Annual Report
2020



THE BETHANY GROUP

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THE BETHANY GROUP


CROSSROADS
DAY
PROGRAM
PARKING
ONLY



Jack Ramsden

Born and raised in Whitehorse, Yukon, Jack grew up in what was formally known as "Camp Takhini" where his parents were employed with the Federal and Territorial Governments. Jack graduated from F H Collins Secondary High School in 1972 and then moved on to attend Red Deer College, graduating with a diploma in Social Work in 1975. After four years of correspondence courses, he received his certificate in Local Government (with Distinction) from the University of Alberta.

Jack started his career working for the Federal and Provincial Governments as

(Continued on page 2)

Message from the Board Chair

The Bethany Group has faced many challenges and changes throughout this last year and by far our greatest challenge has been navigating the threat of COVID19. Many of our Housing Residents and most of our Health Care Clients are seniors, and as this group is the most vulnerable to be affected by the virus, it took the hard work of all of our staff and residents to do our best to keep everyone safe. Despite implementing all restrictions and stringent cleaning measures in our Lodges and Health Sites, COVID19 unfortunately found its way into some of our facilities; we have had several outbreaks and sadly we join the friends, family, and loved ones who mourn the loss of eight of our residents who lost their lives to COVID19.

The Bethany Group went through internal changes as well in our Leadership Team; late in 2020 Mike Leathwood notified the Governing Board of his plan to retire early in 2021. We would like to thank Mike for all of his time and efforts streamlining our organization and bringing Bethany back into a better financial position before he took his leave. We appreciate you, Mike, and wish you all the best in your retirement.

The Bethany Governing Board was pleased when Carla Beck stepped forward and accepted the challenge of becoming our Associate CEO, working alongside Mike Leathwood for several months and when Mike retired at the end of March, Carla was appointed as Bethany's Interim CEO and most recently, in October of 2021 Carla was officially appointed CEO by the Governing Board. Carla has proven herself to be a capable and efficient leader in spite of the difficult and unpredictable landscape of COVID19. Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Carla.

We cannot overstate our gratitude to our staff because without our teams of Directors, Managers, Corporate Staff, Nurses, Caregivers, Chaplains, Recreation, Food Service, Housekeeping, Maintenance and all Front-Line staff, we could not do what we do. They have truly gone above and beyond, often even placing themselves in harms way, to care for and protect our residents and clients from this pandemic. Our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you.

A special thanks to our retiring Governing Board Members: Chairman Dr. Odell Olson, Vice Chairman Ina Nielson, and Governance Committee Chairman David Samm who agreed to stay on until the end of the year to assist us in these difficult times. Your commitment and efforts are very much appreciated.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow Governing Board Members for all of your extra time and assistance as we moved ahead with a reduced, nine member streamlined Governing Board. Thanks for being there and supporting us throughout this stressful time.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Ramsden

Board Chair

(Continued from page 1)

a Survey Crew chief involved in road construction. He has been employed in municipal government for the past forty-three years, working first as a Public Works Supervisor with Flagstaff County, and then serving the Town of Three Hills as their Town Manager & CAO, and currently serving the Town of Eckville as their Chief Administrative Officer.

Jack has a long history of community service and volunteering including nine years as the Mayor of the Village of Lougheed; nine years on the Flagstaff Family and Community Support Services Board; four years on the Region 4 Child & Family Social Services Authority Board; and various terms on the Three Hills Food Bank Board; the Hardisty Hospital Board; Trinity Lutheran Church Board in Lougheed; Coach with the Lougheed Minor Hockey Association; and Three Hills Day Care Program Operating Committee. Jack was appointed to the Bethany Group Governing Board in March of 2018 and currently serves as the Board Chairman.

Jack has been happily married to his college sweetheart Elsie Larson for the past 46 plus years. Together they have raised six children and are enjoying their role as grand parents to five grandchildren. Jack & Elsie are the proud owner of a 1974 MGB and have been members of the Calgary MG Car Club for the past eleven years. Each winter they look forward to spending several weeks together in Hawaii enjoying the break form winter.



Carla Beck

In 2020, Carla was named as Interim CEO by the Governing Board. She brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge in health and housing. Since 1993, Carla has worked with The Bethany Group in a variety of roles. With a degree in Recreation Administration, Carla built upon that foundation as leader for the Clinical Support Team.

Carla's hands-on knowledge of how to create a caring community made her the natural selection to lead The Bethany Group though two cycles of Accreditation, the most recent in 2019 earning the organization Accreditation with Commendation.

(Continued on page 4)

Message from the CEO

It is hard to capture all the activities, changes, and growth that occurred over 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic. It was certainly a year of change and one that taught us some hard lessons but also inspired us to achieve more than we thought possible.

The year began with new mission and values statements that shaped not only our response to the pandemic but our overall efforts towards creating caring communities for our residents and their families, our clients, and our staff. While we didn't officially launch our new mission and values, we have discussed them with our staff and residents—I believe they represent who we are as an organization and will guide us into the future.

