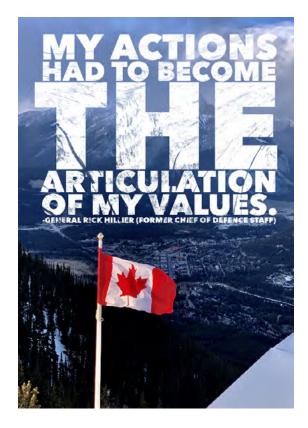
In his book, 'Leadership', former Chief of Defence Staff General Rick Hillier illustrates the point that we all have something to offer by telling the story of Gladys Osmond. Gladys, at age 87, was a retired Salvation Army Officer who was now living in a Seniors home in Springdale, NL. Somewhere along the way, Gladys felt a call to use her gift of writing to encourage our men and women soldiers who were serving on overseas missions.

General Hillier says, "One of the most difficult parts of being away from home on missions in poor and perilous places is remembering that there is a normal life in this great country of ours and that people there have you in their thoughts and prayers. You tend to start thinking, when alone on that dirty, dusty, and dangerous trail and someone starts shooting at you, that you are all alone in the world. What Gladys does changes that."

With her tens of thousands of letters, postage paid for by Gladys herself, she used what was literally in her hands to serve. But

References:

Frankel. Man's Search for Meaning. London: Pocket Books, 1997. Hillier, Rick. Leadership, 142–44. Toronto: HarperCollins, 2011.



Gladys didn't stop there. She recruited a team of 25 from her retirement home to write letters with her, multiplying the impact exponentially. They even named themselves the Granny Brigade!

In 2007, Gladys received the Canadian Forces medallion for distinguished service and the Granny Brigade were honoured with the Commander's Commendation for their support. From there, Gladys received an honorary doctorate from Memorial University and have been invested into the Order of Newfoundland.

Isn't that inspiring? It reminds us that God has gifted all of us regardless of our status, stage of life, journey to this point, current struggles, and so on. We can all discover our serve when we know our WHY. Imagine the catalyst you can be in the stories that surround you.

On this Remembrance Day, may we as Good Samaritans, honour those who have sacrificed by leaning into service over self.

In doing so, may our lives be ever marked by: DUTY. LOYALTY. INTEGRITY. COURAGE.

Recognizing Truth & Reconciliation

By Michael Hennig, Communications Coordinator, Good Samaritan Head Office



September 30 was Canada's third National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day honouring the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Recognition and commemoration of this dark chapter of our nation's history is essential to the Reconciliation process; as an organization dedicated to delivering Christian Hospitality through our care regardless of race or religious

belief, it remains essential that Good Samaritan continue to participate in Reconciliation activities.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation has its roots in Orange Shirt Day, an Indigenous-led grassroots movement intended to raise awareness of the intergenerational impacts of residential schools with the simple message: "Every Child Matters." Across Good Samaritan, staff and residents alike wore orange

throughout the week, both inperson and online.

"Acknowledgment" is only the first step towards Reconciliation, however. It's equally important to listen to voices from within the Indigenous community to understand their perspective. Respectfully embracing and engaging with Indigenous cultural practices can also be helpful to increase understanding and forge a path forward together.

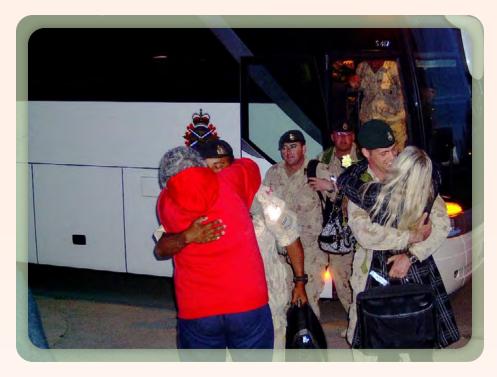
Throughout the week, numerous care homes and workplaces welcomed members of their local Indigenous communities to share their stories, experiences, and traditions. Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre welcomed Judy Cooper to lead a ceremonial drum circle and prayer, and later enjoyed amazing music from Dahlia Wakefield in the afternoon. Meanwhile, staff and residents from Good Samaritan Mountainview village in Kelowna visited the Kekuli Café to learn about traditional Indigenous cuisine. At Good Samaritan Head Office, staff enjoyed a traditional bison stew from local Indigenous caterer Culina while watching the documentary "It Had to Be Done" and reflecting on the legacy of residential schools in the communities where we live and work.

