

THE Simkin Star

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

THE SAUL AND CLARIBEL SimkinCentre

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ON THE COVER

Resident Barney Charach and family



2025 - 2026
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Honouring Our Legacy

Al Benarroch, The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre Chair



As we entered into 5787 on the Jewish calendar, I found myself reflecting on the words, *"Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life"* (Proverbs 16:31), and the verse from our Yom Kippur prayers, *"Do not cast me off in old age; when my strength fails, do not forsake me."* (Psalms 71:9)

This timeless call to action to honour and care for our elders reflects Judaism's deep value and respect for wisdom, experience, and human dignity. It is also at the heart of the Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre's mission.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to share this message as we begin a new year—a season of reflection, gratitude, renewal, and hope.

This past year has been one of resilience, collaboration and exciting progress. Our Residents remain at the heart of everything we do, supported each day by the compassion and professionalism of our dedicated staff.

As I approach the end of my term as Board Chair, I do so with deep gratitude, humility, and a profound sense of privilege. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and especially thankful for the relationships and shared purpose that have marked my tenure.

The strength of the Simkin Centre comes from many people—our Board, staff, families, volunteers, donors, funders, community partners and the Simkin Centre Foundation—united by a commitment to care, dignity and Jewish values.

Our future is bright. Our recently announced capital expansion, the Gray Family Centre, will include 152 new childcare spaces, new and renovated programming spaces, and innovative intergenerational activities. It represents an exciting new chapter in our commitment to serving generations to come.

My sincere thanks to my fellow directors on the board, CEO Laurie Cerqueti and her leadership team for their dedication and partnership.

As we enter a new year, I wish our Residents, families, staff, volunteers, and community good health, peace, and renewal. May the new year bring strength to those who serve, comfort to those who receive care and continued blessing to the Simkin Centre community.

Embracing Our Future

Don Aronovitch,
The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre Foundation Chair



I am proud of the strides we've made at the Simkin Centre over the past year to enrich the lives of our Residents. This Annual Report helps us share that progress with our community, while the generosity of our donors—through increased giving and legacy gifts—continues to strengthen our culture of philanthropy.

After years of planning, our visionary Addition is becoming a reality. At its heart, the 20,650 sq. ft. Gray Family Centre will feature a large multi-purpose space and the Faye Vickar Lazer Early Learning Centre, operated by the Rady JCC, with space for 152 children. One of only two projects of its kind in Canada, it will create meaningful opportunities for Residents and children to connect across generations, making the Simkin Centre an even more vibrant and inclusive community.

To further strengthen the Foundation's role as the fundraising arm of the Simkin Centre, we will be engaging a professional Grants Researcher/Writer to identify and pursue new funding opportunities. By connecting the Centre's programs, priorities and operations with grantors whose mandates align with our work, this initiative will help diversify and grow our sources of support. Together with the continued success of the Simkin Stroll and the generosity of our donors, this work will help secure additional resources to enhance the lives of our Residents and support the Simkin Centre for years to come.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated boards, donors, volunteers and staff for their unwavering support, with a special thanks to David Cohen. Together, we will ensure the Simkin Centre remains a place where Residents thrive and truly feel at home.

Did You Know?

*The Simkin Centre **opened in 1915**, and has served our community for **more than 110 years**.*

2025 - 2026 Foundation Board of Directors

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Don Aronovitch

VICE CHAIR
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Jonathan Kroft, K.C.

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Danielle Rice

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Stephen Rosenfield

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Leonard Steingarten

Milton Sussman



A Year of Growth and Giving

Laurie Cerqueti, BA, BN, MSA, RN
Chief Executive Officer

As we reflect on another remarkable year at the Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre, I am filled with gratitude for our Residents, families, staff, Boards, volunteers, donors, community partners and friends who make our Centre such a special place to call home.

The Simkin Centre continues to be a home of choice for both Jewish and non-Jewish communities—a place known for exceptional care, meaningful programs, strong Jewish values and traditions, and a warm, inclusive environment where every Resident is valued and celebrated.

