

Reaching Out



St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital

10707-29 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

Community Newsletter June, 2001

Message From the Board Chair

My family's association with St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital and the Sisters of Providence began more than fifty years ago when my father, a young physician, provided care to residents at the old Whyte Avenue location. He quickly became active on the Medical Advisory Committee and not long after, joined the Hospital Board of Directors. I grew up hearing stories of compassion and service that impressed me in ways I did not fully understand at the time. My commitment to St. Joseph's Hospital followed a similar path. Knowing the important work of the Sisters of Providence and the dedication of the staff and volunteers, I joined the Board of Directors in 1994 and am currently serving my second term as Board Chair. In the past six years, I have seen the strength of this organization demonstrated in hundreds of ways. Examples of everyday activities that create a caring environment include strategic planning that strives to create better ways of delivering care and services and regular programs that integrate students from local schools with residents. Space is made available to non-profit groups as a means to support community initiatives. St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital works closely with other service providers and the Capital Health Region to provide a continuum of services to meet the needs of individuals requiring continuing care. With all activities, I am always impressed with the compassionate environment created by staff and volunteers. I bring business expertise and an understanding of health care management to St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital, something I can share comfortably and confidently. What I receive in return is a sense of contribution to an organization that consistently strives to create an atmosphere of compassion, caring and respect.

Tim O'Brien, Chair, Board of Directors

Message From the Executive Director

2001 is certainly proving to be an exciting year. One highlight is the completion of Regional Accreditation – a voluntary process designed to measure activities such as ethical practices, care plans, access to services, best practices and emergency preparedness. The eighteen accreditation standards provide facilities with a means to measure performance in relation to other care providers in the Capital Health Region. St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital currently holds a three-year Accreditation award. Even though we hold the highest award possible, we continually strive to maintain and improve our performance through innovation and improved practices. Staff from all departments participated in the accreditation process providing much valued input and ideas. Gathering information for the accreditation survey took more than a year, but once completed, St. Joseph's Hospital had a very clear, objective picture of our processes and procedures. Participation in Regional Accreditation is one way to continually improve care delivery, and is in keeping with our commitment to provide Quality Care with Compassion in the Christian Tradition. I sincerely thank all staff, residents, volunteers and families for their participation in the Regional Accreditation process – we couldn't have done it without you.

Marilyn Snow, Executive Director



Marilyn Snow (back) with Board members Sister Elaine Jacob (L) and Sister Mary Moderwell (R)



2001-2002 Voluntary Board of Directors

Tim O'Brien (Chair)

Sharon Downs (Vice Chair)

Sister Mary Moderwell

Jean Bara

Sister Elaine Jacob

Tony Holloway

Dr. Robert Bradstock

Sister Mary Benilda

Jack Kane

Lyle Lavender

David Eddy

Marilyn Snow

Senior Management

*Marilyn Snow,
Executive Director and
Chief Executive Officer*

*Lynn Olenek,
Director of Care*

*Ray Lister,
Director of Human Resources*

*Debra Frederick,
Director of Communications*

FOCUS ON St. Joseph's Community Day Support Program



Community Day Support client Mervin Nelson with volunteer Valerie, proudly displaying handmade gifts.

St. Joseph's Hospital operates 204 beds serving individuals who require continuing care and specialized services. Our Community Day Support Program, one of five specialized programs, provides support to people living in their own homes but who require a variety of services to maintain their independence. During the last fiscal year, sixty-six individuals were admitted to the program and a total of 4,456 daily visits were recorded. Most people attend the program two or three times per week. While there, clients receive rehabilitation services, personal care, meals and participate in programs that rekindle interests and develop lost skills. Managed by a registered nurse and staffed by therapists and support staff, clients see a steady improvement in their independence and personal well-being. While clients spend the day at St. Joseph's, their family members have the opportunity to catch up on personal appointments, see friends or simply have time to themselves. We all like to discuss the events of the day, and

spending time in the day program provides clients with interesting topics for dinner table conversation! Most clients reside in neighbourhoods close to St. Joseph's and consider our location to be convenient and familiar. If, in the future, clients registered in the day program require admission to St. Joseph's, they are already familiar with our programs, services and staff, reducing the apprehension often felt when admission to continuing care is required.

Staff Education

Last year St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital developed a Care Attendant Program geared to people who wanted a career in health care but had no formal personal care training. The program includes three weeks of classroom training and three weeks of practical experience. We started off small last year, graduating ten people qualified to work as care attendants. This spring, 16 people registered in the program and we expect to have a larger number of students for our Fall class. In creating this learning opportunity, a number of goals were identified. We wanted the program to be affordable and we wanted to provide students with high quality training that emphasized the importance of compassionate caring, not just the activity of providing personal care. This is a unique component of the program and one which distinguishes St. Joseph's curriculum from others. Graduates of the program may be selected to work at St. Joseph's or alternately, they may pursue opportunities in the growing health care sector. Preparing people to work in continuing care – in facilities or in home care – fills an ever growing demand. We believe our program prepares graduates in a unique way, emphasizing holistic care.

While St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital recognizes the importance of training new people to enter the profession, we ensure our staff have opportunities to participate in workshops, specialized training, mission education activities and mandatory skills training on an ongoing basis. Keeping knowledge and skills current provides staff with the confidence to continually strive to improve practice and develop new techniques and approaches to enhance care delivery.