Thank you to all Good Samaritans for participating in this year's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Together, by reflecting on the mistakes of the past and improving our own understanding of Indigenous Peoples and their cultures, we can each, in our own way, move forward in a spirit of Reconciliation.



Being a Navy Brat (

By Vikki Marrs, Chaplain, Good Samaritan Hillside Village & **Good Samaritan Pioneer Lodge**



Chaplain Vikki Marrs (in red coat) seen welcoming her son back from a tour in Afghanistan.

What is it like to be a "Navy Brat?" In the 50s and 60s it meant "married quarters life." Every child seemed to have multiple "aunties" watching them play along the length of a common backyard that ran the length of the street. It meant getting dressed up and rushing down to the Point to see the ships return in formation. It meant scrambling into the car and rushing down to HMCS Naden to stand dockside for the ships to finish tying up as the Navy Band played to welcome them. Dad was in the engine room, so he was always one of the last to come above decks.

As time passes, these memories become softer; however, there is another part to the experience of being a Navy Brat; a part that most people don't hear about. It's the awareness of danger and then dealing with strong emotions and feelings and trying to return to some kind of "normal." Being a Navy Brat meant I lived in a closed shop of mutually shared experiences.

These experiences inform my life story, however, when my son needed permission to go on his tour to Bosnia, once again I became a Navy Brat - an older, wiser Navy Brat with the ability to share experiences and

I'm a Navy Brat and once a year I celebrate my "badge" and those who continue to serve. It's the least I can do.

Cultural Competency Training



Good Samaritan is taking the next step on our journey towards providing just and inclusive care for those we serve in our communities. Starting this fall, our all-new Cultural Competency Training will be available for all staff. This training is designed to equip Good Samaritan employees with knowledge and education to increase the level of cultural support and safety for Indigenous employees and residents. We hope our personal and collective learning leads to understanding, respect, humility, and further steps towards Reconciliation.

We are acutely aware of the historical injustices endured by Indigenous peoples and the persistent disparities in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in our nation. This awareness has led us to make Reconciliation a strategic priority; implementing Cultural Competency Training is an important part of this work. Learning more about the truths of the past is directly in-line with our Mission, Vision, and Values.

As a faith-based, values-driven organization, it is our duty to create positive communities where everyone feels safe to be themselves. Through this and other initiatives, Good Samaritan aims to put meaning and action behind its commitment. Together, we can build bridges, foster understanding, and embrace the principles of Reconciliation that will empower us all.

"Take on some of the pieces that may be hard and that you may be nervous to do, but take them on. You will learn from those. If you create a true and meaningful partnership and take that journey together, the end result is going to be incredible."

Harley Crowshoe,Elder from PiikaniNation

18 Fall 2023

July 1, 1916, Remembered

By Laird Borst, Chaplain, Good Samaritan Wedman House





Laird (left) performing with bagpipes during Veteran's Week to recognize Remembrance Day.

In April 2017, I had the honor of travelling with the RCMP Regimental Pipes Drums and Dancers of K Division to France to take part in the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge that took place on April 9, 1917, a battle that many Canadian historians claim brought Canada together as a nation.

While I was on that tour, we also traveled to another battle site and cemetery that I was not familiar with but, after hearing the story, struck a chord in my soul.

This was the battle of Beaumont-Hamel in the Somme region of Northern France, a battle that took place on July 1, 1916. The losses sustained by the Newfoundland Regiment at Beaumont-Hamel on were staggering. Of the 800 Newfoundlanders who went into

battle that morning, only 68 were able to answer the roll call the next day, with more than 700 killed, wounded or missing. When word reached the far shores of Newfoundland that the Regiment was decimated, it was a both a source of great pain and a sign of the resilience of the people of Newfoundland. Many of the young men who had not previously enlisted joined up and reestablished the Newfoundland Regiment who travelled to France to engage in many more battles of World War 1.

While I was touring the cemetery I was reading the names on the many headstones as well as the many names on the memorial wall erected in honor of those men whose bodies were never recovered or identified. While searching I



came across the last name of at least 6 people who shared the same last name as my brother-in-law who also hails from Newfoundland. I took pictures of the names and the headstones and sent them to him and he was able to confirm that they were indeed relatives of his. Although he never met them in person, seeing their names on the wall and headstones connected them in an emotional way that he was not expecting.

This past September my wife and I travelled to Newfoundland and heard again the story of this Battle from the perspective of those who were left behind.

