



## Covenant Ministries of Benevolence

The mission of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence is to partner with the Evangelical Covenant Church to advance the ministry of Jesus Christ through development and support services that promote life-enhancing ministries. The highlights below from our CMB affiliates demonstrate how the arc of the Home of Mercy reaches from the past to the present, touching lives in very real, meaningful, and transformative ways.

### COVENANT INITIATIVES FOR CARE | TODD SLECHTA, PRESIDENT

Deeply rooted in the legacy of believers who were motivated to live out their faith in the streets and the pews, Covenant Initiatives for Care (CIC) continues to be a catalyst, partner, and resource to spark, advance, and support innovative Christian initiatives with the underserved. Though these ministries may honor and fulfill their missions differently today than when they were founded, CIC and its affiliates continue to draw their inspiration from the values embedded in the Home of Mercy and are on a trajectory of growth and stability.

#### Ädelbrook

Ädelbrook Behavioral & Developmental Services provides services and supports to 350 children and young adults and their families with the expert care of more than 650 dedicated employees in 25 locations throughout Connecticut. Ädelbrook runs a state-of-the-art residential treatment center, three special education schools, a preschool and daycare center, group homes, respite services, and in-home and community-based care and consultation services. Ädelbrook is the premier resource for children, families, and communities to meet the needs of youth and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and other behavioral and developmental challenges.

Since its beginnings as the Swedish Christian Orphanage in 1900, Ädelbrook continues to live its mission of helping children and families find hope and healing in a Christian environment. Ädelbrook partners with the state of Connecticut and nearly 70 school districts to develop innovative

individualized plans and programs to help those they serve find a future filled with achievement, dignity, happiness, and hope. Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability, with 1:36 children diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder today. Given the need, Ädelbrook is leaning into their strategic plan and expanding services. They recently opened the Linda Reilly-Blue Respite Center for children with ASD and development/intellectual disabilities, growing their service area to the Massachusetts border. They are currently developing the first-in-the-state Children's Step-Up/ Step-Down program, providing therapeutic and behavioral support for youth with significant needs to help prevent hospital admissions or shorten hospital stays for youth.

In many ways Ädelbrook has established a quality and breadth of services that has set a bar in the state of Connecticut, so much so that in 2022 President and CEO Alyssa Goduti, was selected as one of the *Hartford Business Journal's* Top 25 Women in Business; Jeff Swanson, chief administrative officer, was named one of the top 40 under 40; and Monica Carras, director of behavioral services and training, was named one of the region's top healthcare heroes!

### **Covenant Children's Ministries**

The Covenant Children's Home in Princeton, Illinois, enjoyed a rich, 100+ year history stretching back to 1919. It was originally founded by the Sunday School Association of the Illinois Conference of the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant Church and served as an orphanage for children in need of shelter and care. This ministry has shifted and evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of at-risk children. In 2008, the name was changed to Covenant Children's Ministries (CCM) to better reflect the change from a home to a broad array of ministries that serve at-risk children in the broader Princeton community.

Today CCM reflects that mission through annual granting programs that encourage and enable vulnerable youth to pursue post-high school education, provide scholarships for at-risk youth to attend one of the two Central Conference Covenant summer camps, and via a grant that promotes ministries to at-risk youth internationally through a collaborative relationship with Serve Globally.

### **Covenant Ability Network**

Covenant Ability Network (CAN) provides residential services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Michigan, Illinois, and Minnesota. The CAN mission is to extend dignity to

every individual by optimizing independence and encouraging health and hope through Christian community.

CAN continues to provide high quality services in a challenging, post-Covid job market by developing cross-network supports and services, and augmenting and creating resources otherwise unavailable to individual affiliates. The Covenant Ability Network is seeking to responsibly expand our ministry, allowing us to serve more of the most vulnerable among us, while strengthening and enriching our community of care.

### **EMC HEALTH | LINDA STUHMER, PRESIDENT & CEO**

EMC Health (formerly Emanuel Medical Center) is in Turlock, California, and changed the name after selling its hospital to Doctors Medical Center of Modesto in 2014 (Tenet). Assets remain in EMC Health and continue to be used to benefit the community the hospital served. EMC Health oversees fund development support, the Bill and Elsie Cancer Endowment, and various nursing scholarships and manages ongoing assets and liabilities related to the hospital sale.

### **Jessica's House**

EMC Health oversees the ministries of Jessica's House, a grief support service in Turlock that offers free ongoing peer support groups for grieving children and teens who have experienced the death of a parent or sibling. Parents and other adult caregivers have their own groups where they learn how to cope with their grief and support their children. Each group combines therapeutic talk, play, and expressive arts to promote healing and hope for the future.

### **EMC Health Foundation**

EMC Health also oversees EMC Health Foundation which was created to continue the ministry and support of individuals in the area previously serviced by Emanuel Medical Center. The Foundation continues to broaden its impact within the 19 designated zip codes with grant funding for health-related programs that will benefit the people living and working in our communities.

## COVENANT LIVING COMMUNITIES & SERVICES | TERRI CUNLIFFE, CEO

The past year continued to test Covenant Living's agility as we experienced ongoing Covid and post-Covid impacts. We are grateful and proud of the organization's accomplishments this year despite the workforce challenges and inflation impacts to operations and our financials. We are confident in our strategy focused on optimization and the resident and employee experience.

We are delighted with the positive impact growth through new communities has had to our overall culture and practices. Each new community brings ideas and approaches to the employee and resident experience that benefit all communities. We are inspired by our extraordinary employees around the country who continue to go over and above to serve residents every single day.

Our mission statement grounds Covenant Living to its purpose and intention to love and serve others as taught by Jesus Christ. Our common purpose to create joy and peace of mind for residents, employees, and their families by creating a better way of life defines why we do what we do. Our strategic aspiration and plan define our priorities and the direction we are headed.

Despite the challenges of 2022 and the headwinds we continue to face in 2023, Covenant Living remains a financially sound organization, led by leaders who are passionate about the people they work alongside and serve, and governed by a talented board of directors who provide oversight, direction, and support through independent and diverse perspectives. The work of the board of directors requires significant time and energy, and we appreciate their commitment to Covenant Living Communities and Services and their many contributions throughout the year.

By embracing community at Covenant Living, we are stronger and better together!

## CONCLUSION

From its inception, the Covenant has sought to live out the words of Pietist theologian August Hermann Francke to promote "God's glory, neighbor's good." Francke was echoing the call of Jesus to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. While we have not always done that perfectly, it has been our goal and always will be.

When those Pietists opened the Home of Mercy in 1886, they never could have foreseen how their collective, responsive heart of service to the sick, the elderly, and the orphan would unfold over the

decades. They never could have envisioned a trajectory that would, at its peak, include two medical hospitals (now part of health systems reaching tens of thousands of patients); a multi-state, missional organization offering a continuum of care for the elderly serving more than 5,700 residents; and ministries providing specialized services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the country!

Although the services of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence now encompass the administration of legacy investments and risk assessment and mitigation efforts, we remain deeply rooted, and the arc of the Home of Mercy continues through the work of affiliates EMC Health Foundation, Covenant Living and Community Services, Ädelbrook Behavioral and Developmental Services, and Covenant Ability Network (an affiliate of Covenant Initiatives for Care).

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Slechta

President and CEO of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence