# Fulfilling our Promise

Covenant Health has had a successful year of growth and progress, but what does this mean for those we serve? See how we have positively influenced the health of these Albertans.

# Our Strategic Directions

Live our mission and values in all we do

Build and engage our team

Continuously improve quality and safety

Respond to those in need

Engage and work with community

## Painting Brighter Days



The morning slips away while Youville Home resident Mae Dory dips her brush in a sky-blue watercolor to put the finishing touches on her latest masterpiece. "They always give me the hard ones!" she laughs, explaining she is given an outline that she paints and makes her own.

Each Wednesday, Mae joins about a dozen other Youville Home residents who side-step their physical limitations into a world of soft, hazy colours. The room is abuzz with chatter while the participants—all of whom require 24 hour nursing care—socialize while they paint.

The art program challenges Mae to keep her fingers flexible, mind active and creative spirit alive. "I always say I am never coming back," jokes Mae with a cheeky smile, "but I'm here every week. It makes me feel like I accomplished something."

Youville Home art therapy is supported by the St. Albert community who purchase greeting cards featuring the resident artwork at the facility gift shop.

#### Back on his Feet

Golfing. Cross-country skiing. Bowling. For over eight decades, Hugh Christie relied on a pair of strong legs to support his active lifestyle.

But when a stroke knocked him off his feet and into a wheelchair, he faced an uphill battle to regain his quality of life. Fortunately, he had a determined attitude and the help of a skilled and supportive team at the inpatient rehabilitation program at St. Michael's Health Centre in Lethbridge.

Hugh was determined to walk out of the facility on his own and staff rallied behind him to make sure he achieved his goal. They worked with him for three hours a day, five days a week as he transitioned from bed to wheelchair to walking.

"They were just so encouraging. They even made a video of his progress," explains Hugh's wife Jean. When Hugh walked into the dining room on his own, all the staff stood up and clapped.

Although he is not able to do some of the activities he did before the stroke, Hugh still goes for short walks and bowls. "If it hadn't been for the staff at St. Michael's, Hugh would never have walked again."



St. Michael's Health Centre in Lethbridge is home to southern Alberta's primary impatient rehabilitation program—a post-acute rehabilitation program for individuals recovering from severe illness or disability.

### Battle of his Life

Ralph Kristiansen has nerves of steel. With 35 years of military service under his belt, unshakable faith and a positive attitude—Ralph wasn't rattled when he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

In fact, Ralph felt he could delay cancer treatments so that he and his high school sweetheart could enjoy their 50th anniversary party with family and friends.

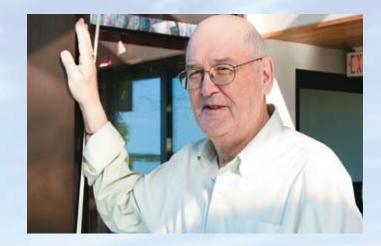
"I really paid the price [for that decision]," explains Ralph. "By the time the anniversary rolled around, I could hardly walk."

Today, Ralph is waging the battle of his life head-on, with aggressive chemotherapy treatments and pain management support from the Bonnyville Community Cancer Centre.

Although his prognosis is unknown, Ralph is almost pain-free and happy to make the 50 km trek from his home in Cold Lake to Bonnyville, the closest cancer centre. "I wouldn't trade the doctors and nurses in Bonnyville for the world," he raves.

Having convenient access to cancer treatment allows Ralph to live at home throughout his therapy. It also helps him stay connected to his family team, so he can stay positive and focus on getting well.

The Bonnyville Community Cancer Centre provides the people of northern Alberta with convenient access to high quality cancer treatment and support.



# Speaking Out

Ordering a "double-double" from her favorite coffee shop is something Debra Hall-Lavoie will never take for granted. "Having no voice is a lonely path," she explains. "When you don't sound like everyone else, people make judgments about your intellect."

Five years ago, a persistent sore throat sent
Debra to the emergency room. Next thing she
knew, she was a cancer patient—the disease had
spread throughout her head and neck. Thankfully,
a team of medical experts, 14 hours of surgery and
bouts of radiation saved her life.