Care Manager Ruth Guse wearing the "Do Bugs Need Drugs" costume, with Volunteer Coordinator, Florrie Abt – staff health programs don't have to be dull!

SPONSORSHIP TRANSFER EVENTS

Highlight of 2001

The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston) founded the original St. Joseph's Hospital in 1927. For the past seventy-four years, the Sisters have been at the helm of our organization, providing us with spiritual leadership. The Sisters involvement with day-to-day activities has declined over the years as fewer women are choosing religious vocations. With reduced numbers, the Sisters recognized the eventual need to transfer sponsorship of their health care ministries to others. In January of 2000, the Sisters began planning for the transfer of St. Joseph's Hospital to the Alberta Catholic Bishops through their provincial organization, the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation. The transfer of sponsorship ensures the continuation of Catholic health care as demonstrated through our mission, vision and values. We are most grateful for the strong foundation built by the Sisters and know that the leadership of the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation will enable us to continue our tradition of providing Quality Care with Compassion in the Christian Tradition into the future. The sponsorship transfer involved many events including ceremonial document signing, a special mass, community open house, staff and resident barbecue, and official ceremony. We thank and honour the Sisters for their 74 years of leadership in Alberta health care and welcome the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation as our new sponsors.



The Sisters of Providence gathered in St. Joseph's Chapel during our sponsorship transfer ceremony.

Mission Statement

- We believe . . .** In living the Gospel values which inspire the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul and in continuing their ministry of compassionate care to people of all cultures and beliefs.
- We serve . . .** People who require community support, continuing care or palliative care.
- We provide . . .** A broad spectrum of programs and services focusing on health and wellness and incorporating the unique qualities and capabilities of each individual.
- We commit . . .** To provide quality care with compassion in the Christian tradition.

A Special Group of Volunteers

Our first Hospital Auxiliary was formed in 1946. At that time, many women included volunteer work into their weekly routines, dedicating numerous hours to charities. Although lifestyles have changed over the years, volunteering remains a popular way to give of ourselves as demonstrated by the dedicated volunteers who meet monthly to plan and host activities with the focus on raising funds and enhancing the quality of life for residents. The Hospital Auxiliary raised more than \$4,000 last year through teas, rummage sales and raffles. All proceeds from their fundraising are used for the benefit of residents. In addition to

fundraising activities, the Hospital Auxiliary always ensures residents enjoy fresh flowers for special occasions, and host special programs that otherwise would not be possible. Hospital Auxiliary members are always needed; the more hands we have, the more we can accomplish. We invite people who are retired, home with little ones, or have a flexible work or school schedule to consider joining St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary or our regular volunteer program. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 430-3441 for more information.

It Takes a Village to Raise a Child...

Many of us are familiar with this African proverb that speaks of how important community is to achieving goals. Individually we all make a difference but when we work with others, the possibilities are endless. St. Joseph's Hospital is most fortunate to have strong community connections that enable us to accomplish a great deal more than we could alone. We are partnered with two exceptional schools, Steinhauer Elementary and Louis St. Laurent Junior/Senior High School. Students from both schools bring youthful enthusiasm to residents in the form of art that is displayed on walls throughout the hospital, music programs, gardening projects, card writing and personal visits. Having established these partnerships in 1994, we have developed excellent working relationships with the students, teachers and principals. We salute all of the teachers and parents who support our partnerships as we know it takes a great deal of time to plan and provide the programs and activities residents enjoy.



Resident Marion Belliveau planting pumpkins with Ingrid Kenneth (L) Steinhauer School students and Brenda Dickson (R).

St. Joseph's Supporters

Many organizations and individuals support St. Joseph's Hospital through their volunteer commitments or their fundraising initiatives. Two service clubs that we would like to publicly thank are the Rotary Club of Edmonton South for their ongoing fundraising in support of our proposed community residence (the new facility will serve individuals with degenerative neuromuscular disorders), and the Knights of Columbus for their donations which have been used to purchase much-needed equipment. Heritage Safeway, through their corporate *Because We Care Campaign*, has a goal to raise \$10,000 for residents of St. Joseph's by September. They are at the \$6,000 mark now so we are confident that they will reach their ambitious goal. We also thank all the Safeway shoppers and staff for supporting the various creative fund raising events at the store.

We are truly grateful for all gifts received from individuals, service clubs and businesses and for the kind comments from those who take the time to send us cards and notes. Last year, donations were used to purchase the following items:

Two Bulk Food Carts	\$ 1,500
Two Utility Carts:	\$ 1,500
Four Oxygen Concentrators	\$ 4,800
Seventy-five Mattresses	\$ 22,500
Microphone for the Chapel	\$ 1,400
Three Computers	\$ 6,000
Portable Phones for the Units	\$ 1,250
Ten Overbed Tables	\$ 1,500
Refrigerator for Palliative/Hospice	\$ 1,000
Two Bed Overlays	\$ 3,000
Assorted Lift Slings	\$ 4,600
Total:	\$ 49,050



Marilyn Snow receiving a cheque from Heritage Safeway Store Manager, Bohdan Kolomijchuk. The first \$1,000 of a \$10,000 goal.

If You Would Like More Information About St. Joseph's

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