Throughout the year, we continued advocating for sustainable funding and enhanced staffing in personal care homes and welcomed the Government of Manitoba's additional $5 million investment in food. We also continued investing in our people through the Simkin Centre Foundation Staff Bursary Award, supporting team members as they further their education and careers.

Our community's generosity makes so much possible. The 14th Annual Simkin Stroll, held in honour of Dr. Ted Lyons, raised a record-setting $144,000 for life enrichment programs. Residents enjoyed memorable experiences throughout the year, from Resident outings and music to our inaugural Bark Mitzvah, Folklorama, Cycles at Simkin, Ride for Pride and trip to Winnipeg Beach.

We also welcomed six young people to our inaugural Youth Volunteer Summer Camp, creating meaningful connections across generations. Friday Night Lights, led by Rabbi Matthew Leibl and supported by The Asper Foundation, continued bringing our community together and was honoured with an Igniter Award from the Association of Jewish Aging Services.

Most significantly, after three years of visioning and planning, the Gray Family Centre is becoming a reality. The expansion will include new community and wellness spaces and the Faye Vickar Lazer Early Learning Centre, welcoming 152 children. It will create a vibrant intergenerational hub where children, older adults, families and community members can learn, celebrate and build relationships together.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to responding to the evolving needs of Residents and families with compassion, dignity and excellence. Exploring future initiatives include dedicated hospice care and dementia care areas. Thank you to everyone who believes in the Simkin Centre. Together, we are building on a proud history while creating an exciting future rooted in compassion, community, innovation and connection.



Committment to Quality Care

Dr. Sheldon Koven, M.D., PH.D.
Chief Medical Director

Over the past year, our medical team has functioned as a finely-tuned instrument. Occasional minor adjustments were made when needed, but for the most part our strategy has been: 'find what works, rinse, repeat'. Summaries of topics discussed at the monthly LTC Medical Director Advisory Committee meetings were conveyed to the Simkin Centre medical team on a regular basis.

The year has been quite quiet with respect to outbreaks of Influenza, Covid, and RSV. When there were cases, the number of affected Residents was relatively small, and usually, symptoms were mild and of short duration. A high index of suspicion and rapid intervention by staff have been instrumental in the containment of those outbreaks. Lessons learned during the challenging pandemic days were invaluable in mitigating the overall detrimental impact on Residents. Although outbreaks do limit free movement of Residents throughout the units, overall restrictions have been short-lived. The extent of participation of Residents in the amazing array of recreational activities is testimony to the benefits of maintaining a vigilant medical surveillance philosophy, with timely treatment only when absolutely necessary.

Our medical team consists of six physicians, many of whom have been providing services not only to Simkin Centre Residents, but to Residents at other long-term care facilities. Their broad experience across multiple centres has contributed significantly to the high standard of care provided to our Residents. Once again, I want to thank the members of my medical team for their commitment to the Centre and for their uninterrupted, quality care to the Residents of Simkin Centre.

The Medical Team

Dr. Louis Chung
Dr. Jared Davies
Dr. Sheldon Koven, M.D., Ph.D.
Dr. Wayne Manishen
Dr. Richa Tandon
Dr. Alewyn Vorster
Dr. Buddhini Weeratunga

On behalf of my colleagues, I want to take this opportunity to thank all Simkin Centre staff, Senior Management and Simkin Centre Board of Directors for their amazing dedication and tireless efforts over the past year. As well, I would be remiss in not acknowledging the continuous support from our community.



Leading With Care

Alanna Kull, RN, BN, Director of Care

The Resident Care Department is pleased to report another positive and productive year. Our teams in Nursing, Social Work, Infection Prevention and Control, and Rehabilitation continued to provide compassionate, high-quality care while advancing initiatives that support Resident safety, well-being and quality of life.

We maintained consistent nursing staffing throughout the year, providing valuable stability for Residents and staff. Although we experienced some turnover among our Health Care Aides, we successfully recruited and oriented new team members. We also welcomed a new Physiotherapist and Kinesiologist, further strengthening our Rehabilitation services.

Professional development remained a priority, with staff participating in dementia education to enhance person-centred care. Our Wound Care Team continued to focus on prevention and early intervention, while medication safety initiatives reinforced best practices to reduce interruptions during medication administration.