At the core of what we do has always been creating caring communities, person centred care, and making a positive difference. Our values honour our faith based roots and speak to the core of our organizational culture.

Throughout this report you will read stories and information that highlight what our experience has been over the past year, as well as reflect who we are as individuals and as an organization.

Everyone can relate to the difficulties we all faced under COVID-19 and I think we adapted to that crisis well. Much of that ability to respond comes from organizational changes that started the year before. We started a restructuring and alignment process to allow us to better respond to changes, and we were certainly tested in 2020 with that. As well, we continued the introduction of new business systems to support our staff and create more efficiency and efficacy in our processes.

We did suffer losses and faced challenges but I think we entered into the pandemic on solid footing which has allowed us to weather that crisis and come out stronger.

I want to thank our staff and acknowledge all that they have accomplished over the past year under difficult circumstances and uncertainty in the world. Each and every one has contributed to providing person-centred care, whether behind the scenes as an operational function or as a frontline staff member. Without the involvement of all staff, we would not be looking towards a brighter future that seeks to make a positive difference in people's lives.

I also want to thank the different communities and the public for their support and collaboration. When things were hard for our residents, clients, and staff so many of you stepped up to help and contribute in different ways.

Next year, The Bethany Group will celebrate 100 years of service to the community. Our sustainability has seen many challenges and tests over the century but we have remained resolute in our purpose to serve. I look forward to where we will go over the next 100 years.

Thank you.



(Continued from page 3)

In 2017, she stepped in to the role of Director of Housing & Community Services, once again exploring new roles and responsibilities. Here she implemented a tenant engagement plan and coordinated a realignment of the program consistent with Government of Alberta's vision. She returned to Health Services as Director in 2018 where she was pivotal in the development of the Risk Management and Quality Improvement initiatives.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Carla has been the lead for The Bethany Group's response and continues to be a guiding light for the organization through the physical, emotional, and spiritual toll the pandemic has taken on staff, clients, and their families. Her inspirational leadership has helped The Bethany Group cope and thrive.

As a "local girl," Carla grew up on a farm near Camrose, Alberta. She has maintained strong connections to the community and developed bonds with new communities in which the organization operates through her natural caring spirit. It is not unusual for there to be a line-up of residents and staff outside her office – either looking for guidance or a kind ear.



Judy Lowe

Judy is a dynamic, reliable leader who prides herself on fostering an environment of mutual respect and growth in the workplace and her diverse portfolio of years in both private and non-profit sectors like Good Samaritan Society, Westview Regional Health Authority, Convergys, and Walmart have adequately prepared her for this position as Director of Corporate Services and its challenges. As a lifelong learner, Judy's commitment to continuing education led her to complete her Masters Degree in

(Continued on page 6)

Corporate Services

Corporate Services are activities that combine company-wide support services to our employees, which includes Human Resources, Financial Services, Information Technology, Business Systems, and Payroll.

Over the past year, we have seen a lot of change, much of it as a response to COVID-19, but also as a continuation of an organizational restructure from the previous year.

In 2020, our focus was on introducing a variety of platforms and changes that focus on supporting our frontline staff. From workforce planning and the implementation of a scheduling system to better aligning our operations, we have accomplished a lot over the past while.

One of our initiatives was to introduce Master Rotations to better balance the needs of our residents and our staff. We started with consultations with staff and worked with them to develop rotations that gave them more consistency in their hours and shifts. With these rotations, we have been able to have more Full-Time positions and we are now a leader in providing more full-time work (as 84% of The Bethany Group Staff have a 0.7 FTE or greater.

As well, changes to a bi-weekly pay system in conjunction with a new scheduling system has improved life for our staff by providing stability and consistency. This is something that has been especially important during the pandemic.

With the advent of the pandemic, we took great strides to support our staff while keeping our residents safe. It was and remains our commitment to our staff and residents to see everyone through these trying times.

We also saw more demand on our Information Systems with virtual calls (both for meetings and to connect families and residents). I believe many of these changes and supports will continue past the pandemic and make our organization more responsive and effective.

I want to thank my teams and staff for their ongoing dedication to supporting their co-workers and the organization. Last year was a difficult time for everyone and their commitment to our mission of providing caring communities has shone through.



(Continued from page 5)

Strategic Workforce Planning in 2016. Judy's curious nature has also led to an interest in less traditional learning methods like HR podcasts, online news articles, to diverse formal training that refines and develops the skills of both her team and herself. Introducing and encouraging growth and furthering education amongst The Bethany Group staff has characterized much of her time over the past 4 years she has been with the organization. Throughout the COVID19 pandemic, Judy was an integral part of the response team, working to support staff throughout the crisis via researching and implementing COVID-fatigue supports and ensuring staff didn't have to worry about taking time off work due to COVID, her dedication to The Bethany Group has continued to shine through. In 2007, Judy and her husband Jack moved to his hometown of Camrose and Judy took to the quaint, beautiful community immediately and sees herself here forever. When not at the office or researching, she is an avid hiker and committed plant mom to her aero-garden of basil to aid in her pursuit of the perfect bruschetta. Judy also loves to cook and her family are eager supporters of her taste tests.