But it was the team at the Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine (iRSM) that saved Debra's voice—and her quality of life. With a special mouthpiece they developed, combined with speech therapy, Debra could talk again after losing part of her tongue

my self-identity."

in surgery.

Debra, a retired Occupational Therapist and lecturer, understands the power of one's voice. As she sips her coffee, Debra explains, "speech is a window to your abilities. iRSM

has been critical in helping me preserve

iRSM, based at the Misericordia Hospital, is an internationally recognized clinical and research institute focused on medical reconstructive sciences.

## Villa Caritas Opening Fall 2010

Villa Caritas, Covenant Health's new 150-bed enhanced geriatric mental health facility in west Edmonton, will open this fall. Villa Caritas will serve a growing number of seniors with complex mental health and medical conditions.

With the transfer of expertise and 106 beds from Alberta Hospital Edmonton's Geriatric Psychiatry program, Villa Caritas expands service to Edmonton and Northern Alberta by 44 beds (42% increase). The program will offer appropriate, timely intervention and care options for the growing number of seniors with mental illness in our hospitals and those in our continuing care centres who need specialized care.

Located on the Misericordia Community

Hospital campus, Villa Caritas will provide these



vulnerable seniors with an environment conducive to meeting their complex needs, with access to specialty services and supports to address their psychological, physical, spiritual and social needs. The modern, patient-centred environment includes large, private rooms and bathrooms for all patients, special security enhancements, secure outdoor spaces, a chapel and dedicated space for recreation, therapy and social activities.



A vision is not just a picture of what could be; it is an appeal to our better selves, a call to become something more.

- Rosabeth Moss Kanter

- Covenant Health is officially established as a consolidated organization through provincial legislation effective April 1, 2009
- Health Services developed a Co-operation and Services agreement which establishes principles and expectations for accountability and collaboration (May 2009)
- Covenant Health hosted a Building Trust at End-of-Life Conference (May 2009) and the provincial 20th Annual Palliative Care Research and Education Days (October 2009) in Edmonton
- Covenant Health contributed to provincial strategies to meet the challenges of the Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic (Fall 2009)
- Covenant Health held its first annual Legacy Day to honour the eight congregations of Sisters who founded our health care ministries (November 2009)
- Covenant Health began work on accreditation certification from Accreditation Canada as a new consolidated organization (December 2009)
- Alberta Seniors and Community Supports awarded Covenant Health a \$4 million capital grant for a new 60-bed designated assisted living (DAL) project in Killam through the Affordable Supportive Living Initiative (December 2009)

- Covenant Health consulted with 183 health, business and community leaders in eight rural communities in the development of a Rural Health Strategy (Winter 2009-10) Covenant Health and Alberta
  - Alberta Health Services announced that an expanded 150-bed geriatric mental health program will be established at Villa Caritas (January 2010)
  - Thanks to diligent and innovative teamwork, Covenant Health successfully met required 2009-10 budget reductions of 3% (March 2010)
  - Covenant Health received a \$5.6 million capital grant from Alberta Housing and Urban Affairs for the development a 40-bed supportive living facility for homeless seniors in Lethbridge (March 2010)
  - Former Minister of Health Shirlev McClellan joined the Covenant Health Board of Directors (March 2010)
  - Covenant Health received two \$10-million provincial capital grants for two new 100-bed DAL facilities in Calgary and Red Deer through the Affordable Supportive Living Initiative and Alberta Capital Bonds
  - Covenant Health announced its first six Mission Awards recipients at a gala event in Edmonton (April 2010)

#### **Facilities**

Banff Banff Mineral Springs Hospital

Camrose

Grey Nuns Community Hospital Misericordia Community Hospital

Martha's House\*\* St. Michael's Health Centre St. Therese Villa

St. Mary's Health Care Centre

Vegreville St. Joseph's General Hospital

#### **Provincial Statistics**

2009-10 Activity Annual 183,694 emergency visits Operating 368,178 outpatient visits Budget



Bonnyville Bonnyville Health Centre

St. Mary's Hospital

Killam

Lethbridge

Mundare

St. Albert

\*Opening Fall 2010 on the Misericordia Campus



Provincial Office 3033 66 Street T6K 4B2

#### **Board of Directors**

Covenant Health is governed by a Board of Directors and has full governance authority for the organization. Our Board is supported by active and engaged community boards representing the 11 communities we serve.

