



Celebrating Seniors

VOLUNTEER AWARDS



TWO CHAMPIONS FOR HOME SUPPORTS IN SASKATCHEWAN

SSM (Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism) volunteers and staff have been joined in their advocacy for the provision of Home Supports for all older adults in Saskatchewan. Home Supports are practical, accessible, affordable services to enable older people to live in homes of their choice as long as possible as they age. Housekeeping, home maintenance, minor repairs and renovations, meal preparation, help with medications, pet care, yard work and local transportation are examples of services that make a huge difference for older adults as they adjust to the

physical and mental challenges that aging can bring.

On October 1, 2023 at the Celebrating Seniors Gala, Jeffery Straker was introduced as one of two Saskatchewan

born and raised celebrities who have recently declared themselves as Champions to make Home Supports a reality in Saskatchewan. Dr. Hayley Wickenheiser, a native of Shaunavon, was introduced via video at the SSM Annual Conference on May 17, 2023.



JEFFERY STRAKER emphasized, “Growing up in small town Saskatchewan (Punnichy), I always enjoyed community gatherings: local concerts, fall suppers, cabarets, weddings, church teas and the list goes on. I experienced the value of community – where people cared for one another and valued all ages. With my work as a touring musician I’ve travelled the length and breadth of Saskatchewan and beyond, playing the piano and sharing my songs – and in return, I’ve received warm-hearted welcomes (and many gifts of amazing food) from so many people.

Older adults in Saskatchewan want to live and thrive in the homes and communities of their choice – the same kinds of communities that have welcomed me over the years. As people age, they may need some practical help to make that possible. The Home Supports Initiative led by SSM can provide that kind of help.

Having the choice to age well independently means better health for older people. Communities also benefit from all their contributions. And let’s not forget all that lived experience and wisdom they have that can be passed to future generations.”

HAYLEY WICKENHEISER, who now is based in Calgary, declared, “As I grew up in Shaunavon, I learned the value of community – where people cared for one another and valued all ages. No rink was complete without lively kids cheered on by all kinds of adults, including those essential older people, the faithful volunteers who often served the terrific rink hamburgers!

Older adults in Saskatchewan are asking for Home Supports so they can continue to live and thrive in the homes and communities of their choice. Communities would benefit as older people contribute as caregivers, workers, volunteers, consumers, and taxpayers!

As a doctor, I know that the bonus is not only better physical and mental health for older people. It means happier families, livelier communities, less stress on the medical system and much lower costs than hospital and long term residential care.”



Thank you to our sponsors

GOLD SPONSOR:

SILVER SPONSORS:

BRONZE SPONSOR:

FRIEND SPONSOR:

