

the **JOURNEY**

Spring 2024

Celebrating Our 75th: *The First Years*

By Michael Hennig, Communications Coordinator, Good Samaritan Head Office

This year, Good Samaritan is celebrating its 75th anniversary of providing care to those who need it most. As we reflect on our remarkable journey, it is essential to acknowledge the vision and generosity that laid the foundation for today's success. Over the coming months, we'll be telling our story (so far), helping Good Samaritans across the organization connect with our roots and celebrate our rich history.



The Gift, The Vision, and the First Good Samaritan Home

In 1949, Gottlieb Wedman, a farmer from Leduc, recognized the growing need for a seniors' home in his community. At the time, there was no formal government strategy for long term care; privately-run institutions and hospitals lacked the capacity for Alberta's growing (and aging) population. Wedman's concern ultimately led to action, and on June 15, 1949, he presented the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Western Canada with a gift of \$7000, with the request the money be used for an "old folks' home."

While the Synod was overjoyed with the gift, they recognized that Wedman's donation would not be enough. They appointed a committee to generate interest and support, and by the end of 1949, the newly-formed (Bethesda) Lutheran Home Society began taking the first steps towards realizing Gottlieb Wedman's dream.

 Gottlieb Wedman

Over the next several years, the Society worked tirelessly to garner support and raise funds for the home. After nearly five years of struggles and successes, the Society finally broke ground for the Good Samaritan Auxiliary Hospital on April 19, 1954. By May 15, 1955, the 70-bed facility was complete.

Expanding and Extending Care

The new Hospital quickly gained a reputation for its comfort and quality of care, especially in contrast to the poor conditions in other long term care facilities in Canada at that time. In the January 1958 issue of *Liberty* magazine, The Good Samaritan Hospital was recognized as one of the best places for the elderly in Canada, noting "[if it] were twice the size [...] we could fill every bed, and still have a waiting list."



 Good Samaritan Auxiliary Hospital groundbreaking, 1954



▲ Hospital cornerstone laying, 1955



▲ Good Samaritan residents dressed up as the Fab Four during an early event



▲ Early event at The Good Samaritan Auxiliary Hospital

This praise made the Society's next steps clear: more beds and homes would be needed to continue to fulfill our mission. Ground was broken on a 100-bed expansion in 1959, with the new wing opening on May 14, 1961. Additionally, two new facilities were constructed in the coming decade: Good Samaritan Mount Pleasant Nursing Home opened in 1965, while Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre opened in 1968. In total, the two new facilities offered nearly 270 new beds.

A New Era

As the Sixties drew to a close, change was afoot for the Society. As the organization grew, the need for restructuring was necessary; on April 13, 1969, the Society's name was officially changed to The Good Samaritan Society (A Lutheran Social

Service Organization). This change was intended to better reflect the organization's mission during this period: to "engage in all manner of Christian Welfare." In the coming years, Good Samaritan would expand its existing services and undertake new ventures to serve even more community members in need.

In 1972, construction began on Good Samaritan Southgate Nursing Home, a \$2 million state-of-the-art facility with room for 225 new residents. The care home opened on October 21, 1973, becoming the



▲ Good Samaritan Southgate Nursing Home officially opened on October 21, 1973



▲ The first PPDD group home in Meadowlark, 1981



▲ Young volunteers playing ping-pong at Mount Pleasant



▲ Good Samaritan Place under construction in 1982

largest Good Samaritan facility by a considerable margin. In 1976, Good Samaritan took over management of Pineview Centre, which housed 42 residents with developmental disabilities. By the end of the decade, Good Samaritan formally expanded its care beyond the elderly, infirmed, and physically disabled to also include those with cognitive impairment, brain injuries, and developmental disabilities. In 1981, Good Samaritan opened its first Program for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PPDD) home in Meadowlark, with more community living homes opening the following year.

In addition to expanding our services to new communities, Good Samaritan also developed innovative non-institutional options for seniors throughout the 1980s. In 1981, Good Samaritan began offering care in dedicated seniors' apartments, allowing seniors to receive the care they needed while still enjoying independence. Good Samaritan Place opened in 1983 in the Bonnie Doon community in Edmonton, laying the groundwork for our modern-day Independent Living program. In 1987, we began offering Lifeline, a personal electronic emergency response system which grew into today's TeleCare.