Adeline Fast (L); resident, Ross; Lisa Foreman, Physical Therapist (R)

Adeline Fast has volunteered with The Bethany Group from its early days, primarily in the therapies. Throughout her time, she has helped many residents but one day stood out to her. When helping residents get rides from the Library's lifecycle, she noticed a resident having a very bad day. It was with much coaxing that Adeline and staff finally convinced the resident to go for a ride. The change in the resident's demeanor when they returned was marked – from having a bad day and feeling quite miserable, the resident was now happy and eager to go for another ride. It was then that Adeline decided The Bethany Group needed its own special bike. Thanks to a generous donation from Adeline and her husband, a trishaw bicycle was purchased and is now in use, giving residents the benefit of the outdoors in a safe, secure, and comfortable way. Thank you!

Client Services

To say that COVID-19 had an impact on how we provided services to our residents and supported them goes without saying. However, despite a pandemic, we saw a lot of positive stories and changes last year.

One of the hardest things for our residents was the isolation—when COVID-19 first happened, the Government of Alberta introduced restrictions to protect the health of seniors, which included drastically reduced visits from families and less social interactions and activities. As a result, their mental well being started to deteriorate and we had to find ways to connect them with their loved ones.

Because recreational activities were put on hold many of those staff members started supporting residents with virtual calls with their families through iPads. This became a great way for them to stay connected and we even saw more interactions with families who lived further away as they now had a way to connect with the resident.

The virtual calls weren't the only things that we moved online. Our Crossroads Day Program couldn't operated in person so they found other ways to connect with the clients. At first, it was calls to check in with them and see how they were coping. As time went on, we introduced virtual programming that allowed clients to connect through Zoom with one another and our recreation therapists.

We also had an interesting project happen over the year that involved the community. A University of Alberta student, Jaden De Waal, adapted a Pathways project for Memory Lane that comprised little projects that community members could complete and contribute to the overall project. The Library was a supporter as well and coordinated the distribution of kits that included painting rocks and

writing letters. The completed items were then placed in the Memory Lane garden as part of a sensory experience that involved touch, smell, sight, and sound.

When I think about the past year, I think about adaptability and how we all found new ways to provide services and support one another. I also think about caring communities—so many individuals and groups came together to support our residents and staff.

From the Maintenance staff who cleared snow to better accommodate window visits to the outdoor parades and countless cards of encouragement that we received, I was impressed and humbled by how everyone came together.

We also received grants and donations that allowed us to provide better person centred. The Trishaw bicycle has made such a difference in our residents' lives. As well, the gifts, flowers, and cards brightened their days and gave them encouragement. One of the grants we received allowed us to improve our outdoor spaces to better accommodate family visits.

These are just a few examples of the wonderful support we have received over the year. I cannot thank everyone enough for their time, support, and dedication to our residents and clients.

Tena Lansing



Tena Lansing

Tena has a long, impactful history with The Bethany Group; following her BA she completed her practicum at Rosehaven in 2002 and worked her way up through several positions in the organization. Beginning as a Therapy Aide at Rosehaven, she then became a Recreation Therapist, next the Crossroads Day Program Coordinator and after that Tena took on the challenge of becoming Clinical Support Manager for all Camrose Health Sites. In January of 2021 she was named Interim Director of Health Services and most recently, in October of 2021 Tena was appointed officially as Director of Health Services. Tena is passionate about her work and her continuing education and feels proud to work for a faith-based organization with mission and values that amplify the people we serve as the center of our thinking. When she is not working hard or attending more professional development, Tena is happiest with her family; her husband Reid is a principal in the community of Camrose and her three kids keep her busy with hockey, dance, volleyball, & basketball. Tena loves to travel and due to the pandemic has turned to exploring more of Alberta with her family, spending lots of time in the mountains and fishing, kayaking, hiking, and

camping with their dog Buff.



Outi Kite

Outi is an energetic leader, systems thinker, and implementer of positive organizational change. Outi has been with The Bethany Group for almost ten years and has proven her commitment to bettering her community through her extensive volunteer history. Outi has served on many arts, affordable housing, and community boards, donating her valuable time to help support others.

Housing Services

It is always a challenge to balance the independence of our Housing clients, especially seniors, with the regulations and desire to foster their health and wellbeing. Often we are seen as 'carers' even when that is not necessarily our role in housing. When COVID-19 first entered our lives, that line became even more blurred.

We were faced with many challenges – from enforcing strict Public Health Orders in our lodges, on behalf of our partner Housing Management Bodies, to educating our tenants about what were the provincial rules, we had to respond in new ways. Our number one concern was to keep our tenants and staff safe and healthy.

