

# EMMANUEL

## SENIORS LIVING SOCIETY

### ANNUAL REPORT 2024



#### **Our mission**

To offer seniors a Christian environment that is safe and comfortable so they can live in dignity.

#### **Our core values**

Integrity, caring and excellence.

#### **How we put our values into practice**

We keep our commitments and we are accountable.

We have a “can do” attitude; we are problem solvers.

We are good stewards.

We are team players.

We treat our residents and each other with respect, without exception.

We take our jobs seriously but not ourselves.

We communicate openly and value all opinions and views.

We celebrate our successes.

We show pride, enthusiasm and dedication in everything we do.

We look for better ways to do things.



## **Message from the Board Chair**

PETER JONKMAN

We had a productive and providential year! The year began with some strategic planning and visioning for the future, in advance of conducting a search for the next CEO. The search began in January and concluded in April when Erin Walton accepted the position and joined the team on July 1.

We officially changed our name to Emmanuel Seniors Living Society from the Christian Seniors Citizens Homes Society of Northern Alberta. Our new name serves as a constant reminder that no matter what changes and challenges we are facing, God is always with us.

We saw the Lighthouse site change significantly, especially in the last month of 2024 – still on schedule and on budget to open in early 2025.

We passed our Accreditation Audit with Accreditation Canada in October, recognizing our commitment to the safety and quality of life for our residents.

We saw many changes with Alberta Health Services in 2024 including major restructuring and more still to come. Our CEO will continue to monitor this situation and its potential impacts to our contract with AHS at Emmanuel Home.

We are extremely thankful to our Lord for the strong leadership to our Society by Erin Walton and her dedicated staff. I would be remiss if I did not thank our former CEO, Darren Sinke, for his continued support to our organization.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for this society, including our residents, families, staff and leadership.

## **Message from the CEO**

ERIN WALTON

We are so grateful to our members, partners and supporters who make it possible for us to fulfil this mission in real ways, and for their visioning for the future to ensure the Emmanuel legacy lives on.

As I write this, there is a strong demand in the province for seniors housing, though we currently have vacancies in both Emmanuel Home and Lighthouse. Our rich history and strong roots in the Christian community, coupled with achieving Accredited status with Accreditation Canada, positions us to continue to be a leader in this sector.

It's been an incredible year, and I continue to see God's hand at work at Emmanuel Home, Lighthouse and the behind-the-scenes work of our dedicated Board of Directors and Society staff. I am so blessed to be part of such an extraordinary organization, and I am excited for what 2025 will bring. Some hopes include filling Lighthouse, securing the Homecare contract at Lighthouse, completing some major maintenance upgrades at Emmanuel Home. But most of all, my hope for 2025 is that our good God continues to walk with us every step of the way and use us to bless the seniors in our care.

## Resident News

Our past, current and future residents are the beneficiaries of the mission and vision built by the Emmanuel Seniors Living Society Board of Directors and its members and we are blessed to witness this daily. The vibrant, caring way in which we deliver our programs and services is a true testament to our founders and the dedicated team of leaders who have carried the torch for over 50 years.

Residents of Emmanuel Home are blessed by a full calendar of activities and events and summer is especially full of life around here. Summer Campfires and bus trips to Peaceful Valley are a real highlight! We are now starting to make some plans for events and activities at Lighthouse as well; and will likely try to share the bus until we can secure funds for a second one.



## Unique Offerings

In addition to the Welcome Committee, we also have a Resident Support Coordinator who also meets with newcomers upon arrival. This is a unique and rare position to see and well above industry standard. Tini Oort (seen here with some residents) provides support to residents by way of prayers, visits, hosting summer teatime, reading to residents with vision problems and walking with those who need assistance. She is a gift to our residents (or as some residents call her, an Angel).



*Teatime*



Newcomers at Emmanuel Home are introduced to our culinary services via a free meal delivered to their suite accompanied by information about our meal programs, The Northern Perk and our gift card program. Gift cards can be purchased for breakfast, lunch or



dinner and include one free meal! Northern Perk gift cards can be used for café menu fare and any grocery staples sold there (i.e. bread, milk, eggs, butter).

The Northern Perk is also home to one of our amazing volunteer programs. Volunteers provide morning coffee here every day the café is closed so coffee is available daily. Some days we go through 8 large pots! It is a real highlight to participate in coffee time with the residents each morning.

