

## **THE GARDENS ON TENTH**

### **Report to the Churches for 2023**

I have been with the Gardens now for over 3 years and it is hard to believe that most of that time was spent navigating the Pandemic. We are all thankful for the return to normal and that the Gardens on Tenth is once again open to the community and the many volunteers who assist in enriching the lives of our tenants.

And with the return of volunteers, came the return of many activities and events. A few highlights over the past year were the Irish dancers, a Ukrainian fundraiser, a Valentine's evening with Elvis, Mothers & Father's Day celebrations and a summer kickoff BBQ for all Tenants and staff.

Most importantly we had in person church services and numerous volunteers and activities resume in The Apartments. Our Activity Coordinator has recently started a number of programs that the Tenants in The Apartments are enjoying. There are exercise classes and ball drumming, tenants are crafting and baking with staff. We have a mother bringing her baby into the Apartments bi-weekly, and Tenants are enjoying watching him grow and develop while telling stories of when their children were young.

On June 8th of this year, Ray and Marilynn Hamm took on the position of Spiritual Care Coordinator for The Apartments, Eastview Personal Care Home, and Altona Memorial Health Center.

To support our Spiritual Care Coordinators, we have monthly meetings that involve a member of Rhineland Area Ministerial, myself and the lead from Eastview.

Over the past year, we applied for many grant opportunities.

- The New Horizon's Grant replaced the appliances in the Manor, updated our sound system in The Gardens as well as enabled us to purchase new exercise equipment for the fitness room.
- The Altona Community Foundation Grant gave us funds to replace the flooring in the Manor hallway.
- We applied for Canada Summer Jobs and The Green Team Grant. This allowed us to hire 3 youth from our community for summer jobs. These students held full-time positions in Maintenance and in Life Enrichment at both The Apartments & Gardens doing activities with our tenants.

This past year also allowed us to update the Manor kitchen and common areas with new cupboards, countertop, and paint.

And because of a generous donation we also improved our BBQ Shelter with a new ceiling, flooring, updated electrical and finishing the walls.

In January of 2022 we started our Pathways program, The Pathway Services at The Gardens on Tenth was started with the intent to provide quality and consistent care to our Tenants in the 24/7 supervised living program. As we had hoped, it has reduced the out-of-pocket costs that tenants pay for services.

Our staff provide adult daily living care, support, safety, security, and assistance with medication to Tenants in the Pathways program.

To be eligible for Pathway services a tenant/family member would contact the Home Care Coordinator in Altona for information & assistance in setting up the Self & Family Managed Care option. (SFMHC)

The Home Care Coordinator remains fully involved to provide professional nursing care and continues to assess the needs of the tenant, and to ensure that all needs of the tenant are being met.

The Pathways program is doing well, and we currently have 9 Tenants who are a part of the Program.

We continue to expand our services to improve the care we can provide for our seniors.

At times a tenant may experience a fall where they are unable to rise independently from the floor. Normally either family or an ambulance will be called. In the past several months we have had the opportunity to assist

a Tenant using a Hoyer lift that was donated a year ago. EMS has also requested the use of the Hoyer lift in The Apartments.

Prior to our staff using the Hoyer, an assessment must be completed, and family permission is gained and then two staff may use the Hoyer to assist the tenant off the floor and into a chair.

We have applied to Altona Community Foundation for a second lift as well as the slings.

In the next few months, we will provide training to all of our staff so that they can assist when a tenant is in need.

We are also pleased to partner with the Regional Health Authority to provide training for our staff. We have had a Nurse Educator come to The Gardens on Tenth to provide training. The curriculum is similar to the training that the Nurse Educator provides to Home Care aids.

On a continuous basis we also provide our staff with CPR & First Aid certification, Alzheimer & Dementia Awareness training, as well as training and orientation for Administering Medications.

Ebenezer Home for the Aged, now the Apartments was opened in 1962, making 2022 our 60<sup>th</sup> year of operation. In the mid – 60's the Units were added, and then the Manor was added in 1973. In April of this year, during our planning meeting, we discussed the question of where we see ourselves as an organization in the next 5 – 10 years. A few of the ideas that came out of this were that we were seeing more need for services, and the fact that the suites in Manor and the Unit could use a good facelift, and with this, we could eventually increase the services in these buildings. We feel that both buildings are structurally sound, but not truly accessible for anyone in a wheelchair, with some 28" doors, bathtubs hard to get in and out of, and some walls that just make maneuvering difficult. We want to upgrade the suites to meet new standards for Accessibility. This means washrooms with 36" doors, raised toilets, showers accessible for bath/shower chairs, as well as making the kitchen accessible for someone in a wheelchair. With this in mind, we asked Wilf Hiebert to come in and give us some ideas as to what could be done, as well as some cost estimates. We feel we will need approximately \$500,000.

The next question is, how do we pay for these renovations? We could probably borrow the funds needed, but then we would have to raise the rent, and this would not make the suites affordable. Seeing that this is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of operation we thought this would be a good time to launch a donation campaign. We have met with people and sent out letters to people that have contributed to The Gardens during other fundraising campaigns that we have held. Our staff have filled in grants for funding for the project as well. We will have discussions with the Provincial Government as well as the town and RM looking for funds. In May when they released some of the last census reports they said that the 85-year-old and up was the largest growing population, meaning that there will be more need for services. We are planning to renovate suites 1 or 2 at a time as they become available when tenants move out or move into one of the renovated suites. Work started on the first 2 suites at the end of October and we hope they will be completed at the end of January and ready for occupancy.

In closing, I would like to thank the staff and board for their continued hard work, dedication, and support.

Thank you,

Submitted by Lisa Smiley

Managing Director

January 2023