CONNECTION THROUGH

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COVENANT FOUNDATION
2016/2017 Report to the Community



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mportant message:

On April 1, 2016, Caritas Hospitals Foundation (Caritas Foundation) became Covenant Foundation, a new legal entity supporting multiple Covenant sites across the province of Alberta.

Past donations to Caritas Foundation will be managed by Covenant Foundation according to their original purpose Moving forward, donors will still have the option to direct their support to the area of greatest need, a facility, or a program of their choosing.

This annual report and the financial statements in it cover th 2016/17 fiscal year, the Foundation's first year of operatio as Covenant Foundation.

Connection through collaboration

MESSAGE FROM COVENANT FOUNDATION'S BOARD CHAIR & CEO

Great things are never done by just one person. It takes a community of like-minded individuals with a common goal and a shared vision to make great things happen.

Covenant Foundation is fortunate to be able to collaborate with so many committed donors, sponsors, volunteers, and other stakeholders to realize our vision of creating vibrant communities of health and healing and to transform health care.

On April 1, 2017, Covenant Foundation grew to include four additional Covenant facilities: St. Michael's Health Centre, St. Therese Villa, and Martha's House, located in Lethbridge, and St. Teresa Place, a new facility in Calgary. We are excited to be able to collaborate with the community boards, volunteers and staff in Lethbridge and Calgary to invest in transforming health care.

Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do. From working with the Banff Mineral Springs Hospital Auxiliary to provide scholarships to health care providers in the Bow Valley; partnering with staff and residents at Youville Home to create a fundraising calendar; working with the community board, sponsors, and donors in Vegreville to make the first St. Joseph's General Hospital Radiothon a tremendous success; and, working with the community to commit over \$4.2 million to equip a new, state-of-the-art NeoNatal Intensive Care Unit at the Misericordia Community Hospital, none of the great things we've accomplished could have been done alone.

You will read about these, and other stories of collaboration, in this Report to the Community. You will also read about how Covenant Foundation collaborates with the Covenant family in delivering exceptional care from the start of life through to palliative care at acute, continuing, and long term care facilities across the province. And, you will read how you can collaborate with us to help us continue to meet the needs of the facilities and communities we support.

On behalf of Covenant Foundation, my sincerest thanks to our donors, volunteers, and Board Members for their ongoing commitment and support, and to Covenant Health, Covenant Care, and Covenant Living's leadership, staff, physicians, and volunteers, whose passion make our work so rewarding.



Ron Gilbertson

Board Chair

Covenant Foundation



Tracy Sopkow
CEO
Covenant Foundation

Sincerely,

Ron Gilbertson

Board Chair, Covenant Foundation

R. Multertie



Tracy SopkowCEO, Covenant Foundation

2016/2017 Covenant Foundation



Ron Gilbertson
Board Chair



Angela Fong
Chair, Governance and Human
Resources Committee



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Committee



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Committee



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Investment



Ben Horcica



Doris Bonora



Dr. Larry Ohlhauser



Malcolm D. Kirkland



Raymond Mack



Traci Bednard



Patrick Dumelie (Ex Officio)

Not pictured: Carole Karbonik

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MESSAGE FROM THE COVENANT FAMILY

A newborn's first cry, the sacred silence of a midnight vigil by a loved one's bed, the long journey down a hospital hallway or the first steps into a care community that you now call home. These kinds of moments endure—making a lasting impression in our hearts, our lives, and our families.

Our Covenant family is privileged to be part of these moments that matter in your life.

As three organizations, we are called by a common mission to care for Albertans of all faiths and backgrounds at every stage of life, from beginning to end. At the heart of our mission is a profound respect for the dignity of each person we serve and a calling to serve each other with compassion and humanity.

As partners in Alberta's integrated health system with 150 years of service in Alberta, we build on a lasting legacy of our rich history, high quality programs and services, good stewardship, the strength of our culture and teams and innovation in meeting the needs of Albertans, especially those most vulnerable.

We are grateful for our partnership with the Covenant Foundation and the generous support of Albertans for making a difference to those we serve—providing access to state-of-the-art equipment, improved care environments and innovative approaches to care that address the changing needs of Albertans.

With your support, we've created state of the art care environments for fragile newborns and safe, bright clinic space to care for children at risk. Together, we've created healing environments for those with mental illness and life-changing programs for those struggling with chronic illness. And together, And together we have improved day-to-day life for seniors who have made their home with Covenant and provided beautiful and peaceful spaces for terminally ill patients and families to spend precious time together.

Your gifts and support have made a lasting impression—offering hope, dignity and compassion in moments that matter.

On behalf of the Covenant family, thank you for your support as we work towards our vision to create vibrant communities of health and healing and transform health care for the people we serve.

Patrick Dumelie

CEO & President, Covenant Health CEO, Covenant Care, Covenant Living

Ed Stelmach Board Chair



Patrick Dumelie *ceo*

Ed Stelmach

Board Chair Covenant Health, Covenant Care, Covenant Living

Ed Stelmach



The Covenant family contributes to the health and well-being of Albertans as three non-profit Catholic organizations with a shared mission and values rooted in the healing ministry of Jesus.

Called to serve those most vulnerable, we are a trusted partner in leading programs that have a significant health impact for Albertans. We help to transform the system as innovators and pioneers—bridging gaps, addressing unmet needs and working to bring those at the margins into community.

COVENANT HEALTH is one of Canada's largest Catholic providers of a broad range of health care services in hospitals and healthcare centres in urban and rural communities across the province.

COVENANT CARE is a major provider of supportive living, long term care and hospice services in Alberta, responding to the growing and changing needs of an aging population and offering innovative work and care environments where residents and care teams work, thrive and grow.

COVENANT LIVING is a private, not-for-profit organization providing housing options for seniors in warm, welcoming communities that support independence and active living.

1 in 10

emergency visits in Alberta take place in a

Covenant Health facility

2,490

volunteers

donated 179,118 hours of service

1 in 4

physicians in Alberta have privileges to provide care at a

Covenant Health site

1 in 5

are born at a Covenant Health hospital

Together

Covenant Health and Covenant Care employ over 15,000 staff, physicians, and volunteers working in 26 hospitals and care centres in 15 communities across Alberta with a combined budget of \$916 million.









Lethbridge facilities join Covenant Foundation

On April 1, 2017, Covenant Foundation assumed the fundraising responsibility for three additional Covenant facilities: St. Michael's Health Centre, Martha's House, and St. Therese Villa, all located in Lethbridge, Alberta.

