

Luther Special Care Home Celebrates Residents' Stories

Staff at Luther Special Care Home in Saskatoon have found a unique way to engage with their residents and families and share their stories within the residence.

Luther Special Care Home recreation coordinators Char Welgush, Cynthia Wiebe and Darla Bolin undertook the "These Hands" project to get to know more about who the residents were before they moved into long-term care, including what they did for employment, more about their family, and what brings them joy and purpose.

"Each person has lived almost an entire life before we ever got to hear their names," said Bolin. "It's a great way for staff, other residents and family to get to know more about each person, and is a great conversation starter."

Each photo is of the resident's hands, and is overlaid with text, sharing the history of the hands in the photo, and telling the story of that resident. The photos were made into a large display for each neighbourhood of the care home for residents, families and staff.



"I've heard such positive feedback from family members as well as staff after they've read the stories," said Bolin. "One family member told me she loved reading about the other residents as well as her mom. She said it showed a great depth in our residents and the rich lives they led before they needed long-term care."

"Connection with each other and to family and caregivers is essential to the well-being of people in long-term care," said Tracy Danylyshen-Laycock, Director of Continuing Care (Saskatoon Urban) for Saskatchewan Health Authority. "This project was a creative way for family members, staff and other residents to enjoy learning more about these individuals and the interesting stories they all have to share."

Luther Special Care Home is home to 129 residents.