



Seniors
Housing

community connections
GEF Seniors Housing Newsletter | Fall 2019



MK Group of Companies golf tournament

This year, GEF Seniors Housing was selected as the charity of choice for the 10th Annual MK Group of Companies golf tournament which took place on Monday, September 9, 2019 at the prestigious Edmonton Country Club.

Although it was a bit of a gloomy day, the participants were able to hold off the rain with their laughter and excitement! Following a fun afternoon of 18 holes, golfers were invited back to the clubhouse for a delicious meal prepared by the country club, participate in raffles, prize draws and silent and live auctions.

One lucky golfer won an all-inclusive trip to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic and another winner won a stay at a luxurious vacation home in Panorama. More than \$36,000 was raised for GEF initiatives that will help enhance our residents' and tenants' quality of life. A big thank you to Morris Kadylo, CEO of MK Group of Companies, his staff and to everyone who came out and supported GEF that day!



Photos by Rob McCaskill



Message from the CEO

Hello everyone, and happy fall! This is a great time of year to get outdoors and enjoy the fresh air and fall colours.

I hope you had a wonderful summer, even though the weather was slightly wetter than normal. One of the highlights of my summer is always the time I get to spend with our staff in our lodges, cooking and cleaning, doing food preparation and visiting with our residents.



Our vision is to positively influence our seniors' quality of life. Our staff spend the most time with our residents and tenants, so they hear first-hand what's working, and what could be improved. I count on our staff to tell me what's working and what we can do better, and they always do.

One of the things we're doing better is the card laundry service we offer for our tenants and residents. We used to have a contract with Coinamatic for washers and dryers, and we wondered if we could take over that service and benefit our seniors at the same time.



We're now moving over all of our card laundry service to be operated by GEF. We have also hired our own laundry technician to ensure we can offer friendly, prompt, knowledgeable service if any of our machines need fixing. In the long run, our seniors will benefit from this change as any profits from the card laundry service will be reinvested into life enrichment and other activities for our residents and tenants.

All the best for a wonderful fall season!

Raymond Swonek, CEO



Welcome Home

- Accommodation for adults age 65+
- Affordable rent based on your income
- 31 apartment buildings
- 11 lodges with meals and housekeeping
- Clean, well maintained, secure buildings
- Friendly, professional staff
- Recreation activities

To request an application package, or for more information, please call **780.482.6561**, email housinginfo@gef.org or visit gef.org.



Quality of Life raffle winner

After months of anticipation, we drew the winner for the Quality of Life Raffle on September 5th. A big CONGRATULATIONS to resident Henny Hermansen, for winning the grand prize of \$2,000.

Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket in support of our programs that help to further improve the lives of our residents and tenants!



Henny receiving her cheque for \$2,000 from Director of Marketing and Community Engagement, Heather Massel

Did you know?

GEF Seniors Housing is a registered charity. We are the largest provider of subsidized seniors' housing in Edmonton.

We gladly accept donations to support our capital building projects and programs that enrich the lives of our residents and tenants.

To make a one-time or ongoing donation, please visit our website at gef.org and click on the "Donate Online" button, or click [here](#).



Lauderdale community consultation #2

GEF Seniors Housing is re-developing the existing GEF Lauderdale Homes and wants to consult with members of the community during the planning and re-building process. The re-development will be a seniors-friendly, pet-friendly and environmentally-friendly housing option for seniors.

Join us for the second community consultation:

Monday, October 28, 2019
 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 North West Edmonton Seniors Society
 12963 – 120 Street, Edmonton

This event will be an opportunity to view and provide your feedback on the three preliminary architectural designs created for GEF Lauderdale Homes based on community feedback from the first meeting.

GEF staff will be available throughout the meeting to answer any questions you may have during the discussions.



Welcome to a new senior manager

We'd like to welcome Heather Massel to the GEF Senior Management team in the capacity of Director of Marketing and Community Engagement.



Heather is a senior communications and media relations professional with more than 20 years of experience, mainly in the public sector and primarily in the provincial government and in education.

Heather is an active member of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), and is currently serving on the IABC Edmonton board as its Director of Professional Development. Heather joined the GEF team because she is passionate about advancing GEF's Mission to positively influence seniors' quality of life.

We welcome your feedback!

Do you have a question about GEF Seniors Housing, or a suggestion for a topic you'd like to see covered in a future issue of Community Connections? Please let us know: communications@gef.org

Manager's story

I remember meeting Christopher* at GEF Beverly Place Lodge. Christopher came in for a lodge interview in the fall. I found out that he had been living in his car for a month, and it was a particularly chilly fall.

Christopher worked until he was 92 years old, when he was eventually let go. When he lost his job, he also lost his accommodations, became homeless and started living in his car.

Christopher had worked for almost 74 years of his life, had contributed to society and was now homeless in his time of need. Luckily there was a vacancy in the lodge and Christopher was suitable for housing.

After the interview, I promised him that he would have a roof over his head, a warm meal tonight and he would not be homeless anymore. Tears rolled down his face as we both hugged each other. Christopher moved into the lodge that day and was one of the most affectionate individuals that I have met. He always had a smile on his face. I truly felt I had made a difference in his life that day!

**Individual's name has been changed for privacy reasons*

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