Unlike other areas of The Bethany Group that has more involvement or control over a space, Housing is really about a landlord-tenant relationship, and that often limits what we are able to do in implementing changes for the health of all involved. Restrictions also hindered our ability to have important person-to-person connections with our clients as Tenant meetings weren't allowed.

From the beginnings of COVID, things changed rapidly – suddenly, masks became mandatory for tenants and staff, self-conducted health screening before entering a building for tenants and their visitors became a regular routine – and we had to rely on a lot of written communication to convey those changes and regulations to our tenants. We had monthly, and often weekly, information bulletins, posters, and signs to help our tenants navigate this new world.

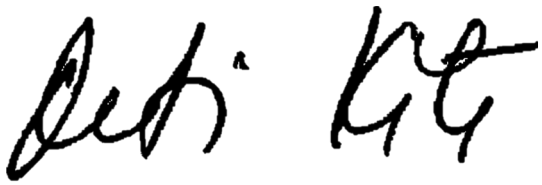
A further challenge for us is in how widespread we are across Central Alberta. Currently, we offer housing in over 20 communities and have always struggled to find ways to connect everyone and make them feel heard. As with everyone during the pandemic, virtual meetings and

phone calls became more important and normal over the year. I see it as something we can continue into the future as a way to effectively meet, share information, and educate one another.

One of the common characteristics of the pandemic was the overwhelming isolation, especially amongst seniors. Visitation restrictions for all Albertans made it harder for our tenants who couldn't visit one another, gather in common areas, or have more than 2 designated visitors in their apartments if they lived alone.

To help during this time, our Housing Managers found ways to try and brighten their tenants lives, whether it was bringing ice cream for everyone in the summer or dropping off individually wrapped care packages in winter, I was proud of how my staff rose up to the challenge to focus on our tenants and their well-being while maintaining strict adherence to all the safety rules.

I look forward to the time when we can all meet in person again and focus on issues, opportunities, and success beyond COVID-19. As we enter a new year, we will take the lessons from 2020 and make the following years stronger and better.



Outi completed her Masters in Leadership from Royal Roads University in 2018 and took on the Director of Housing and Lodges for The Bethany Group at the end of 2020. Outi enjoys collaborating and being apart of a positive, cohesive team and leads by example by encouraging and supporting her team. Outi has a passion for person-centered care and embodies our mission and values by supporting her staff and residents in any way she can. Outi was born and spent time growing up in Finland before eventually emigrating to Canada many years ago, she now lives with her husband Greg in Lacombe and they have six grown children together. When she is not at work, Outi likes to play piano and craft, last year she even made handmade cloth face masks for her coworkers for Christmas.



Pastor David Eriksson

Growing up in Camrose David could see all that was Bethany from his bedroom window. Aging family members lived there, relatives worked there, as did his own mother for a while. After exploring other fields, David was called to the Church and to helping those in need.

While attending seminary in Saskatoon he met his wife, Barbara. In the third parish that he served, here in Camrose, ministry took him frequently to Bethany facilities, visiting parishioners, bringing communion, or leading services.

(Continued on page 12)

Chaplaincy Services

An integral part of person-centred care, the Chaplaincy team provides residents and staff with a connection to spirituality and someone to talk to when they need.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our team had the challenge of continuing to provide support under restrictions. The phrases flexibility, rising to challenges, connecting with people, and honouring the losses and moments of relief all come to mind in defining our time over the past year and a half.

When we were no longer able to gather in common sacred space, our Chaplains took the service to the residents. Devotions and Sunday Services, as well as memorials, moved to the individual cottages where residents could social distance in their room doorways and the Chaplain could lead the service at the end of the hallway. It was an important connection for the residents, to see someone in person and still gather despite the restrictions and ensuing isolation.

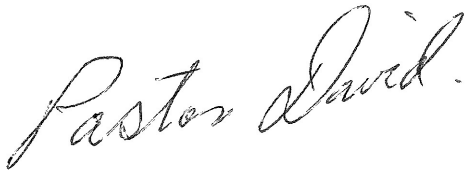
As the pandemic continued, we leveraged technological resources and found new ways to connect with residents and staff: music and hymns were sourced online and played through iPads and speakers, and one of our Chaplains started a recorded Weekly Devotion for staff that was posted online. The team really cam together to find ways to support one another.

The were also open to shifting their roles by helping deliver meals to resident rooms and screening visitors and staff at the door. This was above their other expectations of leading services, memorials, devotions, and providing end of life support for families.

As much as any of us hope to come through a pandemic with as little loss as possible, we did lose twelve residents at our sites to COVID-19. It was a tough time for everyone and our Chaplains were there providing support through the grief and sense of loss.

I think looking forward, we are all hopefully optimistic that the worst is over, especially with the vaccine. I know we're looking forward to seeing volunteers return to our sites, as well as more open visits for the residents with their families and friends.

I want to thank not only my team for their devotion to service but also to all the frontline staff who rose up to the challenges.