As we celebrate the first half of Good Samaritan's storied history, we honor our founders, volunteers, and dedicated staff who have worked

tirelessly to create a legacy of compassion and care. Looking ahead, we remain committed to serving with the same passion, dedication, and spirit of community that has defined us since our inception. Look out for the second half of Good Samaritan [history](#) in the next issue of *The Journey*!



▲ The Women's Auxiliary Choir

- Board Presidents**
- 1949 Gottlieb Wedman, Founder
 - 1949-52 Rev. Eduard Duesterhoeft
 - 1952-55 Rev. Arnold Wilkiw
 - 1955-59 George Steinbring
 - 1959-60 Rev. Fred Schole
 - 1960-63 H. Bert Boren
 - 1963-64 Robert Tegler
 - 1964-71 Prof Arthur Eriksson
 - 1971-74 Gordon Rasmussen
 - 1977-1980 Colby Quilliam
 - 1980-1983 Albert Oppertshauer
 - 1984-1987 Donald Storch
 - 1987-1988 G. Helen Lantz
- Lutheran Home Society Executive Staff**
- 1955-59 Hospital Matrons
 - Mrs. Mary Boehme
 - Mrs. Richardson
 - Mrs. J.A. Kirby
 - Mrs. W. Lyons
 - Muriel Jarvis
- 1956-59 Superintendent / Executive Secretary
Martha Goos
 - 1959-62 Executive Secretary George Steinbring
 - 1964-66 Executive Secretary Norman Haug
 - 1967-72 Executive Director George Hennig

Message from the President and Chief Executive Officer

I've always loved the spring and its feeling of renewal. This spring is especially renewing for Good Samaritan and gives us much to celebrate.

In April, we announced our 2024-29 Strategic Plan. After months of focused work gathering and analyzing input from hundreds of internal and external stakeholders, our leadership team and Board developed a robust plan to set our direction for the next five years. (See the full story on [page 6](#)).

With the new plan, we also updated our Mission, Vision, and Values. We are just putting the finishing touches on the operational plan, which will focus on the people in our care, our employees, and the communities we serve. Thanks to everyone for their outstanding contributions to this plan. The next five years will be very exciting.

Our 75th anniversary, a significant milestone that stands as a testament to our enduring commitment and dedication, has commenced with great enthusiasm. Many events and activities are in the pipeline for the coming months. Our care homes in Alberta and British Columbia are preparing for their unique anniversary celebrations, which will be showcased on our social media platforms throughout the year.

In April, we successfully underwent our Accreditation survey, a testament to the high standards of



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


care and professionalism we uphold. Surveyors from Accreditation Canada visited our care homes in Alberta and British Columbia. Based on the initial report, I'm delighted to share that the Good Samaritan teams have performed exceptionally well. (See the full story on [page 8](#)).

Planning for our next care home in west Edmonton has begun with the naming of the prime consultant to oversee all the design, planning, and contracting. START Architecture will take on this multi-year project to build this innovative 280-bed care home, which we eagerly look forward to opening. As more information becomes available, you will see regular updates on this project.

With summer fast approaching, we can look forward to celebrating our communities with Mission Month in May, our annual Spirit of Caring golf tournaments on June 11 in Lethbridge, and National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21. Our 30th annual tournament in Edmonton is on August 30. These events are opportunities for us to come together and celebrate our shared values and achievements.

I hope to see many of you soon during my travels to our homes in Alberta and British Columbia in the coming months.




 Strategic Planning session with senior leaders and managers in December



 Katherine touring some PPDD group homes in March



 Board members toured the care homes around Edmonton this spring in advance of Accreditation. (L-R) Pam King-Jesso, Gordon Freund and Chairperson Marlene Raasok listen to some St. Paddy's Day music

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WHAT DID THE MOMMA SHEEP SAY TO THE LAMB? GO TO BED, IT'S PASTURE BEDTIME!

Bounce over to page 12 for a good time with volunteers and a petting zoo.

2024-29 Strategic Plan Unveiled

By James Frey, Director of Communications & Fund Development, Good Samaritan Head Office



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Hundreds of stakeholders provided feedback in preparing the Strategic Plan. We took all their comments and created a word cloud, the two most common words used were *Community* and *Connection*. This gave us our theme for the 2024-29 Strategic Plan: Connecting Communities.

