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For Immediate Release

### **GEF Seniors Housing Honoured with ROOPH Award for Ottewell Terrace**

*Edmonton...* **The Greater Edmonton Foundation (GEF)** was honoured to receive the **2016 Recognizing Outstanding Organizations and People in Housing (ROOPH)** award from **Homeward Trust Edmonton** on March 10, 2016. The award recognized **Ottewell Terrace**, GEF's most recent affordable seniors housing building, for its contributions in adding to Edmonton's affordable housing and helping to end homelessness.

Ottewell Terrace, located at 6315 92 Avenue, celebrated its grand opening on September 30, 2015, with a public event attended by members of the Ottewell community as well as **Ward 8 City Councillor Ben Henderson** and **Edmonton Gold Bar MLA Marlin Schmidt**. Currently, Ottewell Terrace houses 73 low to moderate income seniors with its affordable housing plan, which sees tenants who qualify pay ten to 15 per cent less than market value for their one and two bedroom apartments.

In addition to providing a home to Edmonton seniors, Ottewell Terrace also provided a new home to **Primrose Daycare**, Edmonton's oldest not for profit daycare group. Primrose Daycare struggled to find a permanent location for many years before they connected with GEF during one of the public consultations with the Ottewell community.

Through the partnership with Primrose Daycare, staff at Ottewell Terrace established an intergenerational therapy program that sees the seniors interacting with the children attending the daycare, the first of its kind in Alberta.

"It's always amazing when we receive these kinds of recognitions," says Raymond Swonek, GEF's CEO. "It's helps to reassure us that we're on the right path to serving the thousands of Edmonton seniors currently in need of affordable housing."

GEF is the largest provider of affordable seniors housing in Alberta. Originally established in 1959, the organization has evolved into a prominent not-for-profit registered charity, managing more than 40 apartment and lodge buildings housing for low to moderate income seniors in Edmonton.

Today, GEF Seniors Housing has close to 500 employees, hundreds of volunteers, and more than 3,500 residents and tenants across every major area of the city, providing safe and affordable accommodations for Edmonton's seniors and peace of mind for their families and communities.

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