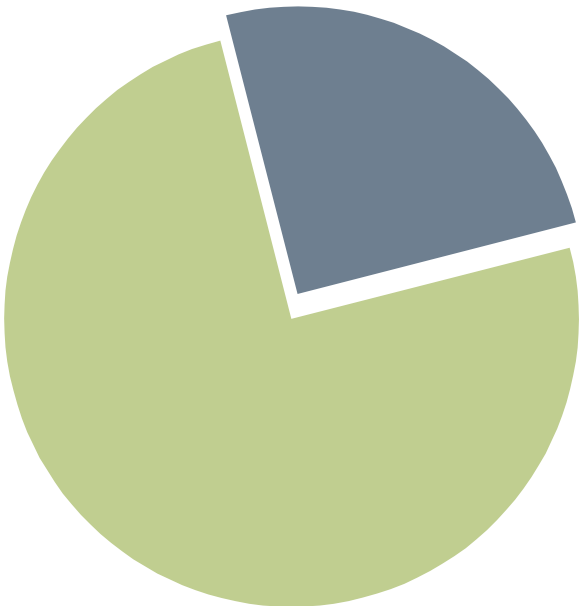
(Continued from page 11)

After resigning from the parish and at the invitation of then Chaplain Norman Lentz, David began to work for The Bethany Group.

Today, Pastor David provides spiritual care to the residents, families, and staff at Louise Jensen Center and serves as Chaplaincy Coordinator. He finds satisfaction in enhancing the quality of residents' lives by providing spiritual care, singing, visiting, and sometimes juggling.

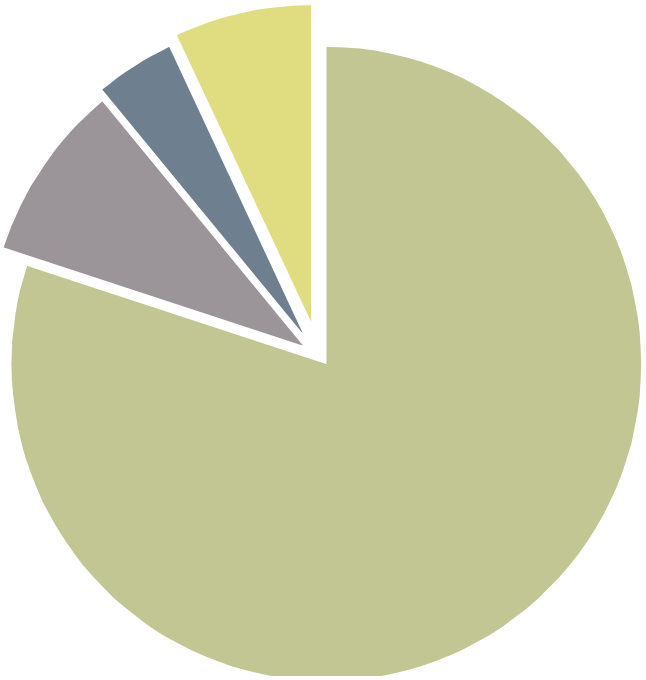
Financial Services

Health Services



Revenue

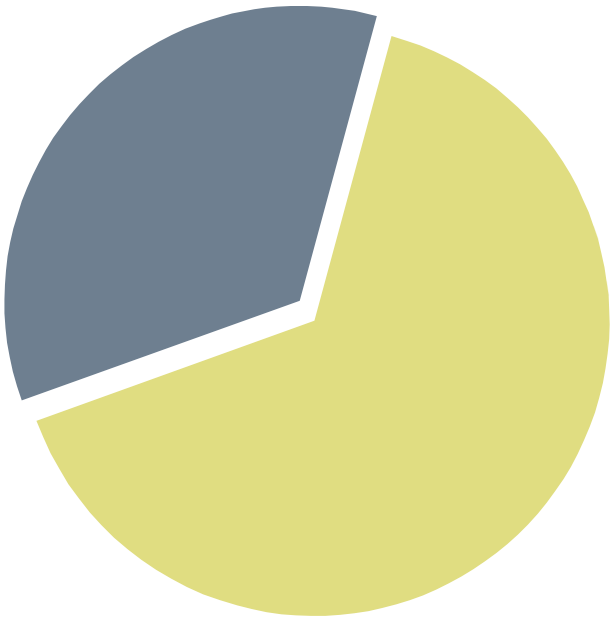
- 75% Government Funding
- 25% Resident Fees



Expenses

- 80% Resident Care
- 9% Food, Housekeeping, Laundry
- 7% Education, Administration
- 4% Utilities, Maintenance, Repairs

