

ACCA 2018 Awards of Excellence Winners – Learn More About Their Exceptional Dedication to Quality Person-Centred Care!

Care Provider of the Year: Jun Christian Odtojan

The Care Provider of the Year, Jun Christian Odtojan, is a wonderful individual who joined Advantage Assist Group/Christenson Communities in 2014. Initially, he was a Supportive Assistant at Garneau Hall where he helped in leading the team of Health Care Aides in working within the organization's Supportive Living and memory care neighbourhoods. He was granted his LPN status in 2016 and transferred to Citadel Mews West where he continued his work as an LPN. In 2017, he graciously decided to take on another position back at Garneau Hall as a part time Night LPN, taking on commitments at two very different and demanding sites as an LPN, and continuing his role leading and guiding Health Care Aides in their duties and services to residents!

He has voluntarily taken up the flag of Chairing and running the Garneau Hall Falls Committee. He has established a tool for statistical analysis of the accuracy of falls reporting done by the staff to ensure documentation is accurate and succinct.

Last year, he was recognized with the "Best Ideas Come From Our People" Award which is given to a staff member that leads the way as an innovator within their organization.

Not only does he strive to innovate and take on a role of a leader in his own right, he also takes the time to honour his fellow colleagues, consistently encouraging them while often overlooking his own contributions to shine the light on others. And, it was this point in Mr. Patrick Garcia's nomination of the individual, that the ACCA couldn't agree more.

The Care Provider of the Year puts so much detail, and information, and kindness into nominating all of his team members, it must take him hours. As his nominator, Patrick, says: Not only with his selfless dedication to his profession and his residents, but also to his colleagues...he is an outstanding candidate.

Deepa Magar, LPN at Garneau Hall said, "If I could choose a nurse to help me, my parents, or any of my loved ones, it would be Jun. I trust him!" Congratulations Jun!



Pictured: Tammy Leach, Jun Christian Odtojan, and Craig Jasman of SGP Purchasing Partner Network

Lifetime Achievement: Norma Jackson

Norma Jackson was nominated by Mike Conroy of The Brenda Strafford Foundation.

Ms. Norma Jackson's 40 year commitment, achievements and contributions to The Brenda Strafford Foundation, seniors' care and the Continuing Care industry and beyond make her an outstanding candidate for this award. She currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors, since 2016, a volunteer position to which she was appointed after the passing of the founding Chairman Dr. Barrie Strafford, a past Lifetime Achievement Recipient.

Norma also serves as the inaugural and longstanding Chair of the Board of Directors for The Brenda Strafford Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, since 1996, when it The Society was established in response to a recognized need for longer-term accommodation options for women leaving emergency shelters.

Just some of Norma's contributions include:

- Being instrumental in the research, planning and development of the province's first multi-level care centre, pioneering the 'aging in place' concept for residents in a supported retirement, assisted living and long term care nursing home environment in Alberta.
- Leading the way in an initiative with the University of Calgary's Faculty of Nursing to develop an education program for their Occupational Health and Safety Program that became a part of the regular mandatory in-services for all staff.
- Playing a significant role in influencing The Brenda Strafford Foundation in supporting and funding registered nurses to advance their education. She was also integral in providing leadership and guidance on the implementation of Minimum Data Set (MDS).
- She has also received several accolades recognizing her contributions to the community and the nursing profession, as illustrated through her being a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the College And Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta, a recipient of Certificate of Achievement from Mr. Ron Liepert (MP, Signal Hill), and a nominee of the Top 7 Over 70 Awards.

In short, Norma has the experience of several careers compressed into one. Her contributions and achievements, coupled with her outstanding commitment and dedication, have without a doubt had a profound impact on the Continuing Care sector and beyond!

Pictured: with Natalia Lazic of Sanofi Pasteur Limited and Tammy Leach



Innovator of the Year: The Brenda Strafford Foundation

The Innovator of the Year Award is awarded to a care provider or one of their employees who can demonstrate an innovation they have developed or introduced within the sector to improve the quality of care delivered.