ST. MICHAEL'S HEALTH CENTRE

St. Michael's Health Centre has served the needs of Lethbridge and surrounding area since 1929, when the Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish, Nova Scotia opened a general hospital at the site. Since then, it has reinvented itself several times, with the aim to provide compassionate care to its evolving community, following the Sisters' selfless examples.

One such transition was the takeover of the Adult Day program, in which seniors with progressed dementia come to St. Michael's for activities once or twice a week. It is a valuable time for their caregivers (often spouses who are seniors themselves) to enjoy some respite.

The previous operator was unable to continue the program and so Alberta Health Services asked St. Michael's to step in. Not only did it assume the program, it did so without an interruption of services.

The seamless transfer is a shining example of the legacy of care at St. Michael's Health Centre.

The facility now provides respect, dignity, and care for 48 long-term care residents, 24 rehab patients, 24 community support beds, 84 supportive living residents, 12 mental health residents, and 10 palliative care residents, in addition to offering geriatric outpatient programs.

MARTHA'S HOUSE

Martha's House is an independent living facility operated by Covenant Living. The bright, engaging site is home to 118 residents who are very much enjoying

this stage of their lives. They appreciate the perks of their new low-maintenance homes, and contribute to the events of the facility. They schedule their days of their own accord, while partaking, as they wish, in a busy social calendar created by staff and the residents' council.

ST. THERESE VILLA

In 2009, St. Therese Villa opened its doors to 200 supported-living residents. It includes 140 private studio suites, 16 couple's suites and 60 secure dementia suites. The centre recognizes the transition from living in one's own home to supported living can be difficult, and has gained recognition for its collaborative efforts to increase dialogue with family.

"Our families are very active and visit a lot," says Tracy Humphrey, Site Administrator, St. Therese Villa. "Family members are an important part of the care team. Their voices matter."

The facility hosts monthly resident-family meetings and has sub-committees of family members who are focused on issues such as nutrition and communication.

All three sites are part of an innovative program that connects Lethbridge's seniors to its young people. Every week of the school year, volunteer residents at each facility assemble about 25 school lunches. They are delivered to a local elementary school for children who would otherwise not have a nutritious meal to eat during the day.

St. Michael's Health Centre, Martha's House and St. Therese Villa are clearly a crucial part of the community, Dennie Hycha, Senior Director Operations for Covenant Health, says.

"We're looking forward to the sense that we belong to something bigger," she says. "Covenant Foundation is well established and very purposeful. We'll leverage more dollars and be able to offer more help. I think this is a promising move for us, and we're all feeling optimistic."



Descriptions are across the province

Covenant Care is a major provider of supportive living, long-term care and hospice services in Alberta, responding to the growing and changing needs of an aging population and offering innovative work and care environments where residents and care teams work, thrive and grow.

In 2016/17 Covenant Care operated 785 continuing care beds and 65 independent living beds, amounting to 310,250 resident days, at seven facilities in five communities, across the province. Covenant Foundation collaborated with Covenant Care to provide support for innovate projects aligned with their strategic initiatives.



CHATEAU VITALINE

Chateau Vitaline is located in the community of Beaumont and provides care for seniors who need assistance with daily living. The centre includes 46 supportive living suites and three lodge suites.

HOLY CROSS MANOR

Holy Cross Manor meets the various and changing needs of residents and is located in the northwest community of Evanston, in Calgary. The centre features a home-like design and ensures a safe environment while promoting independence for its more than 100 residents.





ST. TERESA PLACE

St. Teresa Place meets the various and changing needs of residents and is located in the northeast community of Redstone, Calgary. St. Teresa Place features a home-like design and ensures a safe environment while promoting independence.



VILLA MARIE

Villa Marie is located in the northeast community of Clearview North, in Red Deer, and cares for as many as 100 long-term residents at a time.

ST. MARGEURITE MANOR

Caring for as many as 102 residents at a time, St. Marguerite Manor is located in the northwest community of Evanston, in Calgary. St. Marguerite Manor is home to Dulcina Hospice, a 26-bed residential hospice, which provides compassionate, end-of-life care in collaboration with the resident and their family.





FOYER LACOMBE

Situated on Mission Hill in St. Albert, Foyer Lacombe provides long term and palliative care services to the community.

SAINT-THOMAS HEALTH CENTRE

Saint-Thomas Health Centre was built by Edmonton's Francophone community in response to the need for long-term care for the aging French speaking population. The facility services both French and English residents, and has independent living apartments, as well as 138 supportive living beds, including provisions for Alzheimer's and dementia patients.



New NICU keeps families and babies together

The new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the Misericordia Community Hospital, which opened in January 2017, is innovative, state-of-the-art, and creates a feeling of normalcy for babies and families in a stressful situation.

"This new space allows for the family-integrated care model," says Gail Cameron, Senior Director of Operations, Women's & Child Health, Grey Nuns & Misericordia Community Hospitals. "We're offering great care for the baby, and a sense of home, which is crucial in those early days."

The committment from Covenant Foundation for the new unit totaled over \$4.2 million, and helps to provide compassionate care for every one of the NICU's 1,200 patients per year.

The new NICU is comprised of 23 private rooms (including two that can accommodate twins or triplets), as opposed to the previous 18 spaces in two pods. The opportunity for a family to enjoy privacy with their baby creates much more than comfort.

"The babies we care for here generally have premature brains, so they can't process stress properly. In an open unit, babies startle so much, which makes them burn more calories," says Cameron. "That's a problem when we're talking about preemies: they need to catch up, but they're

growing slowly because of distractions. Now they get the sleep they need."

Each room has its own lighting system, enhanced sound protection and temperature control. Babies and moms can bond and heal together, and fall into their own natural schedule.

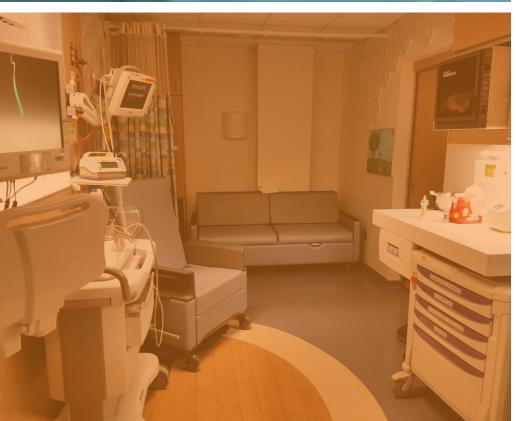
"If a mom has delivered 10 weeks early, they'll likely be with us for six weeks," says Cameron. "And now the family can stay together. Each room has a private fridge and a couch that converts to a bed. There's space for mom and dad, the toddler, grandma."