2024 is a momentous year for Good Samaritan. Not only are we celebrating our 75th Anniversary, but it is also the launch of our 2024-29 Strategic Plan.

Developing the new Strategic Plan allowed us to revisit and update our **Mission, Vision, and Values**:

NEW Mission

Following in the footsteps of the Good Samaritan, we extend Christian hospitality to people and communities in need.

NEW Vision

Being and belonging – every person, every home.

NEW Values

Excellence: We provide exceptional experiences to those we serve and go above and beyond through innovation of service.

Inclusion: We foster an organizational culture that accepts and nurtures the individuality of others and represents all people within our communities.

Healthy Relationships: In a spirit of compassion, we work in supportive partnerships and open our hearts to others by affirming their goodness and potential.

Servant Leadership: We lead through giving of ourselves in service to others by acting with courage in a trustworthy and ethical manner.

With input from our stakeholders, we developed new Strategic Goals that align with our new Mission, Vision, and Values, ensuring a robust and forward-looking outlook for our residents, staff, families, and others.

What we heard

“modernize the current mission statement to make it more inclusive and reflective of contemporary values, particularly in terms of equity, diversity and inclusion.”

“the Mission is not just words but should be reflected in actions. Develop measurable goals and indicators that illustrate how the mission is put into practice.”

“ensure the Vision statement reflects the organization’s commitment to inclusivity. It should encompass serving marginalized populations and fostering a sense of belonging for all.”

the significance of workforce issues and the impact they have on values and morale within the organization. They highlight the importance of addressing these issues through collaborative efforts and communication.

values, especially servant leadership, are what set Good Samaritan apart from other service providers. However, there is a need to ensure that all employees understand and practice these values effectively.

all employees, regardless of their role or location, feel connected to and aligned with these values.

The value of relationships with stakeholders and the community is repeatedly emphasized, indicating a strong desire for Good Samaritan to maintain these connections and strengthen them.

2024-29 Strategic Goals



Quality of Living

a holistic perspective that considers not only residents but also their families and caregivers



Our People

define us not just for the next 5 years, but the next 50 years, including infrastructure, workforce and innovation



Sustainability

building and maintaining the workforce will be crucial and needs to be an area of focus



Organizational Evolution

we must not just change with the times, we must anticipate the changes coming and be ready for them



Over the last year, the Good Samaritan Board of Directors and leadership teams, with the input of hundreds of stakeholders, have put together a well-thought-out and comprehensive roadmap for the next five years. Our Strategic Plan will guide our work, keep us grounded in what is essential, and take us in new and exciting directions.


The complete 2024-29 Strategic Plan is now available on our website at www.gss.org/publications along with a [video](#) on our YouTube channel.

Good Samaritan leadership is developing an Operational Plan based on these goals. It will outline specific actions, targets, and accountabilities we will achieve over the next five years.

The next five years will indeed be an exciting time for Good Samaritan. We look forward to moving ahead and continuing to provide care for those who need it most.

Good Samaritan commitment to Being and Belonging applauded in Accreditation



 Accreditation Canada surveyor Dion Moulán Pettipas speaks with a staff member at Wedman House

In April, a team of surveyors from Accreditation Canada visited Good Samaritan's Head office and 15 care homes in Alberta and British Columbia, measuring over 1,000 standards and 19 required operational practices. The surveyors were unified in their praise for Good Samaritan's collective effort in preparing for this event. They specifically noted the "sense of love and belonging in the homes" as a standout achievement and said this feedback is a testament to Good Samaritan's unwavering dedication and commitment.

The surveyors from Accreditation Canada, a global, not-for-profit

organization with a 60-year history of measuring quality in the healthcare system, congratulated Good Samaritan on its strong community linkages and partnerships, stable leadership, and high resident and family satisfaction. Their recognition is a testament to the organization's commitment to quality and community engagement.

The Qmentum Global Program is an ongoing process of quality improvement activities and assessments.

Good Samaritan was last surveyed in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. In his initial meeting with leadership, the lead surveyor said the survey had four objectives:

1. Validation of the impact the organization has on supporting others.
2. Assess whether the organization was keeping pace regarding leading practices.
3. Provide suggestions where to improve.
4. Support and provide feedback to celebrate the success of the team.