Healing the Body Enriching the Mind Nurturing the Soul

W. John Brennan, Chair Richard Leavens Michael Dimnik Raymond Mack W.D. Bill Grace Shirley McClellan Dennis E. Grant Mary Pat Skene James Heelan Archbishop Richard Smith

#### Administration

Sr. Nuala Kenny

President and CEO Patrick Dumelie leads the Senior Leadership Team who work within the integrated provincial health system to advance our strategic directions.

Al Pierog, Vice President

Vice President, Quality

Sr. Vice President, Medicine

Fran Ross, Vice President

Rosa Rudelich, Vice President

Misericordia Community Hospital

Gordon Self, Vice President

Mission, Ethics and Spirituality

Michael Shea, Vice President

and Chief Financial Officer

Senior Operating Officer

Seniors Health

Jon Popowich

Dr. Jeff Robinson

Communications

Jan Schimpf

**Board Support** 

Patrick Dumelie President and CEO

Scott Baerg Senior Operating Officer Mental Health

Karen Galenzoski

Vice President Human Resources

Greg Hadubiak Sr. Vice President

Edmonton Acute Care

Jennifer Haggerty, Vice President Planning and **Support Services** 

Karen Macmillan

Senior Operating Officer Grey Nuns Community Hospital

Sheli Murphy, Vice President Rural Health Services

#### **Foundations**

Covenant Health facilities receive tremendous support from our community through 10 local foundations:

Bonnyville and District Health Foundation, Bonnyville St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, Camrose Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital Foundation, Castor Caritas Hospitals Foundation, Edmonton and St. Albert St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital Foundation, Edmonton Killam and District Hospital Foundation, Killam St. Michael's Health Centre Foundation, Lethbridge Mary Immaculate Hospital Foundation, Mundare St. Mary's Health Centre Foundation, Trochu St. Joseph's General Hospital Foundation, Vegreville

To find out more about how you can support our work, contact your local facility or visit www.covenanthealth.ca/donations.html

# Living our Promise

**Covenant** Health

Report to the Community



Our Mission

We are called

to continue the

healing ministry of

Jesus by serving with

compassion, upholding

the whole person—

body, mind and soul.

Our Vision

Covenant Health

will positively influence

the health of Albertans

to those in need by

working together with

compassion, quality

and innovation.

Our Values

we are committed to

serving people of all

faiths, cultures and

respect, collaboration,

social justice, integrity

and stewardship.

Living our Promise Promise. It's a powerful word, calling us to commitment and accountability. It is also an inspiring and hopeful concept, suggesting possibilities and potential for growth and transformation. And as Covenant Health, our

name speaks to the promise of God's abiding

love that sustains us and guides our work.

Our vision as Covenant Health embraces all of these elements, as we commit to "positively influencing the health of Albertans and being of greater service to those in need by working together with compassion, quality and innovation."

This commitment is rooted in a 147-year tradition of service begun by Catholic sisters whose ministry of hope and healing followed a Gospel call to walk with those most vulnerable and respond with care for bodies, minds and spirits.

Living this promise as Canada's largest Catholic provider of health care, Covenant Health has had an incredible year of growth and change.

Our teams across the province have provided exceptional care at each of our 16 facilities and have worked together in our sites and across the province to collaborate more effectively and meet challenges.

Through their dedication and hard work, we have made great progress on our strategic priorities in rural health services, mental health, seniors care, and palliative care and have embraced our potential for greater service with the opening of Villa Caritas this fall

In the years ahead, we look forward to advancing our leadership role in caring for Alberta's seniors with recent announcements of new seniors care facilities in Red Deer, Calgary and Lethbridge, as well as a major continuing care addition at the Killam Health Centre.

Drawing on the strength of our legacy and our people, we look forward to continuing our work with Alberta Health Services and the Government of Alberta to serve where we are needed most.

W/ (Bun -W. John Brennan

**Board Chair** 

Patrick Dumelie President and CEC

October 2010