Other opportunities for residents, family and friends to get involved include special events, bingo, gardening, decor committee, Library, music and hymn sing. In fact, our volunteer gardeners have once again been nominated for Front Yards in Bloom!



## In the community

We are always looking for opportunities to help those in need. During the summer, our residents raised money for the Jasper Wildfires Emergency Relief fund. We raised over \$2700 which the Government matched (x3) to help those in need. We also hosted a fundraising BBQ called “A Day of Caring”. So many residents have shared with me their fond memories of visiting Jasper over the years! As a tribute to this, we have frosted the glass in the North Wing Meeting Room with mountain silhouettes and renamed it the Jasper Room.

Some of our most successful stories are resident-led initiatives.

**Treasures Thrift Store** is a resident-led initiative to reduce, reuse and recycle unwanted items. Not only does it provide an opportunity for residents to volunteer (volunteerism is a very important factor in seniors mental health), but it raised over \$14,000 this year. Half of the funds go to support the E4C School lunch program for inner city children while the other half support activities and events at Emmanuel Home.





Some of the funds are earmarked for “special projects” and needs of Emmanuel Home. It was determined another couch was needed in the Centre Wing lobby for those who arrive early for meals. The couch (left) was purchased through Thrift Store funds and residents are making good use of it!

## **We are growing**

We have been blessed with God’s providence in so many other ways. Through our supporters and creditors, we’ve been able to see the vision of a second home for Emmanuel Seniors Living Society come to fruition. By the end of December 2024, construction was in its final stage of completion, scheduled to open Feb 1, 2025.

101 fully self-contained suites will be surrounded by generous common areas and robust services. The wide range of suite options will provide opportunities for seniors to live in comfort and with dignity in a diverse Christian community. Residents will even have a free membership to the neighbouring Inglewood Community League who offers a community garden, exercises classes, book club, community events and more!



*The Board visits during the summer*



*The Lighthouse – almost finished!*



### **We are Accredited!**

Our Accreditation Audit took place in October 2024.

We had auditors from Accreditation Canada here for 2 full days checking every aspect of our operation from health care to food services...and we passed with flying colours!

Accreditation inspires people to make positive changes that improves the quality of health and social services. Accreditation Canada has a set of standards that organizations are challenged to meet. These standards are created from global evidence-

based assessments on quality improvement solutions. Some examples of meeting these standards are:

- Ensuring our Emergency Response Plan is thorough and robust.
- Residents are included in providing feedback about what we offer for food in our dining room.
- Medication Administration and other Healthcare Services are provided in a safe manner.

Why should we be Accredited?

Our mission is to offer seniors a Christian environment that is safe and comfortable so they can live in dignity. To fulfill this mission, Emmanuel Home strives to meet and exceed quality services for our residents. We take this seriously and Accreditation is one of the industry recognized methods that keeps us sharp and diligent in our services.

Thanks to all Board members, community partners, staff, residents and volunteers who came together to help us prepare for and during the Accreditation process. The Accreditation auditors were most impressed by our longstanding history and community support!

### **A bright future**

By the end of the year, we had 30% committed occupants at Lighthouse, with a goal of reaching 80-90% by the end of 2025.

- In addition to the excitement that comes with building, opening and filling the Lighthouse, our future looks bright. Overall, our financial situation is strong, especially in contrast to the COVID years.  
Our annual fundraising efforts include Membership Drive, Golf Tournament, Year-end Appeal, Christmas Market and Donations. Total funds raised reach over \$56,000!



Our supporters are so faithful, and we gratefully acknowledge their ongoing support. The impact of fundraising can be felt in many ways at Emmanuel Home. Furniture and book donations supply our libraries and common areas, funds go towards enhancing the resident experience from upgrading the furniture and laundry rooms to building projects such as gazebos and greenhouses.

The future of our organization looks bright, thanks to God's providence. In the year ahead we hope to open the Lighthouse, welcome its first residents and fill the building with residents, allowing us to continue to advance our mission of providing seniors a safe and comfortable environment where they can live in dignity.

We covet your prayers and continued support now, and always.

In His service,

Erin Walton  
CEO, Emmanuel Seniors Living Society