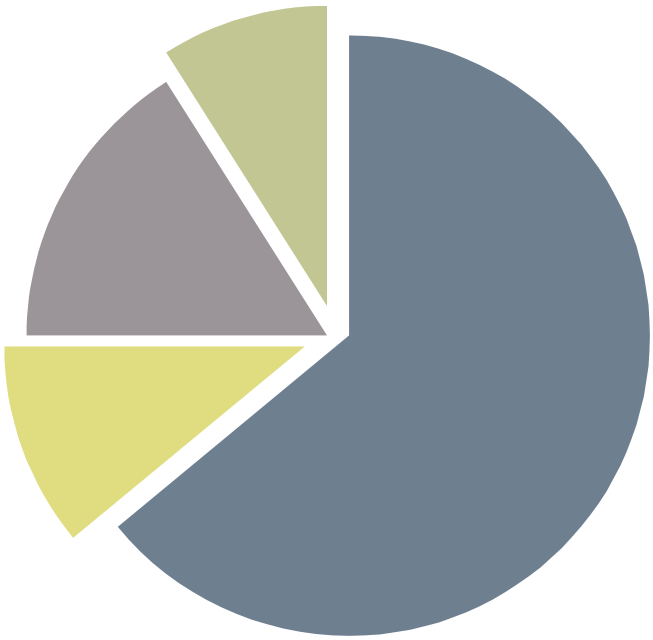
Bethany Owned Housing & Homecare



Revenue

64% Resident Fees

34% Government Funding



Expenses

64% Utilities, Property Taxes, Mtc

16% Education, Administration

11% Food, Housekeeping, Laundry

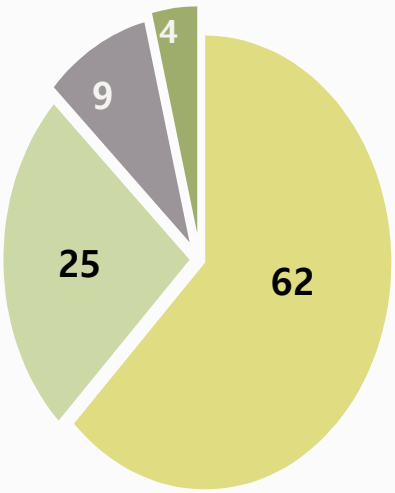
9% Interest on Long Term Debt

Our Staff

Staffing at a Glance

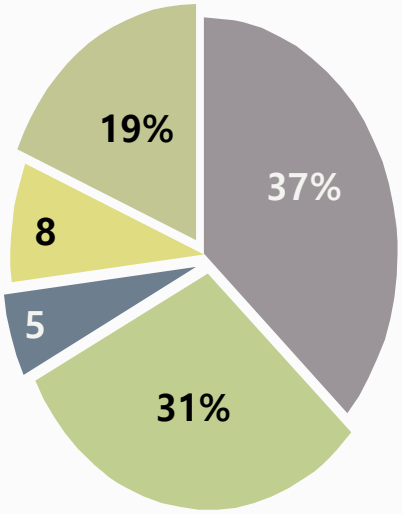
Position Category

- Health Care
- Housing & Accommoda-
- Administration (out of
- Administration (in scope)



Status

- Full-Time (1.0)
- Part-Time (0.7-0.99)
- Part-Time (0.41-0.69)
- Part-Time (0.1-0.4
- Casual







Thank You to Our Donors

Special Thank You to our unnamed donors through ATB Cares.

Elizabeth Bagdan
Battle River Community Foundation
Marion Bennett
Donald Bertschi
Norma & Ray Blacklock
Doug & Hermine Blum
Carole & Ivar Saugen Caris Charolais
Clarice Or Olaf Cordes
Norm & Rhonda Erickson
David & Barbara Eriksson
Estate of Mygind Gunvor
Merle Fadum
Mary Farquharson
Terry & Adeline Fast
Anna Mae Feddema
Robert Fitzgerald
Friends of Rosehaven
Marlene Gaalaas
Graff Family Farm Partnership
Heather Graham
Carol Green
Christine Guse
Terry & Jason Hanson
James & Sonja J.K Hendrickson
David & Sharon Heron
Neil & Mary Jean Johnston
Maxine Kasa
Herta Kellert
Eleanor Kopperud
Lois Larson
Michael Leathwood
Rev. Norman Lentz
Max Lindstrand
Jean Luebke
Lester or Agnes Millang
Brenda Murdock
Donald & Jane Nelson
Douglas Noden
Verna Pendlebury
Anthony Peter
Eliza Pettersen
Margaret Prestage
Walter & Doris Ritter
Gwen K. Sheets
Estate of Florence Gladys Shervin
Dolores Skaret
Bernice Sogge
Neta Specht
David Stolee
Ukranian Catholic Women's League
Aaron or Hilda Warkentin
Wilfred & Lorene Willing
The Wusyk Financial Group
Harold & Sylvia Zacharkiw

We were so touched and overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone in our communities! To all those who have adopted residents at our sites and donated wonderful gifts (if we've missed anyone, we sincerely apologize - CAFCL (gift bags), Harley's Liquor Store (for once again organizing their community giving), Karen S (knitted scarf), Century Meadows Church (gift bags), Salvation Army Wetaskiwin (care packages with candies, grippy socks, artificial flower, literature), Kaitlin Andrews & Family (Christmas stockings), Violet Gerber (crocheted blankets), Louise Lewis (Christmas masks for residents), St. Patrick's School (wooden ornaments, candy canes that look like reindeer, ornaments, and a painting by the kindergarten kids), and Pedersons Florists (flowers).