One of the new unit's bigger expenses was the new central monitoring system that keeps track of the babies' fragile health. When there is a noteworthy change in vitals, the nurse's phone receives an alert, as does the charge nurse, and the hallway phone. This system allows all necessary medical staff to be simultaneously alerted to critical changes and respond faster in times of crisis.

Cameron notes the new space, which has been at 100 per cent occupancy all year, allows another integral person to be involved in monitoring the baby's progress.

"Parents have had ample time to bond, they're with their baby all the time, so we appreciate their reports," she says. "The parents have come to understand their baby, and we're here to offer support. This is how it should be."











Covenant Foundation contributes to new Mental Health Unit

When a ruptured valve caused a flood at the Misericordia Community Hospital in 2013, the Mental Health Unit turned the bad news into opportunity.

Covenant Foundation committed \$40,000 for the Mental Health Unit to replace and upgrade its equipment and furniture, as part of the renovation of the unit.

"The money allowed us to replace badly out-dated furniture for the patient lounge and quiet room. We also purchased a new fridge, microwave and stove for the kitchenette, new shower chairs, a vital signs monitor, a new stretcher, dining room tables and chairs," says Scott Aylwin, Senior Director of Operations, Mental Health, Covenant Health.

The Misericordia's Mental Health Unit takes care of 28 patients at any one time, and has more than 300 inpatient admissions every year. Patient diagnoses run the full gamut of mental health issues ranging from depressive and anxiety disorders, to bipolar and schizophrenia spectrum disorders, personality disorders, neurodevelopmental and neurocognitive disorders, and substance-related issues. An average length of stay for a mental health patient is 23 days.

"We administer about 1,000 electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) or other neuromodulation treatments every year," says Aylwin, who was happy to be able to purchase new equipment thanks to donor support. "We have a separate fitness room equipped with stationary bikes, weights and other exercise equipment for our therapeutic recreation program, and new carts for our neuromodulation area."

The revamp of the unit was a four-year process, including demolition, asbestos abatement and reconstruction, but Aylwin says the difficulties and frustrations were worth it. The Mental Health treatment team had the chance to offer their input and collaborate on the design, and it shows. The finished space is open concept, with larger rooms and hallways, and a calmer atmosphere.

"In the mental health world, patients benefit from an environment that is quiet, not cramped, and less 'institutional' than some other units. Group attendance has increased in the new space, and patients have commented on how much they appreciate the homey feel of the unit. They like the large dining and activities area, and the quiet room for visiting family or spiritual care," Aylwin says. "The environment plays a much more significant role here than in other areas of medicine."



Located at the west end of the Misericordia Community Hospital, between the chapel and the west annex, there has been a small, quiet green space for years. Almost entirely surrounded by buildings, it is a wonderfully calm area of respite.

In 2014, the Misericordia formally called the space the Legacy Garden to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Catholic health care in Alberta. With donated funds, an arbour, planters, and trellises were established in the 40' by 80' space.

"Patients and families, staff and volunteers use the garden on a daily basis—weather permitting—to enjoy a quiet lunch. At times, meetings are held in the garden," says Christine Lauerman, Clinical Liaison, Infrastructure Projects, Corporate at Misericordia Community Hospital. "It's also used by our occupational therapy and recreational therapy programs to provide patients with opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and receive therapy."

This year, impressed by the reaction to these initial changes, the Misericordia applied to the Associates of Caritas for more funding. The \$12,000 grant, made through Covenant Foundation, has transformed the space.

Four benches that convert to tables have been added, enabling picnic lunches and efficient meetings. An in-

kind design plan was developed by Gloria Lind, a retired Covenant employee, and a gazebo was added for shade. Concrete paths have been updated so the garden is accessible by wheelchair and safe for walkers.

The Legacy Garden has several mature Nanking cherry and High Bush cranberry bushes, which keeps the area buzzing with bees, birds, and butterflies. A lilac tree was planted to complement their offerings, as well as 110 perennial flowers and shrubs.

The Legacy Garden has been designed with horticultural therapy in mind. Studies have shown that reflective time in nature is helpful for patients. Having a calm, green space available to staff and volunteers allows them to take a quick restorative break so they are better able to serve with care and compassion. There are often other visitors who reap the rewards: children from a daycare on site often walk through the space, allowing for spontaneous interactions between generations.

There is hope the garden will evolve in time.

"We would like to see it develop to become more than a celebration of Catholic health care in Alberta, though of course that's how it began," says Lauerman. "We're planning to move an existing memorial bench into the garden, and I can see this space turning into a memorial garden for patients, staff, and volunteers."

Donation creates opportunities for patient mobility and



Covenant Foundation, through its generous donors, creates opportunities for Covenant facilities to elevate their care from good to great. One such initiative is the cardiac telemetry project at the Banff Mineral Springs Hospital.

Currently, patients' health and vitals are monitored by a system attached to their beds. If they need or want to move in any way, even to go to the bathroom, they must be disconnected from their monitors. It's an inefficient and time-intensive process.

But a new monitoring system will soon allow for more freedom for patients, thanks to a very generous donation from a local family.

"A little pack will be worn by the patient, and it collects the data and sends it back to the home unit through our Wi-Fi connection," explains Shelley Buchan, Site Administrator, Banff Mineral Springs Hospital. "This allows us to keep an eye on their health while giving them the chance to walk down the hall and enjoy some independence."

These mobile monitors will be used for low-risk, stable patients. They will be able to enjoy some light exercise, walking the hallways and common area, while health care

professionals can at all times evaluate their heart rate and ${\it rhythm}$.

"It really speaks to better care. They can walk around and we have the chance to observe them in a more normal environment," Buchan says. "Their health care team can assess and diagnose their condition more timely [sic] and get them on the right care path more quickly."

Buchan says the donation allows for the purchase of four portable monitoring systems, as well as the site upgrades required. She says the ability to monitor patients on the move is typical in most other facilities, though rural facilities often have connection issues.

The donors, who wish to remain anonymous, are happy to see their generosity support great quality care at the local hospital.

"This project is not top of the list in terms of operational dollars, as we already have the capability to monitor our patients with the current system," Buchan says. "However, this is the kind of welcome bonus with which we can offer patients better care and increased mobility, thanks to donors and Covenant Foundation."