The lead surveyor noted significant progress made by Good Samaritan since the last survey, particularly in leadership stability, equity diversity and inclusion, and quality

improvement. This progress clearly indicates the organization's commitment to excellence and continuous growth. "Excellence in client care is evident in the homes visited by the surveyor team. Clearly, residents and families feel very respected and loved by the team, who takes their opinions seriously."

The surveyors also highlighted the hospitality and maintenance teams, commenting on the clean and well-maintained buildings and living spaces. "Client-centred care is a priority at all levels."

The accreditation process also identified areas to improve, particularly in technology. We are enhancing our IT infrastructure to support some of those recommendations.

Following Accreditation Week, Dr. Katherine Chubbs, Good Samaritan President and CEO, sent a message to leaders: "It's important to remember that accreditation is not a one-time goal to strive for but part of an ongoing process of quality improvement. This underscores our commitment to continuous growth and improvement. We are not comparing ourselves to others; we are striving to be the best version of ourselves. To the many people who played a role in Accreditation, the entire organization thanks you!"

Good Samaritan's Journey to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

By Michael Hennig, Communications Coordinator, Good Samaritan Head Office



As a faith-based and mission-driven organization, Good Samaritan is dedicated to fostering communities where everyone can authentically express themselves. In line with this commitment, we are excited to announce the launch of new training initiatives. Thanks to the generous support of the Government of Alberta, we are introducing comprehensive training to help all Good Samaritans create inclusive environments. This training is not just a program, but a testament to our unwavering dedication to equity, diversity, inclusion and Reconciliation (EDI/R).

The training will cover two streams: staff will have access to EDI/R 101 which will cover the fundamentals of equity, diversity and inclusion. The introductory course will be supplemented by leaders who will receive more comprehensive training on various topics, including

anti-racism, gender and sexual identity, disability inclusion and others. We have contracted with a leading Canadian firm specializing in EDI/R workplace training.

This training is part of Good Samaritan's broader Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Reconciliation (EDI/R) strategy, aiming to address gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, physical/intellectual disabilities, and economic inclusion in our organization. Many aspects of this strategy come directly from employee feedback through surveys on workplace inclusion and Truth and Reconciliation within Good Samaritan.

"The education serves not only as a tool for our employees to enhance their understanding of EDI/R, but also as a direct response to employees' feedback on what they



want to learn more about," says Vice-president and Chief Human Resources Officer Steve Kovacic. "It benefits our interactions with each other and will further enhance our service to those we serve."

Through these initiatives, Good Samaritan is not just making promises, but taking concrete steps towards creating just communities and workplaces for everyone. We are committed to ensuring that our words are backed by actions, and together, we will continue this path of progress.

Forging a Path of Compassion: Partnership with The Alzheimer's Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories

By Darcy Shenfield, RAI Coordinator, Good Samaritan Head Office



▲ NorQuest College hosted the HCA Conference PREPARED TO CARE: Partners in Care; Good Samaritan's Darcy Shenfield (right) facilitated "Becoming a Care Partner; doing with and not for," while Arlene Huhn (left), former Regional Lead, Client Services & Programs, acted as Person Living with Dementia for the demonstration

Compassion and care are vital to Good Samaritan, and partnerships that unite organizations with shared values and goals can pave the way for transformative change. Good Samaritan partners with The Alzheimer's Society of Alberta and Northwest, a leading advocate for those impacted by Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The two organizations aim to enhance the quality of life for individuals living with these conditions and their families, positively impacting our residents and the broader community.

Education and training are key components of our partnership. For several years, Good Samaritan has hosted family support groups at some of our care homes, like Spruce Grove Centre and Southgate Care Centre. These groups, run by volunteers from The Alzheimer's Society, have provided comfort and knowledge for many families. The Alzheimer's Society has also facilitated training sessions for families and volunteers in care homes like Stony Plain Care Centre for over 20 years. This long-standing commitment to education and training has fostered a supportive and empathetic environment within our long-term care facilities, ensuring residents receive the highest standard of care.

