

Salem Home:

An adaptive senior living environment



The Salem Home delivers on its faith-based mission of care by creating a senior living environment that supports the principles of compassion, dignity and excellence.

The Challenges of Senior Living

The mission of the Salem Home long-term care residence in Manitoba, Canada, is to deliver a Christian model of care based upon the principles of compassion, dignity, excellence and faith. Aging Baby Boomers, along with the fact that seniors are living longer, is driving a large resident population. Additionally, the Home is experiencing an increase in patients with behavioral challenges. To answer these challenges, the Salem Home care team, headed up by Sherry Janzen, CEO, laid out the following expectations for shaping the physical environment of the home: “It shall be like home. It shall be warm. It shall be inviting. It shall break down barriers.”

Adapting to Life as it Happens

Salem Home avoids a cookie-cutter approach to planning the spaces by first observing, then responding to residents’ needs and behaviors as they evolve. Janzen explains, “We move furniture around, we respond, we adapt, we experiment.” For example, staff noticed residents were gathering around the care station to talk with staff and each other, so they added comfortable Global seating and tables alongside the stations to create impromptu lounge settings. These areas have now become hives of activity. Customized dressers in resident rooms add a personal touch by providing seniors with easy access to a writing surface while preserving space in the rooms for wheelchairs.

Additionally, staff noticed that residents like to watch visitors come and go so they placed cozy Global armchairs at the front of the facility to allow residents to participate in the ‘street-life’ of the space.



“When you walk into our building, you feel that it’s a place filled with life.”

Sherry Janzen, CEO

Janzen expands, “To me that was so important because it keeps them interested in what’s happening outside. And the chairs are very welcoming. They’re colorful, they’re safe to use and they’re well built.”

A Place to Feel Comfortable, Connected and Well

At Salem Home, relationships are prioritized above tasks. Says Janzen, “We want to create an environment that enables staff to undertake tasks quickly and easily, so they can get down to the important stuff, which is building relationships – because it’s those human connections that really ensure our success.” Bringing in purpose-built tables from Global that allow residents in wheelchairs to dine side-by-side with others who are not. Additionally, armchairs that residents are able to get in and out of themselves promote independence and ability while freeing up time for staff to do other things. Furniture, upholstered in colorful, residential tones, help make the space feel warm and welcoming.

From a safety and maintenance perspective, Salem has extended their selection of Global furniture into resident rooms. Unlike the residential furniture they had before, the entire suite of Global furniture can withstand harsh cleaning chemicals while still providing independence and a sense of home.

Additionally, the ability to repair furniture on site is a major advantage. “We loved the fact that we can replace just that broken piece of the furniture, instead of throwing everything out,” says Janzen.

Janzen concludes, “When you walk into our building, you feel that it’s a place filled with life. People come here to live. This space is 88,000 sq. ft. but when you walk in, it doesn’t feel big. It just feels like home.