This year, we joined Health Excellence Canada's national initiative to reduce the inappropriate use of antipsychotic medications. Through interdisciplinary collaboration and individualized care planning, we continue to promote non-pharmacological approaches that enhance Residents' quality of life.

Resident safety remained a key focus through our Injury Prevention Initiative, including the implementation of the Foot Pedal Project, which has improved comfort and safety during wheelchair transport.

Infection Prevention and Control efforts emphasized hand hygiene, equipment cleaning, routine practices, environmental cleaning compliance, and targeted surveillance to reduce infection risks and support continuous improvement. A significant achievement this year was successfully meeting all Manitoba Health Standards during our provincial inspection, reflecting the commitment and dedication of the entire Simkin team.

Our Rehabilitation team also organized several engaging events, including the Resident Olympics, FIFA Soccer, Ride for Pride, and a Mini Golf Tournament. The addition of a Smith Machine to the rehabilitation gym has further enhanced opportunities for Residents to maintain strength, mobility, and independence: thanks to Giving Tuesday.

The Resident Care Department extends sincere appreciation to all staff for their professionalism, compassion and dedication. Together, we continue to provide exceptional care while striving for excellence in everything we do.

Did You Know?

*The Simkin Centre provides compassion care for **200 Residents**, delivered by **354 dedicated staff members**.*



Connecting Through Faith

Rabbi Matthew Leibl. Spiritual Care Lead

I continue to be so proud of the work of our Spiritual Care Department at Simkin Centre. Between Yomi and Dorit (our Spiritual Health Practitioners), Steven Hyman (our Ba'al Tefilah/Prayer Leader), Marilyn Regiec and myself, we have someone from the Department available to our Residents most days a week.

We continue to offer the following programs to our Residents, of all faiths and backgrounds:

Nurturing Neshama
Ask the Rabbi, and Celebrations of Life on the individual units

Bible Study and Wednesday Wakefulness
drop-in sessions in the Synagogue

Religious Services
Friday Night Lights, Shabbat Morning Services, Jewish holiday services, and monthly Non-Denominational Christian services

Under Dorit's direction, the Simkin Choir has become one of our most popular weekly programs. Residents meet every Monday afternoon in the synagogue to rehearse and sing together, and the public performances have quickly become a highlight of the entire year. This program was inspired by a former Resident and it has continued long after her passing, which is a testament to Dorit's dedication as well as the hard work of all Residents who sing and put in their time. Thank you, as well, to our piano accompanist, Dorothy Kotler, for her time.

Another highlight of the year for the Centre was that Friday Night Lights, our weekly Kabbalat Shabbat Program, won an international award from the Association of Jewish Aging Services (AJAS). In March, Laurie Cerqueti, Heather Blackman and I attended the AJAS Conference in San Francisco and accepted the 2026 Innovation Igniter Award on behalf of the staff, volunteers, Residents and families who have helped make Friday Night Lights so well-attended and now, an award-winning program, too!

To everyone who helps with Spiritual Care at Simkin Centre, I again say Kol HaKavod and, most importantly, thank you.

Did You Know?

***Our Spiritual Care team** facilitates approximately **160 services and holiday celebrations** each year.*

2025-2026 Donor & Sponsor Spotlight

April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

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Andrea Dil
Lori Binder



Olga, Recreation Facilitator; Lynne Pesochin, Resident; enjoying the wheelchair Duet Bicycle

Music Therapy

The Asper Foundation
Stephanie Chipilski
Mel & Arlene Fages
Estelle Meyers



Residents enjoying a campfire singalong

Spiritual Care

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Kerry Alderson
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Dick Bell z"l and family

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in honour of Izzy Minuk

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Joel Lazer
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Darrell & Jill Minuk
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Lucille Mourant
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Anita Neville
Melinda Newman
Wesley Palatnick
Don Park
Penny Paul



Naomi Hashman, Resident

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Arnold & Susan Permut
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Randee Pollock
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PricewaterhouseCoopers
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Karen Quinn
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THE SIMKIN STROLL 2026

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Penny Yellen
Harriet Zaidman & Cecil Rosner
Lillian Zentner



Resident Rashi and Son

JEWISH FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA
Jewish Federation OF WINNIPEG
THE ASPER FOUNDATION



THE SAUL AND CLARIBEL SIMKIN CENTRE PERSONAL CARE HOME INC.