July 1 each year is a bitter sweet day for Newfoundland and Labrador as in the morning they hold Remembrance Day observations to remember and honor the generation lost at the Battle of Beaumont-Hamel, but once these services are done, they change their clothes and gather around the barbecues to celebrate Canada's birthday, a country so many of this generation is proud to call home.

Fund Development Grant Report

By Katie Ayer, Grant Coordinator, Good Samaritan Head Office

We are excited to share with our community some of the achievements and successes our organization has accomplished through the generous grants received over the past year. These grants are just a sample of what we receive to improve the quality of life for our community members and advance our mission.

The Canadian Red Cross - Wildfire Relief (\$5,000)

In May 2023, the 40 seniors and about two dozen staff at Good Samaritan Pembina Village in Evansburg were forced to evacuate not once but twice due to the large wildfires in Parkland and Yellowhead counties, west of Edmonton. The Good Samaritan Society team sprung to action as staff and volunteers worked around the clock to find accommodations for the seniors and some staff, coordinate transportation, arrange meals, etc. After a significant disruption, extra work is required to support our residents' mental and physical well-being. This generous grant of \$5,000 from the Canadian Red Cross will provide flexible funding, allowing Good Samaritan to take appropriate measures to ensure the safety and security of those impacted in the coming months.

Central Okanagan Foundation - Pressure Relieving Mattress (\$1,800)

At the heart of Good Samaritan lies a deep commitment to providing care to people in need. Thanks to the Community Foundation North Okanagan's generous donation of \$1,800, a remarkable project was brought to life. The objective was to improve the overall quality of life for residents by addressing chronic pain and reducing the risk of wounds and infections through the acquisition of pressure-reducing beds. With the addition of the new mattresses, residents are relieved from the discomfort caused by the old beds.



Arthritis Society of Canada – Arthritis Awareness Month (\$3,435)

The grant from Arthritis Society Canada allowed us to pilot a successful Arthritis Awareness Month initiative in Stony Plain. Our amazing recreational therapists Delnita Torjhelm (at George Hennig) and Joannie Robertson (at Stony Plain Care Centre), led yoga and dance sessions, light gardening, organized educational workshops, distributed informative materials, and hosted events to raise awareness about arthritis prevention, treatment, and management. The Arthritis Awareness Month campaign reached over a hundred community members, increasing their understanding of arthritis and its impact on individuals and families.



St. Paul's Foundation - Jackson **Heights Bathroom Renovation** (\$10,000)

Our dedicated staff at Jackson Heights' Program for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PPDD) identified an urgent need to renovate our bathroom and shower facilities. The existing space fell short of accommodating our residents' needs and lacked the necessary equipment to support their day-to-day activities. The bathroom renovation was not covered by government funding, and therefore, we reached out to other organizations for financial support. St. Paul's Foundation made a generous donation of \$10,000 for this bathroom renovation, a testament to their mission to serve families and communities around the world. Beyond benefiting our residents, this donation has also positively influenced the





dedicated employees who care for them. The improved facilities now empower our staff to provide even better assistance in their daily living tasks, creating a more nurturing and comforting environment for everyone involved.

The Government of Alberta - Multicultural and Anti-**Racism Grant (\$30,000)**

The Good Samaritan Society received a \$30,000 grant from The Government of Alberta's Multiculturalism and Anti-racism Grant program (MARG) to journey to become a leader in Alberta for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Reconciliation (EDI/R) in the continuing care sector. We will use the fund to develop an employee survey and educational materials related to EDI/R.

Heart Foundation – Heart for Music Grant (\$315)

Meaningful grants come in all shapes and sizes. Music is a universal medium with therapeutic potential, especially for seniors, only beginning to be explored and celebrated. Rick's Heart Foundation's Heart for Music program equips seniors' care homes with complete music programs, including headphones, devices, and support implementing the program. Leslie Jastrau, a recreation therapist at Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village, has seen the benefits firsthand, helping numerous residents curate playlists ranging from classical to contemporary pop.



The grants we receive are instrumental in making a lasting impact on the lives of individuals in our community. We are immensely grateful for the support of St. Paul's Foundation, Central Okanagan Foundation, the Arthritis Society of Canada, the Government of Alberta, The Canadian Red Cross, Rick's Heart Foundation and others.

We look forward to continuing to serve and uplift our community with ongoing support from our valued partners and donors in the future.