Food deeds

for Banff Mineral Springs Hospital since 1957

A tireless group of Bow Valley women has supported Banff Mineral Springs Hospital for decades.

With more than \$10,000 raised every year, the Mineral Springs Hospital Auxiliary has purchased furniture and equipment for departments such as emergency and physical therapy, and for its long-term care facility, St. Martha's Place.

The Mineral Springs Hospital Auxiliary raises funds through bridge tournaments, rummage and bake sales, progressive dinners, and more. They also provide a personal touch, staffing the hospital boutique and visiting patients.

One of the Auxiliary's most well known initiatives is

awarding an annual scholarship for hospital staff who are furthering their education and plan to continue working in the Bow Valley. Funded through the Covenant Foundation, the award was named after Lillian Mandryk, who was the hospital's business manager from 1965 to 1974.

In 2016, the award recipient was LPN Jodi-Lynn Suchan, who is studying perioperative nursing at MacEwan University.

Past recipients have included a St. Martha's employee who entered a four-year nursing program; a pharmacy technician taking additional studies to become a registered technician; and an admitting front desk worker who dreams of becoming an emergency room nurse.

Music therapy brings joy to patients

Banff Mineral Springs Hospital provides long-term care to residents who can no longer live independently, through St. Martha's Place. They can experience failing cognitive function, emotional distress and social isolation.

A highlight of the week for many is an innovative music therapy program that provides an opportunity for residents to strengthen their emotional, social and physical wellbeing. Moving to music, singing along to songs such as "Let the Sun Shine In" and "We've Got Rhythm," and playing instruments can bring a flush to cheeks and happy memories.

"Music can be a friend when there are no friends or family physically there," says Colleen Critchley, from 100 Women Who Care Rockies, a fundraising group in the Bow Valley that supports local programs. "Sometimes words are too hard to use, and they may not be strong enough to describe emotions and feelings."

Critchley says the group heard about the transformational

work of music therapy and decided to lend a hand. Their donations will help to continue the program's ability to provide a voice and emotional outlet for patients who no longer have the ability to converse as they'd like.

"People are people no matter what age or place in life. We all want to feel challenged, loved, and important. Music treats all those rooted human needs," Critchley says.

Andrei Dandridge-Evancio meets with his music therapy clients twice a week, in groups or in one-on-one settings, depending on patients' abilities. He says the small community of Banff is fortunate to have music therapy services, which are often limited to urban centres.

"During these sessions, residents become active and engaged. This progression toward alertness and increased responsiveness is exciting and gratifying," says Dandridge-Evancio. "Greater eye contact, active participation, lyric recall and evoked memories are all signs of success."



Covenant Foundation brought joy to two Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre (EGCCC) residents with tickets to an Edmonton Oilers playoff game in May.

"I'm so glad I had a chance to go," says Tim Bearhead, who has called EGCCC home for five years. His room is decorated from top to bottom in Oilers swag.

James Stubbs, a fellow resident, was delighted to watch his favourite player, Connor McDavid, in action.

"Just being there among the cheers was incredible," Stubbs says. "We had a great view and I was cheering at the top of my lungs."

The two men enjoyed a thrilling but heartbreaking game, in which the Oilers lost in overtime to the Anaheim Ducks.

"Neither of them had been to a playoff game before—this means the world to them and we're so excited for them," says Brenda Neuman, recreational therapist.

All season long, the men's passion for the Oilers was contagious on Unit 4Y, a specialized care unit at EGCCC. They never missed a game on TV and had the staff wearing team jerseys and excited about every game.

"They've made us better fans," says Diana Grabusic, occupational therapist.



For 20 years, Breathe Easy has served as the main pulmonary rehabilitation program in Edmonton. Operated out of the G.F. MacDonald Lung Health Centre, in the Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre (EGCCC), it helps patients to become more knowledgeable and more active

It isn't always easy for rural patients to come into Edmonton for pulmonary rehab and education. Currently, at any given time, about one dozen rural sites in Alberta are using the Breathe Easy telehealth program.

Patients head to their local health centre, such as a physical therapy clinic. The patient has his or her appointment with the pulmonary specialist at EGCCC via a telehealth web video. The local health clinician, who has been previously trained, attends the session with the patient, to provide further clarification as required.

"Clinicians see this as great value, and telehealth is a valuable component for these patients," says Dr. Mike Stickland, Lead, G.F. MacDonald Lung Health Centre, and director of Breathe Easy. "They're grateful, they feel confident and they're able to take care of their health."

Now, with a \$180,000 commitment from Covenant Foundation, the program's innovative telehealth

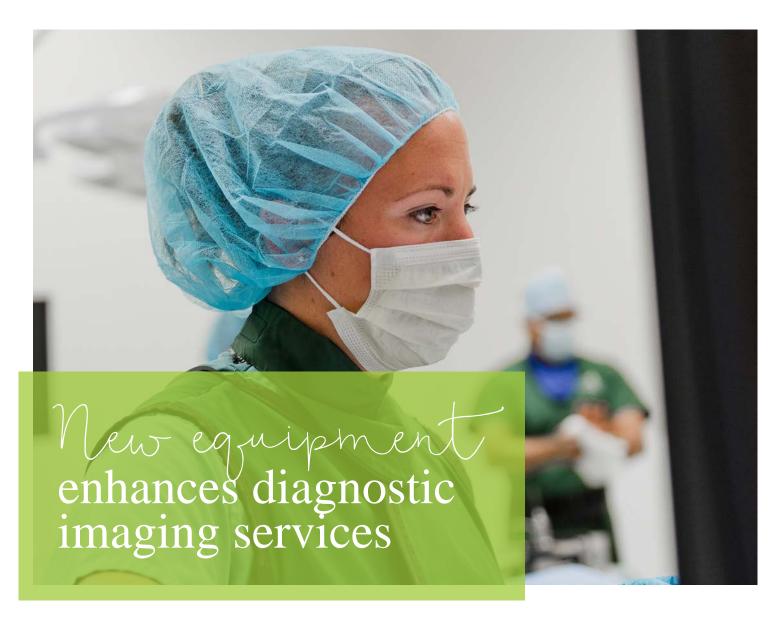
component will be expanded to serve more clients in rural sites across Alberta, and eventually, across Canada.

Stickland says this telehealth platform is urgently needed across the province, and the country. Fortunately, the specialists at the Centre are up to the task.