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash (note 9)	$ 313,948	$ –
Cash held in trust for residents	68,981	69,530
Accounts receivable (note 3)	109,425	88,830
Due from the Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre Foundation Inc. (note 15)	191,853	633,925
Due from Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (note 4)	160,117	1,025,200
Prepaid expenses	104,030	114,155
	948,354	1,931,640
Restricted cash and bank (note 5)	–	289,085
Capital assets (note 6)	22,549,512	23,446,569
Vacation entitlements receivable (note 7)	603,753	603,753
Pre-retirement benefits receivable (note 8)	2,172,750	2,105,122
	$ 26,274,369	$ 28,376,169
Liabilities, Deferred Contributions and Deficit		
Current liabilities:		
Bank indebtedness (note 9)	$ –	$ 1,093,302
Residents' trust	64,465	66,424
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 10)	1,035,295	1,064,568
Accrued vacation payable	1,090,279	1,043,513
Current portion of mortgage payable (note 11)	1,102,500	1,102,500
Current portion of notes payable (note 12)	221,522	225,063
	3,514,061	4,595,370
Mortgage payable (note 11)	2,021,250	3,123,750
Notes payable (note 12)	725,346	943,327
Pre-retirement benefits (note 8)	2,061,152	1,993,524
Deferred contributions (note 13)	18,914,871	18,499,624
	27,236,680	29,155,595
Deficit	(962,311)	(779,426)
Contingencies (note 14)		
	$ 26,274,369	$ 28,376,169

See the related notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

Director

Director

THE SAUL AND CLARIBEL SIMKIN CENTRE PERSONAL CARE HOME INC.