The Alzheimer's Society formalized its "Seeds of Hope Family Learning Series" training in 2014 and, since then, has supported those caring for people living with dementia. Each training session focuses on a new topic ranging from "Exploring the Experience of Dementia" to "Planning Ahead: Legal and Financial Issues," to "Working with Care Providers," to "Saying Good-Bye and Moving Forward." Learn more about these training sessions at www.helpfordementia.ca/help-support

As we embark on further collaboration and compassion, we warmly invite the community to join us in supporting individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Your support and involvement are not just appreciated; they are crucial to our mission. Together, we can make a difference, one act of kindness at a time.

Learn more about The Alzheimer's Society at: www.alzheimer.ca/ab/en

Prime Consultant Selected for New Edmonton Care Home

Good Samaritan has selected START Architecture as the Prime Consultant for a new, innovative care home to be constructed in Lewis Estates, in Edmonton's west end. The prime consultant oversees all the planning, design, and contract administration.

The Government of Alberta allocated \$113 million in capital funding for the project, adding 280 beds for residents with complex medical needs who cannot remain safely at home or in alternate care settings. West Village will be designed as a collection of 20 independent households; each household will house 14 residents in private rooms, promoting a personalized living environment. Once construction starts, the project will take three years to complete.



Good Samaritan and START Architecture met this April to formally kick off the Good Samaritan West Village project

The West Village project will combine innovative design with our evidence-based approach to care, which will become the standard of care for the future in Alberta and across the country. We are pleased that Good Samaritan has been given this great responsibility and are eager to begin the design and construction.

-Dr. Katherine Chubbs, Good Samaritan President and CEO

We are committed to getting Albertans the care and support they need when they need it. The Continuing Care Capital Program supports innovative projects like the Good Samaritan West Village. This project will provide new continuing care spaces for Albertans in a priority area and will be designed to promote community and provide a high quality of life.

-Adriana Lagrange, Minister of Health

START Architecture was created in 2020 with the merger of HFKS Architects and ONPA Architects, proudly carrying on the tradition of decades of service.

START offers comprehensive professional services for various large institutional projects, including academic buildings, schools, healthcare, long-term and seniors' care, mental health, and cancer care. Christopher Filipowicz will lead START's team of architects, engineers, and designers.

Thank you to Good Samaritan for putting confidence in START Architecture. We look forward to advancing this project and creating a caring home and supportive environment for the residents.

-Christopher Filipowicz, Principal, START Architecture

West Village will provide a safe, inclusive environment and person-centred care that respects dignity, choice, and individual preferences. It will be purposely designed to create a culturally appropriate space 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 in West Village.

Good Samaritan is committed to living its Mission, Vision, and Values in serving individuals and people in need through Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Furry Friends with RBC and Thistle Hills

By Edie Kendall, Volunteer Coordinator, Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre



Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre residents enjoyed the company of many furry and feathered friends from the Thistle Hills Petting Zoo

The Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre Atrium was a happening place when the Thistle Hills Petting Zoo visited residents thanks to the generous support of the RBC Communities Together Fund.

As you entered the building, you could hear the faint “baa’aaaing” of lambs and goat kids. These, along with bunnies, chicks, and guinea pigs, made the rounds for residents to pet, cuddle, and hold. With the helping hands of four RBC volunteers, residents enjoyed a lovely afternoon amidst the barnyard antics of these critters! All had a fun time; the volunteers had an engaging afternoon with our residents, learned about the difference their presence makes through giving their time, and learned how to hold a nervous bunny properly!

In addition to helping facilitate the petting zoo visit, RBC donated \$1,500 to support the purchase of new furniture for the Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre. Their Communities Together Fund enables RBC employees to help address pressing needs in their region through team volunteer events. In its inaugural year in 2023, the fund supported 880+ volunteer projects, mobilizing engaged 2,800+ employees and mobilized \$1.3+ million in grants.

Thank you to RBC, Thistle Hills Petting Zoo, and our volunteers for bringing joy to our residents’ lives.



Over 2,800 RBC employees volunteer each year as part of the Communities Together program

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



GOOD SAMARITAN
75TH ANNIVERSARY

Appreciating Art at Christenson Village

By Bruce Devereaux, Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator, Good Samaritan Christenson Village



▲ Len Whalen's Rangitang Collection gives Good Samaritan Christenson Village's staff, residents, and visitors a glimpse into life as a West Coast logger

Good Samaritan Christenson Village recently hosted a showing of the Rangitang Collection. These 26 paintings illustrate the life of West Coast loggers living in float camps during the early part of the 20th century. The artist, Leonard George (Len) Whalen, was born in Vancouver, B.C. in 1911, the son of William (Bill-Bill) Whalen and nephew of the four Whalen brothers who owned and operated the mills of Whalen Pulp & Paper Company.