"We're a recognized expert in delivering pulmonary rehab, and we're seen as a leader, internationally, in delivering this to rural areas," Stickland says. "Our vision is that on the national level people will be able to use the resources that we set up for them, and we're all doing the same curriculum, with the foundation of it here at our Centre."

Stickland's team is currently developing new pulmonary health curriculum, working with McGill University and the University of Toronto. The new education modules and website are more focused on behavioural change and learning styles.

"Patients will have more accountability and more homework. The onus is on them, with a stronger focus on personal goals once he or she has left the program," says Stickland. "We're better arming our patients to face their disease."



New equipment and software that assesses swallowing ability has brought clarity to Grey Nuns Community Hospital's diagnostic imaging department.

"Our previous technology was so poor that it was difficult to distinguish the tongue movement from the barium-contrasted product that patients swallow for assessment," says Kelly Stark, Program Manager, Rehabilitation Medicine, IV Clinic & The Centre for Diabetes Care. "This new equipment provides synchronized audio recording and much higher resolution imaging, which creates more accurate analysis of findings. The software stores the data, allows for remote analysis, and interfaces with other systems."

The new dysphagia DI equipment, called the TIMS 2000 SP, is used for every adult patient requiring swallowing assessment, including stroke, emergency, medicine, critical care and geriatric patients. It accurately assesses current swallowing status and identifies aspiration risks. The unit has been in use for several months. The day after it arrived

at Grey Nuns, diagnostic imaging and speech language clinicians, who operate and analyze its data, received their training so it could be put to immediate use.

"Our previous system was at the end of its life, as it had been in place since the GNCH site opened," says Stark. "This imaging is much clearer compared to that previous technology. As far as we know, we're the second site in Alberta to be outfitted with this TIMS unit."

Grey Nuns Community Hospital recently achieved its Stroke Distinction accreditation, meaning it has demonstrated clinical excellence and a commitment to leadership in stroke care. The \$25,000 commitment to purchase equipment through Covenant Foundation plays a large role in contributing to this distinction.

"Swallowing assessment with fluoroscopy imaging is a key component to many medical conditions with elderly patients, particularly stroke patients," says Stark. "This equipment helps to manage their diagnosis, inform diet restrictions, and even prevent secondary complications."



The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends all infants be exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life, and until two years old and beyond.

Grey Nuns Community Hospital is in the process of being accredited for the WHO's Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI), a global effort to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding.

"It's a Hospital-wide initiative, which means babies are welcome everywhere. An overnight surgical patient is able to breastfeed her baby in her room, new mothers returning to work have comfortable spaces to pump or nurse," says Gail Cameron, Senior Director of Operations, Women's & Child Health, Grey Nuns & Misericordia Community Hospitals. "We have a 15-minute tutorial for everyone, from housekeepers to security and volunteers, to learn about the importance of nursing. It's wonderful to see support throughout the hospital."

Breast milk contains valuable vitamins and minerals and

unique antibodies that protect against viruses and bacteria. Other benefits include fewer ear infections and respiratory illnesses, and less risk of asthma and allergies.

Covenant Foundation invested more than \$39,000 in equipment to support the BFHI, including milk warmers; milk fridges for expressed breast milk; enteral feeding pumps, which give an accurate amount of milk over a specific period of time; and breast pumps to encourage new mothers to improve their milk supply.

The BFHI initiative even creates change around process and protocol.

"All of the blood work required for newborns is now performed while they're nursing. They're calm, they're breathing easy. A stressful situation that used to take 12 minutes is now a quiet four minutes," says Cameron. "It's a whole picture of health. After decades of breastfeeding falling in and out of favour, we're back to what's basic and right."

Chapple family investing in education for hext generation

In 2006, Rose Chapple's family established an award in her honour as a Christmas present. It supports St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital nurses and health care aides who are upgrading their skills.

"It was the best gift I've ever received," says Rose. "If a person wants to get ahead, there are obstacles to contend with, but if you're dedicated, you'll find a way. This is just a push, the little bit that gets them over the hump."

The L. Rose Chapple Fund awards about \$1,500 each year to a staff member focused on professional development. This year's recipient is a health care aide working on her LPN designation.

"The work we do here is hard. It's rewarding but often not rewarded," says Janet Eggert, Program Manager, Administration. "It's not glamorous, it's often difficult, but they keep coming back. Supporting them as they increase their knowledge is to all our benefit."

Rose understands the tireless efforts of nursing staff, as she worked at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital from 1964 to 1988. And she believes in the power of education, having moved to a new city as a young girl and supporting herself through high school. She is happy the award combines her two passions of nursing and education, and presents the award every year at the annual nurses' tea.

"These are people we can help. They're innately talented but barred from education for financial reasons. This fund is a long-term investment, so we're very happy with it," says Rose's son Sam Chapple, who worked with Covenant Foundation to set up the award. "When you see the gifted people here and the way they care, there's something magical about it."







Villa Caritas is the largest provider of acute geriatric mental health services in the province, serving 150 seniors with complex mental and medical health issues. It's not a permanent residence, but a place to assess, treat and stabilize patients before transitioning them back to the most appropriate care setting in the community.

There are many patients coming and going on a daily basis – to appointments, recreational outings, or transferring to other facilities – and a necessity for the facility is a reliable patient transport vehicle, which it did not have.

"The vehicle we had previously just wasn't properly suited to our needs," says Scott Aylwin, Senior Director of Operations, Mental Health. "It required frequent repairs; we were always cancelling appointments and outings at the last minute, or paying for taxis, which gets expensive. It only had a ramp for wheelchairs, which is challenging especially in winter. It was so big that our driver, Sam, often couldn't fit under building entrance overhangs, which meant he had to drop staff and patients farther away from their destination than necessary."

Covenant Foundation committed the funds to purchase a new transfer and shuttle vehicle, which is a great boon for staff and patients.

"Everyone is very pleased, especially Sam, who is a longstanding employee here at Villa Caritas. He was integral in choosing our new vehicle," says Aylwin. "It accommodates five wheelchairs and five additional people, whether staff or patients. It has backup cameras, GPS, a wheelchair lift, which is a great safety feature for us, and a modular flooring design, which means we have flexibility in how we load and securely seat our patients."

Beyond a more reliable means of transportation, the new vehicle improves quality of life for patients. They will enjoy more public activities and outings, which creates an excitement and sense of hope as they transition back into the community. As they approach discharge and to make the transition easier, they are usually taken to their new care setting to familiarize themselves with the new environment.