Donor Profile: Taber & District Health Foundation TDHF





(L-R) Good Samaritans Matt Joy, Steve Kovacic, and James Frey helped at the Taber & District Health Foundation by participating in the Kiwanis Golf Tournament in 2022. This tournament raises funds to support healthcare initiatives in Taber and the surrounding mountain district, with nearly \$500,000 raised in the past 27 years.

Good Samaritan is grateful for the ongoing support of the Taber & District Health Foundation. Since 2016, the Foundation has provided nearly \$70,000 in funding for a variety of projects to improve the lives of Good Samaritan Linden View residents. Some of those projects have included the courtyard refurbishment and upgrades, Snoezelen Multisensory Therapy Equipment, Geri Chairs/ Recliners, and the ReJoyce Work Station and ReTouch Table.

The Taber & District Health
Foundation began in 1992 as the
Taber Hospital Foundation and has
evolved over the last 31 years to
what it is today. The Foundation
provides financial support to
purchase essential equipment for
the Taber Health Centre and other
health care initiatives in the Taber
area, including Good Samaritan
Linden View. The TDHF also
supports other community-focused
events like McHappy Day and Tim
Horton's Smile Cookie campaign.





The TDHF helped raise funds for a ReJoyce Joystick, an Albertamade invention that helps stroke patients regain hand, arm and shoulder function, providing physio therapy through a series of movements.

Each year, the Foundation also offers the Stewart Genes Scholarship to a Taber area high school student attending an Alberta post-secondary institution in a medical, nursing, or other healthcare field.

Taber & District Health Foundation board has broad representation across the Taber area. For more information, go to www.tdhf.ca.

Many thanks to the Taber & District Health Foundation for being such excellent community partners and supporters of Good Samaritan. Southern Alberta Donor Celebration







Allan Welke, board member, and Hailey Thompson, site and clinical manager, Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village and Cottages.

It was a beautiful evening in Lethbridge on September 14 when over two dozen donors and sponsors gathered with the Good Samaritan Board and leadership to celebrate giving and gratitude. President and CEO Dr. Katherine Chubbs welcomed all, describing how she felt immense pride for the Good Samaritan team in coming out of the pandemic. And the gratitude we have for our donors and supporters, "You stayed with us throughout the pandemic and beyond. You have helped us along the way. Give what you could to make the lives of our residents a little brighter."

The donors and sponsors represented individual donations and organizations donating more than \$100,000 in the past five years. These donations go directly to funding our care homes' improvements, equipment, and recreation activities for our residents in Southern Alberta.

The guests were treated to a slide presentation of some of Southern Alberta's recreation activities and events this past summer. "It was wonderful to see again the residents enjoy outings in the community and hold celebrations in the homes," said one participant.



Guest were also treated to a special surprise: Good Samaritan has partnered with two local businesses to have some branded merchandise for purchase. We partnered with Cupper's Coffee and Tea in Lethbridge to have Wicked Good Coffee available at \$20 per bag, while partnerships with Get Sauced and GoLogo have Wicked Good Honey Hickory Chipotle BBQ Sauce available for \$10 per bottle. Proceeds of sales go directly to enhancing care.

As Katherine told the guests at the celebration: "Wicked Good does mean really, really good. Wow! That's Wicked!"

Spirit of Caring Golf Classics

By Catherine Geddie, Fund Development Coordinator, Good Samaritan Head Office



Once again, this summer, The Good Samaritan Society hosted our two annual golf tournaments in Lethbridge and Edmonton. Our third annual CareRX Spirit of Caring Golf Classic tournament in Southern Alberta was on June 13.

Our 29th annual Servus Northern Alberta Spirit of Caring Golf Classic in Edmonton was on August 30 at the beautiful Quarry Golf Club.

Between the two tournaments, we raised close to \$140,000 to improve the lives of people living in our care homes.

Both golf tournaments started in a good way. In Lethbridge, Blackfoot champion hoop dancer Jerhan First Charger started the day by demonstrating his skills.

In Edmonton, Rayden Cardinal-Hill, Braidon Morin, Bradley Faithful, and Ian Crate performed several songs in honour of the day.

Following that, the tournament's one hundred-plus golfers and dozens of volunteers enjoyed a sunny day on the course before a lively banquet, awards, prizes, and silent auction.





This year, a team of volunteers and residents from Mill Woods Centre showed their support.

The tournament raised nearly \$140,000 for the New Initiatives in Care Excellence (NICE) Program. Every year, NICE funds are used by our care homes to enhance the care delivered in our 60 homes in Alberta and BC.

