

St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre Brantford:

Creating a homey atmosphere for residents that is safe and comfortable



St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre Brantford focuses on more than just health care and support. Designed to help ease seniors out of isolation and into a safe and welcoming community, the long-term care home incorporates inviting spaces for socializing, recreation, and friendly interactions. Furniture that enables residents to be independent not only maximizes their physical comfort, but also ensures mental and emotional peace of mind.

St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre, located in Brantford Ontario, is a campus of care that includes a 205 bed long-term care facility, the Stedman Community Hospice and Participation Support Services. The long-term care facility is comprised of a community of residents, volunteers and staff where the health, safety and happiness of everyone living and working there is prioritized above all. The mission and values of the Lifecare Centre are built upon the enduring legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph who

consider it an honour to provide care. Today, the center carries forward the Sister's healing ministry through a commitment to compassionate, personal care through discovery, innovation and partnerships.

The Importance of Adaptability

A key priority of St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre is to provide an environment in which its residents not only feel at home in their own space, but also part of a wider community. The facility includes a variety of group gathering spaces that encourage social interactions, allowing for meaningful connections to be made between the residents, families, volunteers and staff. "We want to be a home environment. In your home you have private areas, like the bedroom, and shared areas, like the kitchen and dining room. It's important that we provide shared community spaces in addition to a space that is their own. This allows us to bring residents together in ways that enable them to reach out, make friendships and feel included," explains Shelley Murray, Spiritual Care, Transitions & Support Care Coordinator.



“Making sure there are spaces where the residents can socialize and connect with other residents and staff, that still feel like home is really important.”

Shelley Murray, Spiritual Care,
Transitions & Support Care Coordinator

Much like at home, the dining room is a focal area for residents to come together and create close relationships with each other. They become each other's family. As the needs of the residents change, the areas in the facility must be able to adapt along with them. For residents who use a wheelchair, a table can become a social barrier. Surfaces can be too high or low to accommodate a wheelchair, requiring residents to move to another dining spot, impacting their social groups and sense of community. Working collaboratively, St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre and Global addressed this problem through the design of the Tablet Table. The specialized healthcare facility design allows staff to adjust their table up or down so it is able to meet the height of the wheelchair. This allows residents to remain with their dining group, strengthening their sense of belonging and eliminating any unnecessary disruptions to their routines.

Partnership and Collaboration

In order to provide the residents of the Lifecare Centre with the positive experience they deserve, their needs must always be the top consideration. Comfort, community, independence and infection control must be considered in all decisions made regarding the design of the space, and especially when it comes to furniture selection. Features such as firm seats and sturdy armrests are important for easy access in and out of chairs, and easy to clean fabrics and closed seams allow for effective cleaning that aligns with the requirements of the health facility's infection control protocol. Supporting an aging demographic requires the ability to adapt to the constantly changing physical and mental abilities of the

residents. Being able to maneuver the furniture is important for the staff and provides an opportunity to change the space from social to solitary, depending on the need. Durable products are important for the Lifecare Centre because staff members need to be confident that the furniture will serve its purpose effectively and stand the test of time, while aligning with the center's mission and budget.

A Caring Community

The vision of the St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre is “Enriching Lives, Transforming Care. Always.” The mission is to celebrate each diverse life with dignity and safety. “Each person comes from a very diverse background, so it is important to extend to each and everyone as much comfort as possible,” says Suzanne Testani, the Director of Care. It is the care and compassion of staff members like Suzanne who are instrumental in creating the warm environment for the residents. David Wormald, President, St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre adds “our residents call St. Joseph's their home; it is a place of comfort and healing. We take into account the whole person – body, mind and spirit.” Jay Ayers, Director, St. Joseph's Health System – Group Purchasing Organization, concludes, “Together with Global, we have succeeded in creating a very special place here. We are meeting everyone's needs in a way that makes them feel good and included – not a small task considering the challenges associated with senior living in our diverse community.”

PRODUCTS USED

A range of Globalcare and Primacare furniture solutions for dining, social and lounge areas across the facility