The new van helps staff to better attend to their tasks, as well. Medical appointments will remain on schedule without having to cancel. Most importantly, staff can reliably plan for outings such as personal shopping and errands. These excursions let patients enjoy independence, but also helps staff to assess the seniors' abilities to function in real world settings, and determine how close they are to transitioning out of Villa Caritas.

"Our staff are excited. It's much more than a van, it's an opportunity to make everyone's days smoother, with less hassle and less stress."



Compassionate care for dementia patients requires insight and ingenuity. Not only are they in need of help, they often don't know they need that help.

"Imagine how scary their situation can be," says Scott Aylwin, Senior Director of Operations, Mental Health. "If you don't understand what's happening around you, and not even why, it's alarming. Anything we can do to soothe is a step in the right direction."

Villa Caritas is an acute geriatric mental health facility in Edmonton. The unit that houses dementia patients has a special appliqué that covers the entire wall and, most importantly, its exit doors.

"Often we have 'exit seeking' patients, and it's problematic to have a set of doors that appear available to them," Aylwin says. "This covering essentially makes the doors disappear, so it creates a more comfortable environment."

The wall used to look like a bookshelf, but Covenant Foundation provided funds for a new decal. It's a vibrant nature scene, with lots of greenery and a view over a valley. Many patients at Villa Caritas have a rural background, and

there is hope the scene evokes memories of happier days.

"It's difficult to measure the impact, but we often see residents sitting in front of it. We want an environment that's calm and soothing, and it seems like this helps."

Patients with dementia are a growing demographic, Aylwin says, and there is always discussion among professionals about how to provide the best care.

"For example, you can design a unit that's circular, so they have a loop they can just walk, walk, walk," he says, explaining that many people with dementia have a restless energy that keeps them on their feet. "Another simple but useful idea is to have a uniform floor, without pattern, because depth perception difficulties can cause patients to mistake patterns for steps. Many facilities are using different paint colour schemes to help patients remember where their rooms are. There are new ideas in this field all the time."

In the meantime, this new exit door covering is creating comfort for patients and peace of mind for families and staff.



Compassionate care in the last days of a person's life means easing pain, taking away stress, and creating peace and calm for families.

It is a time for quiet moments, and one special palliative patient found a way to bring more opportunities for closeness to Carmel Hospice.

The 10-bed facility, located in St. Joseph's Home in Medicine Hat, provides care for patients for up to three months. It was one compassionate woman's last home before she passed away in September 2016.

"I can tell you that she was a very family-oriented person," says unit manager Dawn Durksen. "She and her husband would have liked to be able to lie together in bed and spend time together as they always did."

Unfortunately, the hospice had only single hospital beds available, and fitting two people in one is a difficult endeavour.

The caring patient saw an opportunity, and initiated a selfless request that was published in her obituary: she and her husband asked that donations be made so that

Carmel Hospice could purchase a double bed so other patients would be able to lay with their loved ones in their final days.

With the generous donations from from friends and neighbours combined with funds from the Medicine Hat Community Foundation, the bed was purchased.

"We're so touched by their gesture," says Ryan Wiest, Site Administrator, St. Joseph's Home. "This double bed allows couples to be together, and kids or grandkids can also crawl in there. The desire to be loved, to be together, to be comforted ... that's important in this stage of life."

The double bed will help staff as well, freeing them up from searching the unit for cots and arranging them into tight spaces, and giving them piece of mind during their difficult work.

"We always see spouses and family members here overnight," says Durksen. "It will be so nice to have that time close together so a sad situation can at least feel a bit normal."

of remembrance and support

The Tree of Lights Campaign is a heart-warming Christmas fundraiser in which donations are recognized with a light displayed on one of three white spruce trees at St. Joseph's Home. St. Joseph's Home, in Medicine Hat, is home to Carmel Hospice, a ten-bed palliative unit that opened in 2012. Since then, it has served as the final home for more than 300 residents, who stay at the Hospice for an average of three months.

For almost 30 years, the Medicine Hat community has supported palliative care at St. Joseph's Home.

"Everyone feels compelled to remember their loved ones, and raising funds for the Hospice is an annual event which gives people that opportunity during the festive season," says John Piea, a volunteer who's led the campaign for the last five years. "It touches us all. Every one of us has lost someone."

Piea was a member of the Medicine Hat Hospice Palliative Care Society, which worked to establish Carmel Hospice within St. Joseph's Home. Though the Society has since disbanded, the Tree of Lights was so popular within the community that it has continued through Covenant Foundation. Over its 26 years, the Tree of Lights campaign has raised at least \$180,000 for hospice care.

In 2016, the campaign raised over \$7,000. Piea says the hospice is always in need of support, from its in-home palliative bed program (for palliative patients who are able to stay at home) to equipment such as double beds so that loved ones can lay with patients.

The location of the Tree of Lights has changed over the decades, from downtown to two huge fir trees behind St. Joseph's. And in the past, a truck-lift was used to place the lights in the trees; this year the lights were changed with a smartphone app.

One thing that hasn't changed is the simple but meaningful tradition of giving \$10 to remember a loved one.

"This fundraising effort is about our Medicine Hat community, societal conscience, and maintenance of family legacy," says Piea.

RBC staff lend a hand at the supplies the staff lend a hand at

For its annual RBC Day of Service, volunteers from both Royal Bank branches in Medicine Hat headed to St. Joseph's Home for a busy day of outdoor work.

The group performed their good deeds on a beautiful Sunday morning in June. They raked leaves, planted flowers and painted the deck and garage. Employees' spouses and children joined in to make the day a family event.

"After completing our first event at St. Joseph's last year, the employees decided they wanted to return again this year," says Lise Bayer, Client Advisor, RBC Royal Bank. "A great time working together, a sense of accomplishment, and of course, the barbecue they held for us made for a very enjoyable experience."

Ryan Wiest is the site administrator of St. Joseph's Home, which also houses the Carmel Hospice. He says the RBC

Day of Service is very much appreciated by the staff, patients and independent living residents.

"It's a fun day for everyone. Many of our residents are introverted, but they were outside saying 'hello' and taking a peek," says Wiest, who fires up the grill to serve lunch once volunteers have finished for the day. "We're always amazed by how much gets accomplished, and how nice it looks. Our residents always spend more time outside once the work is done."

Wiest says staff time and operational dollars are used up on essential tasks, so the outside clean up and esthetic extras are treasured. And it shows.

"The residents of St. Joseph's Home are so appreciative of the work," says Bayer, who serves as a board member and volunteer at St. Joseph's. "It is so heart warming and sincere."