The Rangitang Collection was a labour of love publications, which took over 10 years to complete. Why so long? Len claimed that his schedule didn't allow for his art to be a full-time effort. He said his day was structured around the weather; if it was sunny, he'd golf, and if it was raining, he would paint. He also had to fit in cartoon orders and illustrations for stories in other publications, such as BC Outdoors.

Len worked for his father and brother-in-law, Earl O'Malley, in the Nootka Sound area of BC during the late 1920s and early 1930s. These years spent logging and as a deckhand on the company's tugboats provided both a livelihood and artistic inspiration for Whalen.

The result of this experience included the Rangitang Collection: 26 canvases depicting the daily life of the West Coast logger in the 1920s and 1930s. The subjects of the paintings are the men Whalen worked beside and the bunkhouse existence he shared with them. It was a life characterized by the hardships and dangers of a industry, punctuated by brief visits to town—usually Vancouver—for a much-needed diversion.

In 1950, while working for the HiBaller Forestry Magazine, Len coined the term Rangitang to describe a logger's behaviour when visiting Vancouver and to be the title for his cartoons. The cartoons were used by the HiBaller until 1989, when Len passed away. They also appeared in Vancouver Sun under the name BC Rangitangs from 1960 until 1970, as well as many weekly newspapers on Vancouver Island and logging industry publications. The Rangitang cartoons were used in many advertisements by forestry equipment dealers and other industry-related service providers.

The showing of the Rangitang Collection at Good Samaritan Christenson Village was viewed by virtually all residents and staff beginning with the opening. Len's son Michael spoke about each painting and how it related to the daily life of the logger at camp, answering resident questions. The showing truly illustrated just how many had a connection with the BC forestry industry.

To view the collection, visit www.rangitangs.com

Stony Plain's Multi-Sensory Oasis

By Joanne Pretorius, Therapy Aide, Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre



Exciting things are happening in the Rehabilitation department at Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre. With funding help from the Spirit of Caring Golf Tournaments, we were able to purchase an Arjo Nordic wellness chair. The purchase of the chair led to the development of a brand new multi-sensory room for our residents' physical and mental rehabilitation.



"When I feel stressed, I know I need to spend time in the sensory room. After I do, I feel relaxed and happy."

Our multi-sensory room is a quiet, isolated, and monitored space where residents experience tranquillity and gentle stimulation that supports their therapy goals. We have darkened all the windows and covered the light panels with cloud covers. In addition to the Arjo Nordic wellness chair, the room also features a new freestanding bubble tube, a digital aquarium, a



Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre's existing multi-sensory space offers a relaxing oasis. With upgrades, our team will be able to provide even more comfort and care to our residents!

towel warmer, a reborn doll and companion pets, weighted blankets, and other tactile sensory tools. We aim to further equip the room by adding a fibre optic curtain, wall panels, projection lights, aromatherapy, and more appropriate storage.

Although the room is still in development, we have already started using it with several of our residents. The results have been nothing short of remarkable, with significant improvements in their well-being. We've seen a decrease in pacing, anxiety, aggression, falls, and other behaviours. This is a testament to the transformative power of the multi-sensory room.