A heartfelt thank-you to the many sponsors and golfers who showed their Spirit of Caring and the businesses and organizations who donated many of our prizes and silent auction items. And the volunteers who came out to support the organization. You helped make this year's tournament a success!

Mark your calendars! Dates have been set for 2024. Southern Alberta Golf is June 11, and the Northern Alberta tournament will be August 28.

24 Fall 2023 www.gss.org

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(L-R) Rick Hessels, Robert Cunningham, Colin Harms and Denis Menard at the CareRx Spirit of Caring Golf Classic in Lethbridge, Alta.





(L-R) Steve Kovacic, Wayne Petersen, Lonny Petersen, Sindy Thompson, Richard Petersen and James Clarke at the Servus Spirit of Caring Golf Classic in Edmonton, Alta.

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Stay Connected with Good Samaritan













 Good Samaritan Victoria Heights residents enjoyed getting pampered during their Manicure Day.

Each and every day, there are exciting things happening

in Good Samaritan care homes and programs across

Alberta and British Columbia. Many of these moments

are shared on social media, helping us spread joy and

connect with Good Samaritans around the world.

- Throughout the summer, volunteers from the Lethbridge Boys and Girls Club came and helped with bingo at Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village.
- 3. Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village got out on the water this summer with the help of Adaptable Outdoors.
- Residents at Good Samaritan Mill Woods Centre getting ready for Halloween by decorating pumpkins.
- 6. Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre residents and staff enjoyed hot beverages compliments of YEG Cappuccino Service.
- 7. Good Samaritan Head Office bid farewell to Neil Lindstrom with a retirement celebration and chili lunch. Neil served as Senior Network Administrator/ Network Manager for nearly 24 years.

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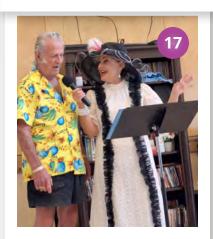












- 8. Good Samaritan Victoria Heights resident enjoyed some great music from the 40s, 50s, and 60s thanks to Peter the Piano Man.
- 9. Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village enjoyed plenty of animal visits throughout the summer
- 10. Good Samaritan Vista Village enjoyed a performance from Piikani Nation youth dancers for National Indigenous Peoples' Day.
- 11. Good Samaritan Heron Grove residents teamed up with the Kalamalka Bag Pipe group for a Canada Day Parade.
- 12. Good Samaritan West Highland Centre residents enjoy a spirited game of balloon volleyball. Sorry Greg!

- 13. Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre celebrated Heritage Days with carnival games, cultural booth, and plenty of refreshments!
- 14. Good Samaritan West Highland Centre residents had an incredible time at the Remington Carriage Museum in Cardston.
- 15. Residents of Good Samaritan Vista Village in Pincher Creek enjoyed a lovely picnic at Beauvais Lake Provincial Park.
- 16. Good Samaritan Southgate Centre residents thoroughly enjoyed the antique car show that stopped by the care home.
- 17. Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre enjoyed music from local performer Kay.

The Good Samaritan Society and Good Samaritan Canada



- 18. Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre welcomed some furry and feathered friends from Wanistay Ranch.
- 19. Good Samaritan Victoria Heights staff and residents celebrated the care homes 15th birthday with cake, dancing, and fun costumes.
- 20. Autumn Craft Day at Good Samaritan West Highlands Centre saw residents use bundles of Q-Tips to paint leaves on trees.
- 21. Good Samaritan Vista Village residents enjoyed a fantastic day of kayaking at Beauvais Lake thanks to our friends from Adaptable Outdoors.
- 22. Good Samaritan Victoria Heights had a fantastic time celebrating Canada Day, with great music, dancing, and yummy cake!

- 23. Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre welcomed the family of Jessica Stewart to unveil her memorial bench in front of the care home.
- 24. Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre residents enjoyed an outstanding performance of old-timey tunes with their very own Klondike Kate!
- 25. Good Samaritan Park Meadows Village residents enjoyed getting out and about on their duet bikes this summer

Make sure you like and follow Good Samaritan on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and X (formally Twitter) to stay up to date with the latest happenings from our care homes!

30 Fall 2023 www.gss.org

December 1, 2022 - May 30, 2023

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!

2022 Christmas Appeal

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Laird Stovel

In the last edition of *The Journey*, we incorrectly identified Adina Shea. To Adina's family, please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in acknowledging your gift.

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