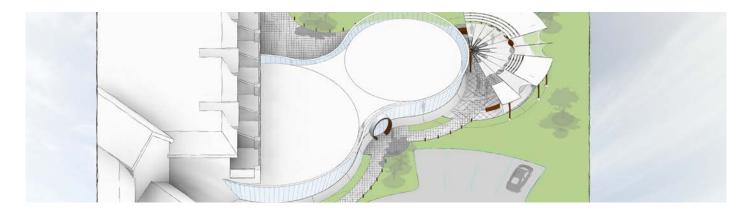
Youville Home serves as home for 233 long-term care residents. It has a welcoming atmosphere, which most guests notice when they enter. The foyer, with its fireplace and couches, is always full of residents talking, reading, even playing musical instruments together.

However, guiet contemplative space can be hard to find.

"Most people feel they spend enough time in their rooms, so then they look to the dining room, which isn't cozy,

or the cafeteria downstairs, which is a long way away for some residents. We have a patio area, but you can't enjoy that during the long winter," says Cecilia Marion, Senior Director of Operations, Seniors Care, Youville Home and St. Joseph's Auxiliary. "In this new space, we're planning for sunshine, windows and warmth."

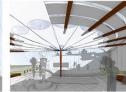
Covenant Foundation is in the midst of a one-million-dollar campaign for a 1,000-square-foot extension to Youville Home's multipurpose room.











"When we have big events, like our Christmas party, we struggle to serve everyone, because we don't have a large enough space," Marion says. "This extension will allow us to open up sliding doors and expand the room. We'll be able to host larger groups of people with safety and ease, we'll have more options to enjoy time with loved ones, and a nice place for a cup of tea."

Many residents are looking forward to the greenhouse component of the extension. There is a gardening club at Youville Home, whose members will appreciate the space for the flowers and vegetables they produce and sell every year.

Staff are excited, too, because they well know the link between access to plants and a boost in mental and emotional well-being.

"Recreational activities, such as gardening, give people a renewed sense of purpose, focus and control in their lives. Green space with plants is soothing and healing. It's a spiritual feeling that's important for our residents," says Marion.

Renderings for the space are complete and fundraising for the project is well underway.

"Compassionate care means excellent medical care, of course, but it's so much more than that," says Marion. "Quality of life is important and the chance to feel the sun on your face is part of that. This extension will allow even those in beds with limited mobility to enjoy."

Residents' calendar raises

McFadden, Youville Home's volunteer coordinator.

In 1941, when Mary was 11 years old, her parents and brother were killed in a Nazi bombing campaign on her hometown of Hull, England. She and her sister spent the next few years in

potatoes, happy to work with friends and contribute to her



St. Joseph's Hospital, in Vegreville, provides 24-hour emergency care, acute and palliative care, and outpatient services such as gynecological, physical and occupational therapy, hemodialysis, and cardiac care.

Rural hospitals face the unique challenge of maintaining exceptional emergency services, despite irregular use. First responders, emergency and trauma physicians, and other healthcare professionals don't often have the opportunity to practice their skills but must be able to provide excellent emergency medicine on short notice.

To keep their abilities at a consummate level, St. Joseph's Hospital decided to pursue the development of a Medical Simulation and Clinical Skills Centre.

"It's not common to have this in a rural hospital, even though it's more needed here. I was at a conference where we were definitely the smallest region to have access to this. It's really unheard of," says Dr. Daniel Edgcumbe, Medical Director, St. Joseph's General Hospital. "But a simulation centre allows us to evaluate our technical competencies and teamwork. We all learn how to work together effectively, so that the standard of care we can offer is high."

With the help of Covenant Foundation, the Hospital paired up with Country 106.5, a new radio station in Vegreville, to host its first radiothon and raise funds for the project. They set a lofty, but attainable, goal of \$25,000, but were overwhelmed by the response from sponsors and listeners. In total, over \$59,000 was raised for the simulation centre.

"The community's response was great," says Edgcumbe. "One difficulty in rural areas is that in the past more services were offered than now, and it's easy to feel a sense of loss. But this project creates a sense of excellence, and it's a good contribution to our region in a meaningful way."

The outlying area, including Two Hills, Mundare, Lamont, Viking, Vermillion and Tofield, will all have the opportunity to learn and train in the simulation centre. Edgcumbe says they'll offer at least six multidisciplinary emergency skills courses every year. Nursing and medical students will study at the simulation centre, and first aid courses, including infant first aid and resuscitation, will be offered to community members.

The money raised by the radiothon allowed for the purchase of equipment typically found in the teaching centre of a medical school, including both adult and infant mannequins that are programmable to present various emergencies.

"We are really excited to have this space. There was nothing else similar nearby," says Edgcumbe. "It was an obvious opportunity, and it's worked out quite well."



After Covenant Foundation's fundraising radiothon for St. Joseph's General Hospital, lead donors and sponsors were invited to attend a talk and medical demonstration with Dr. Daniel Edgcumbe.

Attendees mingled over light refreshments and talked about highlights from the radiothon, which was a nine-hour radio event featuring stories of hope, healing and innovation. The presenting sponsor was Lakeland Respiratory Consulting Services Inc. and each "power hour" was a time slot in which local organizations sponsored an hour of programming.

Most agreed the high point was when, as promised, Mayor Myron Hayduk had his full head of hair and moustache shaved off on live radio because the radiothon had surpassed its goal of \$25,000. The fundraiser went on to collect an astounding \$59,000.

After remarks from Covenant Foundation and Community Board Member, Taneen Rudyk, the group of about 40 people enjoyed a simulation by Dr. Edgcumbe with the recently acquired mannequin, named Carey. The programmable figure was "complaining" of being in pain, which led to vomiting.

"It was a great event that enhanced communication between the local community and our medical community," says Edgcumbe. "We want them to feel proud of this simulation centre, and to feel like they're active partners in their own health."

Everyone's a Winner Golf Tournament



Not even a rescheduled date due to rain could dampen spirits at the Edmonton Country Club on September 16. More than 120 golfers gathered in bright sunshine, with sponsors, donors and special guests, for the 23rd annual Everyone's A Winner Golf Tournament.

CTV's Josh Classen returned in his role as MC of the tournament and lunch. Golfers enjoyed tasty treats from some of Edmonton's best venues on the course, and even enjoyed a celebrity sighting, with Edmonton Oiler Dave Lumley showcasing his golf skills at the 18th hole!