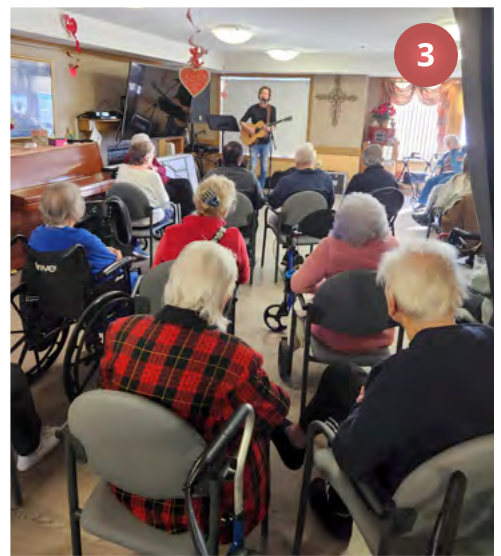
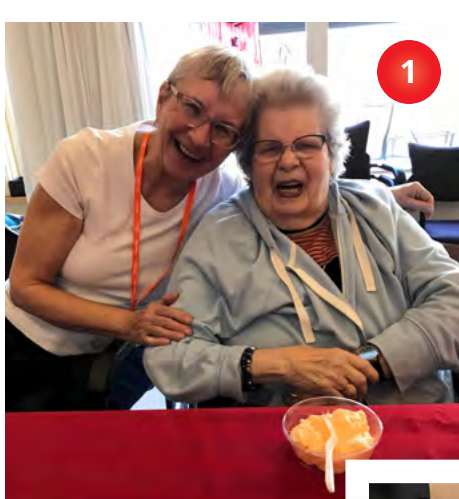
Over the coming months, we aim to complete the room, develop an interdisciplinary multi-sensory program, and help our residents with sensory issues navigate their environment more successfully.



"It helps me focus so I can receive my therapy."

We are fundraising to be able to purchase additional items for our sensory room. We would appreciate any donations to the Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre to help us meet our goal.

Stay Connected with Good Samaritan



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.

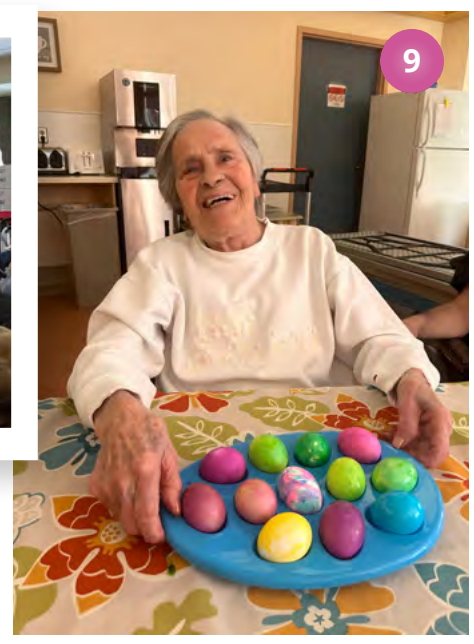
1. Love was in the air at Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre this Valentine's Day! Residents and volunteers enjoyed a delightful celebration filled with mouthwatering treats, heartwarming music, beloved family members, endless laughter & treasured friendships.
2. Second floor residents at Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre enjoyed some bowling fun.
3. Residents and staff at Good Samaritan Heron Grove were treated to a special performance by Vernon's own Andrew Allen who played for Assisted Living, Independent Living, and Long Term Care residents.
4. HCS Fatma Tambal from Mill Woods Centre tried a new Arjo sit-to-stand lift at a special demonstration event at GSS Head Office.
5. Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre staff and residents rang in 2024 with family, friends and FUN, featuring music by "Lam-Chops" Paul Lamoureux.
6. Good Samaritan West Highlands Centre was delighted to welcome Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Club for an afternoon of traditional Ukrainian dance.



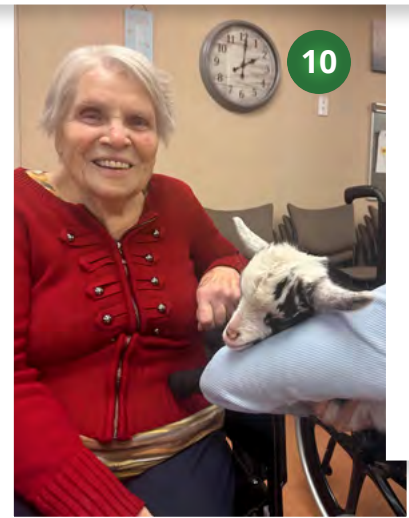
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7. Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre residents were gifted a lap blanket from a grand-daughter of Stuart, a resident of the care home, with the message "We hope you realize how loved you are!" It's thoughtfulness like this that makes the world so warm and bright.