Pictured above - flowers from Pedersons Flowers.

So many people and organizations to thank for their support and generosity during the pandemic:

- Lisa C who recorded videos of herself playing harp with Christmas Carols for our residents because live entertainment wasn't possible.
- The Edburg Mennonite Youth Choir who recorded themselves singing carols.
- The donations of flowers from various individuals and groups for special occasions.



Thank you to the Battle River Quilting Guild for their beautiful quilted lap blankets for residents at Faith House.





Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to put together Christmas Cards for our residents - Kathryn Egan, Delores Roth, Lavonne Evans, Kelly Olafson, Andreas Schwitter & Family, Goose Paper Co, St. Patrick's School, Round Hill School, Grace Lutheran Church, Donna Wizniuk (who's been making cards for residents for all occasions this year), and the Cameron Bay McDonald's Darrelynn Fair and staff!

Thank You to Our Volunteers

While we weren't able to have our dedicated and thoughtful volunteers on site, we still want to thank them for all they've done for our residents. We heard from many of you wondering when you could come back. We are working on revamping the volunteer program and look forward to welcoming you once again in the near future!

Caring Communities

The old adage a picture is worth a thousand words definitely applies to this wonderful photo of our resident Susan standing proudly in front of a bulletin board at Louise Jensen Care Facility she designed.

Susan was at the center of our thinking when Recreation Therapy approached her and asked her to design the bulletin board in her cottage, Ivy Cottage. Living with meaning and purpose, responsiveness and putting people before tasks were all reasons we asked her to take on this project.

As you can see the bulletin board looks lovely, but the best part of this story is the thought and meaning Susan put into the board. She has taken it upon herself to foster a safe and welcoming community for her co-residents. Susan did everything free hand, she painted the pictures, cut them out and put them up.

When we took this picture of Susan she said, "I thrive in a team environment. When I feel like I am making a difference I do very well." We are all excited to see what Susan plans to do to the board next!









Photo Captions

Page 21 Resident Susan displays her homemade display board for residents at Louise Jensen

Page 22 (Top) It wasn't only humans who came to visit their loved ones at windows. Here a family dog says hi to a resident at Louise Jensen. (Bottom L) An example of messages displayed throughout the pandemic on resident windows. (Bottom R) iPads were purchased and available to residents at most of our sites to virtually connect with their loved ones.


ISOLATION IS
RUFF ! HANG
IN THERE



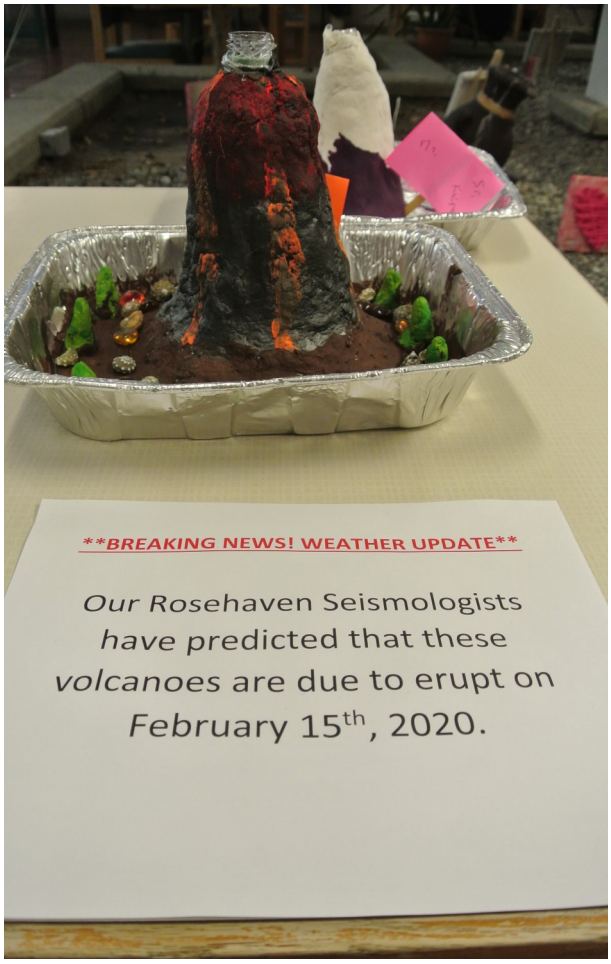

BREAKING NEWS! WEATHER UPDATE
Our Rosehaven Seismologists
have predicted that these
volcanoes are due to erupt on
February 15th, 2020.