Statement of Operations and Deficit

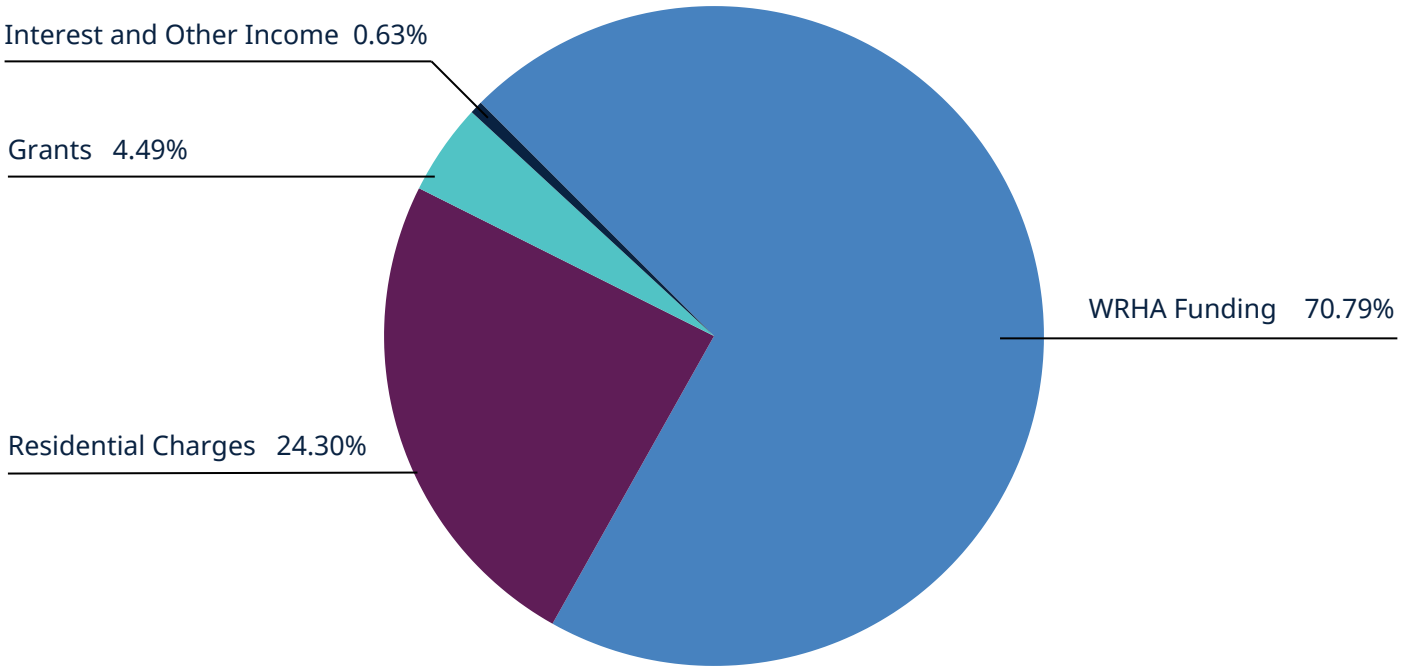
Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Revenue:		
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority funding	$ 16,386,407	$ 16,170,621
Residential charges	5,624,716	5,150,657
Contributions from the Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre Foundation Inc. (note 15)	1,039,832	947,848
Capital funding from the Province	244,684	304,276
Other income	96,213	142,099
Other provincial funding	–	149,799
Change in pre-retirement entitlement	67,628	853,010
	23,459,480	23,718,310
Expenses:		
Resident care	14,274,345	13,914,156
Nutrition and food services	2,642,292	2,723,927
Housekeeping	1,271,043	1,266,469
Plant maintenance	1,364,481	1,094,908
Plant operation	883,324	905,904
Administration	981,821	962,913
Therapeutic recreation	742,331	759,309
Laundry and linen	379,326	534,103
Interest on long-term debt	244,684	304,276
Spiritual care	246,281	219,568
Other employee benefits	156,011	144,733
Information technology	107,238	113,986
Social work	96,083	91,525
Volunteer services	74,943	65,908
COVID expenses	–	149,799
Staff development	19,878	20,790
Change in pre-retirement accrual	67,628	853,010
	23,551,709	24,125,284
Deficiency of revenue over expenses before other items	(92,229)	(406,974)
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets (Note 13)	1,208,468	1,158,982
Amortization of capital assets	(1,299,124)	(1,295,355)
	(90,656)	(136,373)
Deficiency of revenue over expenses for the year	(182,885)	(543,347)
Deficit, beginning of the year	(779,426)	(236,079)
Deficit, end of the year	$ (962,311)	$ (779,426)