Edmontonians showed their generous spirit again, raising

over \$100,000. These funds support people at all stages of life, from the NICU to palliative care, and help to create leading-edge programs, research and education at Covenant facilities.

Special thanks to our Albatross sponsors CTV and Edmonton Journal. Eagle sponsors were Alberta Blue Cross; Connor, Clark & Lunn Private Capital; Cottswood Interiors; Ledcor Construction Limited; Packrat Louie Kitchen & Bar; Chandos Construction Ltd; Printworks; Ogilvie LLP; and Stride Management Corp.

Another hole-in-one for

Fouville Home Golf Classic

For more than two decades, St. Albert friends, family, and neighbours have gathered to hit the greens and support the community's long-term care facility.

The 2016 tournament was filled with 137 golfers enjoying a wonderfully sunny day on the green. Participants were greeted by Youville Home residents, and enjoyed a heartwarming presentation featuring resident Penny Stiksma.

Golfers were treated to a sampling of St. Albert's finest food and beverages on the course, and a buffet lunch and barbecue dinner. A live auction after the tournament

featured Mayor Nolan Crouse as auctioneer. Attendees vied for the big ticket item of accommodations for two at the Fairmont Nile City in Cairo, Egypt.

Special thanks to all sponsors, including gold sponsor St. Albert Gazette; silver sponsor Dolce Vita Homes; bronze sponsors Adroit Investment Management; Fairmont Nile City, Cairo; priMed Medical Products; and Apex Casino; and our corporate and hole sponsors.

Funds from the 22nd Annual Youville Home Golf Classic will support the facility's campaign to build a multipurpose room and four-season greenhouse for residents.

Celebrating our donors

The outstanding care our patients and residents enjoy is possible—in large part—because of unwavering support from donors, sponsors, community members, volunteers, and other stakeholders in communities supported by Covenant Foundation across the province.

To thank our loyal donors, Covenant Foundation was pleased to present its third annual Evening of Appreciation. Held at Edmonton Golf & Country Club, more than 125 attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner, exciting prizes, and an educational experience.

Donors were welcomed by Foundation staff, and entered a mock operating room. Northern Alberta Vascular Centre team members were available to explain various tools and equipment typically used in a vascular surgical procedure.

The highlight of the event, hosted by CTV's Carmen Leibel, was a vascular demonstration. Dr. Gerrit Winkelaar led Covenant Foundation Board Chair, Ron Gilbertson, through a theoretical vascular operation.

Vascular surgeons and staff were delighted to show donors exactly how their generosity increases wellness and saves lives

This event was made possible with support of sponsors, including presenting sponsor Gore Creative Technologies Worldwide; platinum sponsor Edmonton Country Club; gold sponsors Vision Travel Solutions and Graham & Lane Florists; and bronze sponsors Custom Fit and Toastography.

your own event!

Are you looking for a unique and fun way to support Covenant Foundation?

Whether you're a business owner, school, service club, or individual, you can host your own event to raise funds for the Foundation or one of the facilities we support.

Event ideas include: golf tournaments, office lunches and casual-dress days, car washes, birthday parties, gala dinners, bingos, fashion shows, garage sales, and more.

Whatever you do, your event will have a positive impact on patient care, programs and services, research, and education at Covenant facilities across the province of Alberta.

Covenant Foundation staff can provide you with the tools and inspiration you need to host your fundraising event and support you along the way. For more information, call 780-342-8126 or visit covenant foundation.ca



Vascular patients, health care professionals, government and community members gathered for the first annual Vascular Health Day on September 14 at the Grey Nuns Community Hospital.

The goal of the event, sponsored by Covenant Foundation, was to raise awareness and discuss prevention of vascular disease. It was also an opportunity to promote the great work at the Northern Alberta Vascular Centre (NAVC), which serves all of Alberta north of Red Deer, and other provinces and territories in the west.

"It was a great day, and we really had something for everyone. If you're a techie, we've got some cool stuff here like the simulators and goggles, or if you're concerned about your health, you can sit down with an expert for some advice," says Trevor Small, Senior Director Operations for Ambulatory Services, Rehabilitative Medicine and Surgical Services, Grey Nuns Community Hospital.

The day-long event included forums of mock operating rooms, nutrition dieticians discussing healthy vascular

diets, rehab tours, and vascular screening services. Many people attended a lunch and learn with NAVC surgeons, and other enjoyed the vendor fair with products that support smoking cessation, healthy diets, pole walking, and more. The day closed out with a community walk, in light of evidence that habitual walking (and a non-smoking lifestyle) is the best way to avoid vascular issues.

A highlight for many was the simulators and holo-lens goggles, which allowed participants to stand in a virtual operating room and perform virtual x-rays.

The event received a good amount of media attention and publicity. The City of Edmonton even proclaimed September 14 "Vascular Health Day."

"Covenant Foundation gives us the opportunity to raise awareness like this, and we're fortunate. I can't do this with operational dollars," Small says. "Vascular disease is often silent. It's progressing and you're not seeing symptoms. So if we can talk about prevention, and get people thinking about their own vascular health, then we've done our job."

COVENANT FOUNDATION

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2017

-	Donor Restricted Fund \$	Unrestricted Fund \$	Donor Endowment Fund \$	Total \$
REVENUE				
Home lotteries	5,506,104	-	-	5,506,104
Charitable donations and fundraising projects	1,063,333	479,953	8,700	1,551,986
Grants	1,495,281	48,147	134,000	1,677,428
Other revenue	47,908	2,344	-	50,252
Investment income (note 4)	93,222	2,323,068	611,339	3,027,629
Administrative support (note 6)	-	275,400	-	275,400
_	8,205,848	3,128,912	754,039	12,088,799
EXPENSES				
Home lotteries	5,018,777	116,585	-	5,135,362
Grants to Covenant Health	4,699,114	1,724		4,700,838
Charitable donations and fundraising projects – direct costs	166,074	216,115	-	382,189
Grants	-	48,312	-	48,312
Administration	59,922	1,114,200	8,932	1,183,054
Administrative support (note 6)	-	275,400	-	275,400
_	9,943,887	1,772,336	8,932	11,725,155
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	(1,738,039)	1,356,576	745,107	363,644
Net assets - transferred on April 1, 2016	23,809,768	-	8,132,544	31,942,312
Net assets - End of year	22,071,729	1,356,576	8,877,651	32,305,956

^{*}To view Covenant Foundation's full audited statements for the 2016/2017 fiscal year, visit www.covenantfoundation.ca

