

Catholic Health Care in Alberta: Our Sacred Legacy



WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE SERVE

Government funding sustains health care. Faith-inspired generosity transforms it.

Health foundations like ours carry forward a sacred mission: to bridge the gap between what is essential and what is possible. Through philanthropy, we help ensure that care is not only clinically excellent, but deeply human — marked by dignity, compassion and love for every person entrusted to our care.

ABOUT COVENANT

Covenant is a community of organizations — Covenant Health, Covenant Care, Covenant Living and Covenant Foundation — working together to serve Albertans with compassion and dignity. We care for people at every stage of life at 29 sites in 16 communities across the province, providing acute care, continuing care, mental health supports, hospice care and seniors' housing. Rooted in relationships, we walk alongside those we serve, honouring each person's story, values and needs.

ABOUT COVENANT FOUNDATION

We're reimagining the healthcare experience.

From the moment a patient walks through the doors of a Covenant care community, we want it to feel different.

Guided by our Catholic mission and the belief that each person is created in the image of God, we are called to care for the whole person in body, mind

and soul. Through the generosity of donors, we help ensure that patients, residents and families across Alberta do not just receive care but also experience mercy, comfort and the love of Christ at every moment of their journey.

Covenant Foundation raises funds to elevate that experience at Covenant hospitals and care facilities across the province. Through specialized programs, enhanced care spaces, state-of-the-art equipment and training, and leading-edge innovation, we spark transformation as unique as the communities we serve across Alberta.





OUR ROOTS IN CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE

Catholic health care is the cornerstone of health care in Alberta.

More than 155 years ago, the Sisters of Charity (also known as the Grey Nuns) arrived from Montreal with deep faith and an unwavering commitment to serve the most vulnerable.

They built the first hospitals in remote and underserved communities not for recognition, but in faithful response to the Gospel and the call to live out the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

Those courageous beginnings grew a ministry that continues today through Covenant and through supporters like you. Caregivers, staff, volunteers and donors across generations have carried this sacred mission forward, caring for the human person at every stage of life from birth to natural death.

**This is our legacy – and yours, too.
Together, let's ensure it continues.**



The first Misericordia Hospital, c. 1900



The Grey Nuns at the first Youville Home, 1864



A Sister of Charity with children in Edmonton



Nurses in training at the first Vegreville hospital, 1932

WHAT YOU'LL SEE US TALKING ABOUT

With the support of our faith-filled donor community, Covenant Foundation improves quality of life for patients, residents and families in the following priority areas:

Seniors' health and wellbeing

Covenant Foundation enhances dignity, comfort and joy for seniors in both continuing care and acute care settings. Through donor generosity, seniors experience safer care with smart beds, moments of connection through music and pet therapy, and warm, communal spaces that help them feel seen and valued. These gifts restore confidence, ease loneliness and remind seniors that they matter.

Rural health

We help strengthen care close to home for rural communities where distance and limited resources can place families at risk. Donor support equips rural teams with better tools, training and programs that improve local care and reduce the need for stressful travel. These investments ensure that even the smallest Alberta communities receive the same compassion and care as any major centre.

Palliative care

Covenant Foundation elevates hospice and end-of-life care that honours each person's dignity and upholds families with compassion, presence and peace. Donor support enhances patient rooms, family gathering spaces, education, and programs that make a difficult time more gentle and grace-filled. These gifts ensure no one journeys through their final chapter alone.

Mental health and addictions

Covenant Foundation helps Covenant deliver compassionate, stigma-free mental health and addictions care that meets people in their most vulnerable moments. Donor-funded programs and healing environments offer calm, reduce anxiety and help restore a sense of hope. Every gift strengthens whole-person care for individuals seeking safety, understanding and renewed purpose.

Women's and children's health

We help Covenant walk with women, babies and families through life's most precious and fragile stages. Donor-funded equipment and programs enable safer deliveries, earlier diagnoses and healthier beginnings. From the tiniest newborn to new mothers seeking reassurance and care, donor generosity surrounds families with comfort, confidence and hope.

Spiritual care and mission

Covenant Foundation helps sustain Covenant's Catholic mission by supporting spiritual care that brings meaning, hope and belonging to patients, families and staff of all backgrounds. Donor-funded chaplaincy, sacred spaces and cultural initiatives ensure that care attends not only to the body, but also to the heart and soul.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

- Covenant is home to two Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) that provide specialized support for premature and critically ill newborns.
- One in five babies in Alberta are born in a Covenant hospital.
- 70% of reconstructive breast surgeries in Edmonton and northern Alberta take place at the Misericordia Community Hospital.
- Covenant Foundation funds the Rural Mobile Simulation program that brings advanced clinical training directly to rural health teams.
- Covenant Foundation supports Villa Caritas, the only facility in Alberta dedicated solely to seniors' mental health.



WHY STORIES OF PHILANTHROPY MATTER

Behind every donor-funded piece of equipment, every healing space and every program that goes beyond the basics is a story worth telling. When we tell stories of philanthropy, we help:

1. **Build up the Church through witness** by showing faith lived through action, generosity and service to the most vulnerable.
2. **Reveal what makes Catholic health care distinct**, not only by what we do but *why* we do it. Catholic health care is rooted in the dignity of the human person and love of neighbour.
3. **Connect people to a living legacy**. Sharing stories will link today's audiences to a 155-year story begun by the Sisters of Charity and carried forward by caregivers, volunteers, donors and communities across Alberta.
4. **Strengthen belonging and shared responsibility**. We're reminding Catholics that the Church's mission is one that is actively lived through collaboration and stewardship.

By sharing these stories together, communications teams and Covenant Foundation become co-stewards of a sacred legacy. Together, we're helping it take root, grow and continue in the hearts of the communities we serve.



"Every gift to Covenant Foundation is a powerful act of compassion. Our donors don't just give, they help turn hospital rooms into healing spaces, care homes into vibrant communities, and everyday moments into meaningful connections that uplift the spirit and enrich the quality of life for our patients."

– Scott Baerg, Senior Operating Officer,
Covenant Health Continuing Care

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