

The project was finished last fall and residents started moving into their new home in November. Some came from their own homes, as they were no longer able to live on their own and others moved from personal care homes. After a few months, Gail couldn't be more pleased with the model and level of care that they are able to provide.

"We try to promote as much independence as we can, which looks different for every person. There's lots of interaction here and residents are encouraged to make choices for themselves. They decide when they want to go to bed or get up in the morning. Everybody needs a purpose and we want to try to empower them and allow them to still have control of their own lives and situations," said Gail.

Westman Business, a division of Westman Communications, worked with Gail to make sure this location was set up with the most up to date communication systems including



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WiFi and TiVo. They wanted their residence to experience all the comforts of home while living here.

While the concept of the house was originally researched and built based on seniors, Gail quickly realized that there is also a need for clients who require 24-hour care that are not elderly. Those of a younger demographic who may have multiple sclerosis, brain injuries or have been diagnosed with young-onset dementia benefit also from this style of shared living space.

"I feel like we've made a difference with not only the people that live here but their families too. We provide a real sense of peace of mind. Family members can now take a step back from being the caregiver and go back to being that family member again. They can come and go and visit and enjoy their time together versus worrying about doctor appointments, physical care or whether their loved ones are eating well and getting proper nutrition," said Gail.



Gail Freeman-Campbell & Ellie Mae

"Growing old doesn't have to mean that you sit in a chair in a personal care home; growing old can mean that you can laugh and dance, sing and bake cookies and enjoy life."

After seeing the results of the positive environment that they've created for the residents, Gail is currently looking for more opportunities to build a similar type of home in Brandon as well as in other communities throughout Manitoba.



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