



Working and Loving: Ashley's Story

Written by Ashley Vandenoelle, former Care Team Manager

The Dr. Gendreau Personal Care Home became a focus in my families' world all at once in 2019. I had a great-aunt, great-uncle, and grandmother-in-law move in through the time that I was Care Team Manager. The Gendreau Home was a place we visited at Halloween, sang at on occasion, fundraised and planned for, and decorated for Christmas; it was an extension of our home and family, and unfortunately Covid-19 removed that abruptly.

Moving to a personal care home (PCH) can be difficult at the best of times, and Covid-19 restricting access made this incredibly challenging. In my view, a PCH is a home at the heart of all the work that is done there. Yes, it keeps people medically safe, but it is their home first of all, which for most people is intended to include family.

My daughters, aged 10 & 7, went from going to their great-grandma's room, snooping in the closet and taking out the crayons, to only seeing her from a window and talking on the phone. They knew their way to our great-aunt's room and could always expect a little treat or knick-knack at every visit.

During the Covid-19 outbreak my great-aunt said farewell to her sister who was dying in hospital via a Facetime phone call. My great-aunt passed away shortly after, leaving my great-uncle living there without her. Shortly after that my grandmother-in-law also experienced some health issues. It has not been easy to not be present and a part of their lives in the same way that we are used to. There is a feeling of helplessness that we are not at their sides

and showering them with the love and affection that they deserve. As Tia Walker said, "to care for those who once cared for us is one of the highest honors".

Through all that, the one thing I know is that the residents of the PCH were and are without a doubt well cared for. There are still people there with them daily that love them. The staff at Dr. Gendreau PCH have shown this time and time again. There was never a worry about neglect like the horror stories we saw on the media early on during the pandemic. The staff at the Gendreau Home love the residents who live there. This love extends to the families of the residents and the staff become a part of their world. No, care isn't perfect every single day in every encounter but at the core they are a family and the love for the residents shines through.

I consider it a great honour to have spent time with the residents and staff and be a part of their families and the PCH family even for a short time.

BY THE NUMBERS



65 PCH residents



25 bed acute
care hospital



Average of
18 visits per day
in open Emergency
Room



200 employees

Ste. Rose Health Centre is a part of Réseau Compassion Network, a family of 15 health and social services agencies in Manitoba. Entrusted by pioneering women to bring together people of all faiths, traditions and cultures to serve Manitoba communities wherever the needs are the greatest, Réseau Compassion Network is proud to support this important work in our community.

ABOUT US

Ste. Rose Health Centre

Ste. Rose Health Centre is a faith-based organization operating within Prairie Mountain Health, which includes the Ste. Rose General Hospital and Dr. Gendreau Memorial

Personal Care Home.

Ste. Rose Hospital provides quality acute and emergency room services for the Municipality of Ste. Rose, including Ste. Rose du Lac and various surrounding First Nations communities. The 25-bed fully-accredited acute care facility includes an emergency/outpatient department and an acute care ward, with two palliative care units and one paediatrics room.

Ste. Rose Health Centre also offers an array of services to meet the needs of the elderly and their families. A 65-bed fully-accredited personal care home, the Dr. Gendreau Memorial Personal Care Home (PCH), offers safe and comfortable surroundings to our community's seniors. Working in a "resident-centred" environment, our dedicated staff ensure that residents receive the best of care. Dr. Gendreau Memorial Personal Care Home also offers adult day programs and manages two elderly persons' housing complexes.

BOARD DUTIES & COMMITMENTS



Board meets 10 times
per year



Total time commitment of
3 to 4 hours a month

Network Members

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