This organization has innovative service models, environments, and a real culture that allows for sharing of results, findings, successes and failures woven into their very fabric. They bring innovative ideas forward and execute on those ideas, whether through targeted technology, partnership building, and looking beyond their walls. Some of the major innovative achievements of this winning organization include:

- Dementia Friendly Communities (including the initiation of a pilot project to establish the first Dementia Friendly Communities in Alberta).
- The KINDD Program (Kindness, Independence and Nurturing for the Developmentally Disabled), a program at Clifton Manor which provides individualized care, social and leisure activities, and education to better address the unique needs of Continuing Care residents living with developmental disabilities. This 10 bed unit is the first of its kind in Alberta!
- Leading Clinical Practices, including Appropriate Use of Antipsychotics, Palliative Care and Wound Care.
- Numerous technology and innovation projects including having the first long term care home in Canada to test the tovertafel, a fun care innovation that connects older people in late stage of their dementia journey with each other and their surroundings, all while simulating movement.
- Opening Minds Through Art – (OMA) – an art therapy program.
- The organization actively supports research endeavors at the University of Calgary and funds three Research Chairs as well as the Centre on Aging and, in fact, this organization represents the only Centre on Aging presently in Alberta.

This organization has been recognized with Accreditation Canada Leading Practice status and a Health Quality Council of Alberta patient experience award for the development and adoption of their comprehensive, holistic palliative care program. Congratulations to The Brenda Strafford Foundation!

Pictured: Travis Gunn of Sobeys National Pharmacy Group, Mike Conroy, Tammy Leach



Innovator of the Year: Megan Darvill

Megan was nominated by Jennifer Vance, Administrator at Bethany Cochrane. This is an excerpt from Jennifer's nomination:

Just when you think Megan has peaked, she elevates her performance with thoughtfulness and purpose and, when faced with a challenge, she turns her focus to solutions until she reaches success.

This was most evident over the past few months when Megan introduced a prototyped labelling system for our slings. Her determination saw her through many different trials of materials. Because of Megan, we now have a product and system in place for labelling slings thus ensuring the right resident is safely using the right sling. Prior to the implementation of her labeling system, sling labels would quickly wear off while being laundered leaving staff struggling to confirm which sling belonged to which resident. Her prototype can withstand the frequent laundering while not altering the sling integrity. Thanks to her efforts, initiative, and caring attitude, the process is organized and systematic. This has benefited both the residents and staff! A gentle and sweet person, thank you Megan!

Pictured; Megan, Travis Gunn, Tammy Leach



Volunteer of the Year: Dianne Armstrong

This Year's Volunteer of the Year had several individuals nominate her. She is described as a unique person who is always sharing the love and spreading the sunshine! She has exemplary leadership skills and does so much work to enrich residents' lives and those of the staff and other volunteers, including surprising everyone and giving them something to look forward to each month with the decorating their front entry!

She is a palliative trained visitor and gives the nursing staff permission to call her any time of the day or night, as she never wants anyone to die alone when that time comes.

Every Wednesday morning, she volunteers with their Art Expressions group and also initiated and followed through with the Patio Party for the organization's A2 residents, gathering up antiques, looking after refreshments, taking time to reminisce and show true caring of the residents. In fact, she created an evening program specifically for the residents on A2, designed with them in mind, tailoring activities to residents' wishes.

She finds the gaps - and fills the holes. She truly loves what she does and is an asset in so many ways! This organization is privileged to have her as she creates such a caring, loving environment whenever she is around.

Her nominators were Isabelle Pelletier, Recreation Therapist, Jacqueline Chaisson, Care Service Manager, Joanne McCready, Social Worker, and Ann Van Hemmen, Coordinator of Volunteer Services at Bethany Collegeside.

Pictured: Tammy Leach, Dianne Armstrong, and representative from Telus Communications Inc.



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