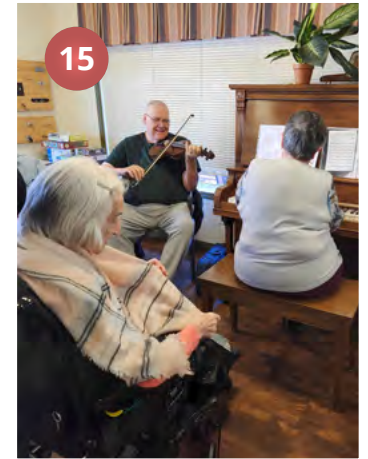
8. Good Samaritan West Highlands Centre had the pleasure of welcoming the Coulee Players for a special performance. They brought out quite a crowd and our residents loved their comedic skits.

9. Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre residents got into the Easter spirit by decorating some eggs and enjoying some music and good company.

10. Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre enjoyed some visits from furry friends at the Thistle Hill Petting Zoo. Residents enjoyed visiting with guinea pigs, rabbits, goats, lambs and even chickens!

11. Despite Good Samaritan Heron Grove's kitchen being temporarily closed due to flooding in February, Mary Jane Lyons and Sara Adams worked hard in Cottage 6 to keep serving residents hearty, nutritious meals.

12. Congratulations to the team at Good Samaritan Victoria Heights in New Westminster, who were nominated for BC Care Providers' 2024 Workplace of the Year award.



13. Good Samaritan Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre CHOICE Program hosted a volunteer appreciation event to recognize all the hardworking volunteers who Make Every Moment Matter for our residents.

14. Good Samaritan George Hennig Place held a successful fundraiser to raise money for a new PA system. The bake sale successfully raised \$1,600.00, with the community coming out to rally around our seniors.

15. Nonie and Elvin (piano and fiddle player) come been volunteering at Good Samaritan Heron Grove dementia care cottages for the past 5 years. Residents gather to listen to them play, dance, and sing along with their songs.

16. Good Samaritan Victoria Heights residents enjoyed an hour-long piano sing-along as they welcomed back former chaplain Marilyn Chan for a presentation on the power of music.

17. Thank you to our volunteers and vendors who made the Good Samaritan Stony Plain Care Centre Spring Bazaar such a fun and successful event!

18. In March, the Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre Occupational Therapy Department Fine Motor Group hosted a special Artist Feature of Alex H.'s artwork. In Fine Motor Group, residents work on various art projects with a focus on maintaining their fine motor strength, coordination and promotion of creative thinking and expression.

GOOD SAMARITAN



1949 - 2024

Remember our past.
Celebrate our present.
Envision our future.



www.gss.org/goodsam75

Good Samaritan Receives EquipCare Funding

By Theresa Ogueri, Grant Coordinator, Good Samaritan Head Office



▲ Transporting a resident from a bed to a chair or bathroom, and even to another room or area in the care home, can be done safely and reliably with a ceiling lift

The BC Care Providers Association has once again awarded Good Samaritan Canada's care homes in British Columbia with funding through the EquipCare grant totaling \$293,699. This marks marking the fifth time we have received this support. This funding is being used to upgrade equipment and furnishings in our residences, with a focus on enhancing infection control, safety, and quality of life for all residents and staff.

The EquipCare BC program plays a crucial role in supporting our residents and the dedicated staff who care for them. It is an integral part of our commitment to enriching the lives of the most vulnerable older adults in British Columbia. The funding enables publicly funded long-term care and assisted-living operators to purchase items and equipment that support safety and quality of life, ensuring that our elders receive the best care available.

EquipCare BC



▲ EquipCare funding ensures our care homes have access to essential equipment such as these pill crushers and heart rate monitors

Good Samaritan Canada has seized this opportunity with great joy and satisfaction to make a profound impact on residents' lives by acquiring a variety of new equipment, furniture, and essential items for our eight residences in BC. With these funds, we have been able to purchase lifts, cottage blinds, bathing tubs, and other upgrades that have significantly improved living conditions and the quality of care provided at our

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(CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE)



 Good Samaritan Victoria Heights' dining room received an upgrade with stylish, comfortable chairs (pictured on the bottom) purchased with EquipCare funding

facilities. We are proud of the positive changes we have been able to make, thanks to the EquipCare BC funding.

EquipCare BC funding is made possible by the British Columbia Care Providers Association (BCCPA), with support from the BC Ministry of Health. Since April 2020, this initiative has enabled care home operators to acquire over 3 million new items, including medical screening and respiratory devices, beds and mattresses, mobility equipment, and more, benefiting residents and hardworking staff members.

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

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Your comments and feedback are welcome.
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