

I care for *Florence*

May 8, 2014

Dear Neighbour,

When you spend time visiting Florence, you come to appreciate the significance of a person's first home and why their last is so important. Read her story and you'll understand what I mean and how **you can ensure her last home is even more special.**

Florence was blessed to be born on a farm in West High River in 1916. As most rural families did in those days, she worked alongside her siblings and parents as they made a life for themselves on the homestead.

It was a hard life settling a new land Florence recalls, but despite the grueling work, she remembers her mother and father always smiling and laughing. When people would ask her father why he was so happy, he would simply say **he was grateful to the Lord for providing all he really needed.**

Florence also remembers the generosity of spirit her parents extended to so many in the community. When someone fell on hard times, it was her parents that were often first to lend a hand, sometimes feeding and housing them until they could get back on their feet. Their commitment to community was central in their lives and an important legacy to their children.

As Florence set out to make her own life as an adult, these important values of gratitude and kindness were always with her, imprinted on the memories of her first home.

Florence calls Father Lacombe Care Centre **her new home now and her last one.** She's been with us for six years and as one of her nurses, I can tell you it's a genuine pleasure to care for her. Her smiling face and empathy for others, is an inspiration to us all. That's why I've been asked to write to you today. I'm hoping Florence's story will inspire you too!

It's because of financial support from people like you in our community that we can afford to repair and purchase much needed equipment and furnishings that go beyond what government pays for. And things like our special outings, birthday parties, and computer upgrades that keep residents active and engaged would not be possible without help from new friends like you. **You are our community. And we need your help now and for the future. Let me explain.**

(Please see over)



We currently have 114 residents at Father Lacombe Care Centre. Our proud 104 year history of providing exemplary compassionate care in an extra-ordinary home-like setting for seniors and their families has made us a trusted resource for helping to address the booming challenge we will face as a community in the years to come.

At any given time, more than 1,000 Albertans are awaiting placement into continuing care centres. Many are occupying beds in hospitals which were never designed to deliver the type of care required by our elderly. And according to the Health Quality Council of Alberta, this situation is a key cause of the chronic, excessive wait times for seriously ill patients in Alberta emergency rooms!

And to make matters even worse, over the next 20 years, the wave of baby-boomers will double the population of Albertans over the age of 75! **Solutions are needed now. You can help!**

The Foundation is embarking upon an exciting new commitment to our community. We are planning to more than double access to our unique brand of care by constructing a \$38.5 million 'sister' facility on the same South Calgary property in Midnapore. We'll have room for an additional 160 people which will help a great deal to take some strain off the long waiting list of Albertans who need long-term care.

As a nurse in this community, I witness first-hand the stress that wait times place on seniors and their families. It's difficult enough coping with the emotional decisions families must face when a mother or father, husband or wife, can no longer live independently - let alone the uncertainty of knowing when and where your loved one will be living. If we can alleviate the stress of even just one additional family, we'll have made a big difference! **And you can too.**

On behalf of the Father Lacombe Care Centre Foundation I'm asking you to make a generous donation to enhance the quality of life for seniors in our care today and in the future. Just like Florence who grew up living the motto of helping thy neighbor, I'm asking you to do the same.

This is home for our residents – their last home. Please help us expand our care so that more Albertans can experience the sacredness of life, live with comfort and prepare for their final chapter with compassion, care, love and dignity. Your donation is important. **Your kindness matters.** Thank you!

With deepest gratitude,



Helen Snow
Registered Nurse
Father Lacombe Care Centre

*My first home and my last
are like the book-ends of my life!*

Our fundraising focus is on supporting the cost of construction and furnishing of the new Providence Care Centre. Over the life of the campaign we anticipate our cost to fundraise will be in the order of 14%. Our vision is to work to reduce that amount as the Foundation gains momentum. The Board of Trustees monitors monthly financial reports. If you have any questions, please contact Evelyn Stewart at estewart@fnh.net or call (403) 254-6280.