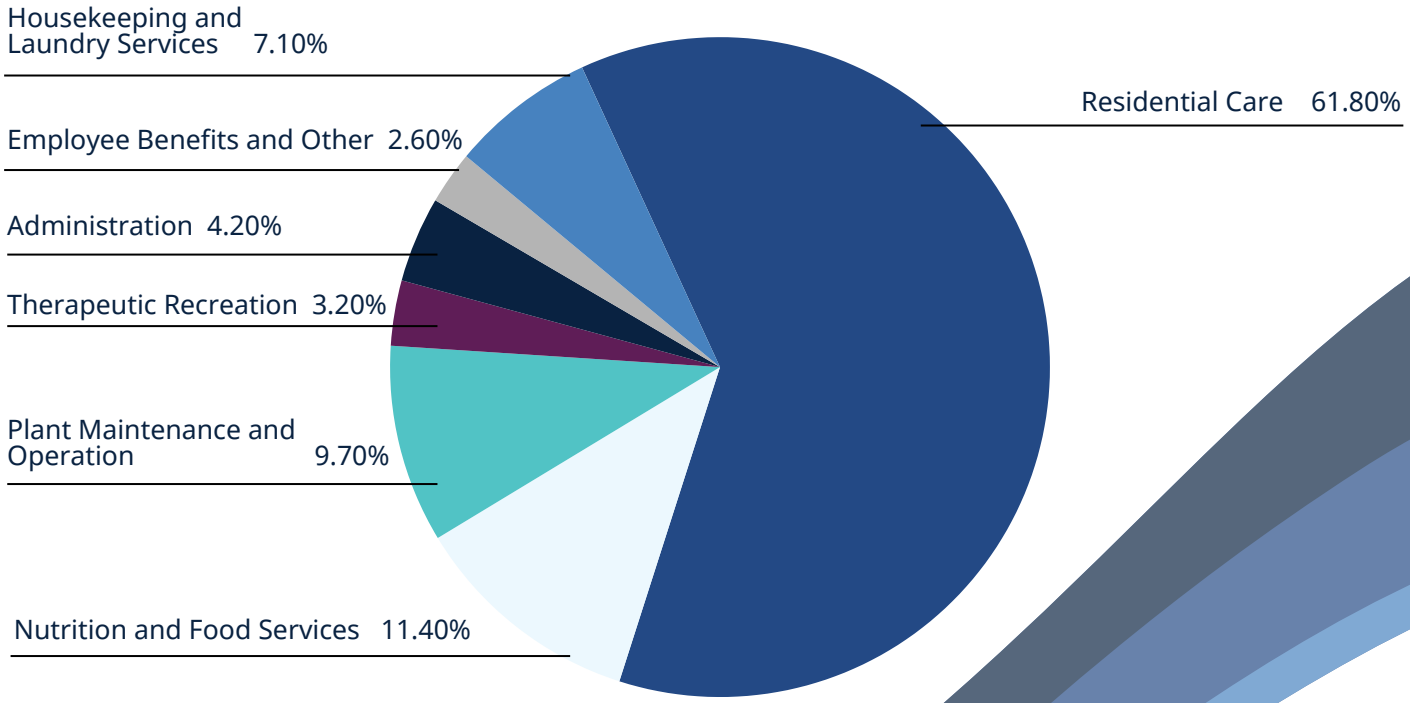
See the related notes to financial statements.

2025-2026 SAUL AND CLARIBEL SIMKIN CENTRE

Operating Revenues



Operating Expenses





A Place for Every Generation

Introducing the Gray Family Centre

A new chapter for The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre, creating a vibrant intergenerational hub where children, older adults, families, and community members can connect, learn and thrive together.

20,650
sq. ft. of new space

152
new licensed childcare spaces

$4.5M
in approved funding

2028
expected opening



The expansion will include a large Multi-Purpose Gathering Space for community programs, worship and events, a Grand Gallery and a Wellness Centre. The signature component of the expansion will be the new Faye Vickar Lazer Early Learning Centre, operated by the Rady JCC.

With more than 600 families currently on the waitlist for the Rady JCC's two existing Early Learning Centres, the new Centre will help meet growing demand while providing government-funded $10-a-day childcare and welcoming families of all backgrounds.

Ways to Give

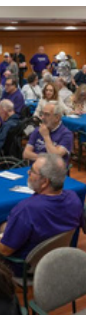
Your support helps ensure that our Residents experience exceptional care, meaningful opportunities and a strong sense of community and belonging. Through your generosity, you are enriching the lives of those who call The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre home and helping us continue this important work for generations to come.

Ways to Contribute

- **One-time Gifts**
- **Monthly Giving** - A simple way to provide steady, reliable support all year.
- **Tribute cards** - Honour or remember someone special with a meaningful donation.
- **Legacy Giving** - Leave a lasting mark through a planned gift. By including The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre in your will, trust, or estate plans, you help secure our future. Legacy gifts can be tailored to reflect your values and philanthropic goals.
- **Sponsorships**: Partner with us for an event or specific special offering.
- **Contribute to a Fund**

How to Give

Online: www.simkincentre.ca/giving/
By mail: The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre, 1 Falcon Ridge Drive Winnipeg, MB R3Y 1V9, ATTENTION: Fundraising Office
By phone: 204-589-9052
Email: info@simkincentre.ca
















Edna, HCA; Ruth Gervais, Resident

THE SAUL AND CLARIBEL
SimkinCentre

1 Falcon Ridge Drive
Winnipeg, MB R3Y 1V9

Phone: (204) 586-9781
Fax: (204) 589-7560
Email: info@simkincentre.ca