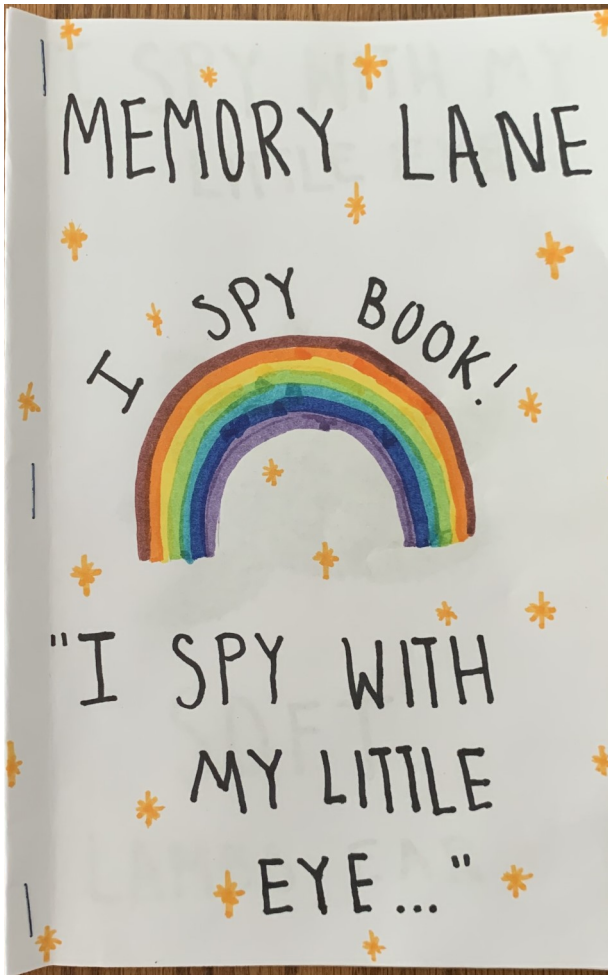
Photo Captions

Page 23 (Top L) A pet pooch joins a parade from Our Lady of Mount Pleasant who entertained residents at Louise Jensen and Rosehaven. (Top R) Kitchen staff at Rosehaven got into the spirit for pizza day. (Bottom L) Science Saturday gave residents a fun way to learn about volcanos. (Bottom R) Staff at Bethany Meadows prepared Chinese food for a special meal.

Page 24 A wagon parade brought cheer to residents at a few sites in Camrose.

Page 27 (Top) Deer Meadows prepared a BBQ, complete with non alcoholic beer, for residents. (Bottom L) Lisa Adamson, Manager, and James Huber, Housing Maintenance, handed out ice cream bars to residents in Seniors Self Contained Apartments.

Page 23 (Top L) A resident celebrates Cinco de Mayo. (Top R) A resident at Bashaw Meadows visits with family from a safe distance. (Bottom) Residents enjoyed watching a parade of horse riders from their windows and balconies.


MEMORY LANE
I SPY BOOK!
"I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE..."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FEEL

Pathways Project brings cheer to Memory Lane

Memory Lane provides a safe and secured unit for seniors with dementia including an outside secured garden for residents to enjoy.

Over the years, the garden has seen much activity from hosting pet visits with horses and other farm animals to family visits during the summer months and nice weather. It's an important space for residents to enjoy and interact with nature.

This summer, Memory Lane benefitted from a special program headed by Augustana Campus student Jaden de Waal (pictured on opposite page). Over the summer of 2020 and during the current restrictions of COVID-19, the campus, the Public Library, and the community came together to enhance the outdoor experience for residents.

The University of Alberta's program Pathways provides an opportunity for students to complete a summer project in a rural or indigenous community of Alberta. Students design the program and apply for funding to complete during May to August.

Jaden decided to focus on helping residents at Memory Lane by creating an interactive space to connect with their rural backgrounds and enjoy the outside that much more. As she writes in her Pathways to Rural Alberta blog, "The flower beds at Memory Lane are filled with plants such as rhubarb, mint, and strawberries to trigger nostalgic memories. By having these plants that are commonly found in gardens, it allows the residents to have a sense of familiarity in their space."

With the collaboration of the Camrose Public Library, Jaden created several projects to connect individuals back to place while having participating families and individuals "gain a greater sense of understanding about who lives in their community."

Craft Kits were developed as a way for the community to create something for the residents. Volunteer residents at Rosealta Lodge packed the craft kits for the library. Families were then able to pick up the kits at the library, complete the project, and return them. The final product was then placed in the Memory Lane garden.

Another project was the creation of Sensory Garden I-Spy Books that guide residents through the planters and flower beds. As well, handmade cards and posters are strung up on trees to give words of encouragement.

When not in the garden, Jaden started recruiting six families from Kids Campus and the Camrose Public Library to participate in a penpals letter exchange with residents. Each week alternated between writing a letter to a resident and receiving one back.

The staff and residents at Memory Lane and The Bethany Group thank everyone who participated and helped make a positive impact in our residents lives, especially during a pandemic crisis!



Deer Meadows & Housing









Bashaw Meadows



THE BETHANY GROUP



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