

## **THE GARDENS ON TENTH**

### **Report to the Churches for 2024**

Last year we celebrated 60 years of serving seniors in our community and area, and at that time we were discussing how we could renovate the Manor to continue meeting the needs of seniors for years to come and it was then that we announced our plans to renovate The Manor. Since then, we have been able to complete 10 suites.

In this next year, we hope to complete the remaining suites. All renovations have been completed with very generous financial support from businesses and individuals in our community. We are also hoping we have some funds left to do some upgrades in the Units.

To date, we have raised \$390,000 and we hope that with continued support from our community, we will meet our fundraising goal of \$500,000. In October of 2023 we “kicked off” round 2 of our fundraising campaign.

Our goal was and is to assist seniors to age in place with respect and dignity and to do that we also need to provide them with a home that will meet the new standards for accessibility. This means washrooms with 36-inch doors, raised toilets, walk-in/wheelchair-accessible showers with safety/grab bars as well as enlarging the bathrooms in order to have enough room for caregivers to assist tenants as needed.

We also removed the walls and carpeting and installed new flooring as well as more lighting in the suites. The kitchen cabinets were lowered and made wheelchair accessible. In the bachelor suites, we removed the stoves and installed convection hotplates for safety.

Existing Tenants were able to move into the newly renovated suites with no increase to their rental rates. These tenants along with their families are very pleased with the remodeled suites that provide the accessibility required to continue to age safely in place with the support and services we provide.

Once all renovations are complete, we plan to move our Pathways program into The Manor.

The Pathways program started in The Apartments in January of 2022. For those of you who do not know, our Pathways staff provide safety, security, support, adult daily living care, as well as assistance with medication to Tenants. The care plan we follow is given to us by the home care coordinator who remains fully involved in the tenant’s care.

The Apartments have government funding for thirteen out of twenty-three suites/beds. These are referred to as Supportive Housing beds. The other 10 beds are the Pathway beds.

If a tenant is in a supportive housing bed, they receive support from both the home care staff as well as our staff.

In a Pathways bed, the support received is only from our staff.

The idea of Pathways started with two questions: How can we provide quality and consistent care to our tenants and secondly, how can we make the support fees more affordable for seniors on a limited income.

Families now utilize the Self and Family Managed Home care option to pay for the support fees in the Apartments. This is a program available to all Manitobans who may require H/C services and by accessing those funds, Tenants are able to reduce their out-of-pocket expenses while living in The Apartments.

More importantly, we are able to provide quality and consistent care for our tenants. Home care is a valuable service, but they remain on a tight schedule in order to meet the needs of all of their clientele in the community. Our staff remain on site and have the ability to flex their time to return to a tenant who may not want or be ready for staff assistance.

Our staff also have friendly supportive relationships with our tenants and get to know them well. Providing support to seniors around personal relationships is a key part of a person-centered approach; it’s about our tenants making their own choices about what they want, and when.

This allows all tenants to receive support with respect and dignity.

In April of 2023 we received an increase in the funding we receive from Southern-Health Sante-Sud for our Life Enrichment and Supportive Housing Programs. This increase enables us to pay our staff a living wage and retain the hardworking and dedicated staff that we have. We are very fortunate to have remained fully staffed over the last few years while others have struggled. Our staff enjoy what they do, and it is shown in their daily interactions with our tenants.

We are very pleased to note that it has been a year of stability for Spiritual Care! Ray and Marilyn Hamm continue on in the position of Spiritual Care Coordinators, spending 2 days a week at The Apartments for devotions, hymn singing and visiting with our tenants while the remainder of their time is spent with the residents and/or patients at Eastview Personal Care Home and Altona Memorial Hospital.

While Ray and Marilyn provide spiritual care 5 days a week, it remains a challenge for them to find assistance from the churches for in-house services. And although we can stream services, the seniors we support find more value and meaning from in-person church services. We hope the services can continue and are open to exploring the idea of changing the service times in the facilities so that our seniors can continue to attend the church services that are so meaningful and important to them.

We have been the recipient of many grant opportunities this year and a few to highlight are:

- The New Horizon's Grant that enables us to run many activities and programs in all buildings. These include exercise classes, various art or painting classes and many other activities.
- Altona Community Foundation assisted with the purchase of chairs for our courtyard and new furniture for the Apartments common rooms.
- Canada Summer Jobs funded 4 summer student positions this year and these students worked in maintenance, Life Enrichment and Supportive Housing.

We continue to run a well-rounded program for activities and events throughout all of our buildings.

In the Apartments we have exercise programs, pet therapy, crafting and baking on a regular basis. For the summer months, staff assisted tenants with looking after the flowers and the vegetable garden box in the courtyard as well as going for walks along the Memory Gardens and enjoying time together in the courtyard. For the fall and winter months we have had youth groups and Sunday school classes come into the Apartments for singing and visiting.

We have partnered with the Altona resource center and have started a program that has children 4 and under coming with their parents to the Apartments for crafting and to share a snack with our tenants.

In The Gardens we partnered with W.C. Miller students from the Grade 11/12 Home Ec class. These students come monthly to interview our tenants on a variety of topics. They will get to know our tenants, what life was like in the past, as it relates to food, clothing, etc.

We have had movie nights, hymn sings, and various other entertainers/musical groups come in to perform for our tenants.

There have also been a number of bus tours this year. These include going to The Hut for ice cream, a drive to look at the fields during harvest as well as bigger trips that included Folklorama, Celebrations Dinner Theater, The prairie Dog Central and a trip to Winkler to a teahouse as well as Winnipeg for some Christmas Shopping.

The Gardens on Tenth also has many volunteers who give of their time in various ways. From assisting in our courtyard, keeping our flowerbeds beautiful, to working within the kitchens or sharing their gifts and talents with tenants through music, artwork and visits. We value the people who so freely give of their time to enhance the lives of our tenants.

Thank you,  
Submitted by Lisa Smiley  
Managing Director  
January 2024