

A Unique Partnership

By **SAMARA CYGMAN**
Sun Advertising Writer

Symbiosis is attained when all parties involved benefit from their association. It's a mutually advantageous relationship, which can often be found in the wild kingdom, and now it can be observed in the urban jungle.

A partnership, cemented this year between Robertson College and We Care Home Health Services — Calgary South, allows students the opportunity to get hands-on training, while partially filling the hole in the industry left by a shortage of skilled labour.

Sylvia Krizan, Director of Personnel, Training and Management with We Care, says creating practicums for students enrolled in the Health Care Aide program at Robertson College has created a valuable opportunity for all the parties.

"Our clients also love being involved in furthering the career of Calgary students and really enjoy the extra company," she says.

We Care Calgary South is the largest franchise in the We Care network, which encompasses more than 50 offices across Canada.

Services provided by We Care staff include personal care, nursing care, meal preparation, homemaking, palliative care, respite care and specialized child care among others.

Accessed by the Calgary Health Region, Workers' Compensation Board, Veteran Affairs Canada and private clients, We Care pairs a student with a community support



worker to learn the intricacies of home care.

Jennifer Johnson, 32-year-old Health Care Aide student at Robertson College, is halfway through her practicum at We Care and says the experience she's gained has been

an invaluable supplement to the five-month program.

"I've worked at many different facilities and We Care is incredibly organized, which has taught me a lot," she says.

"But I wouldn't really call this work — it's been a pleasure visiting with their different clients, and assisting them with activities of daily living."

Robertson College director Maria MacMinn says the alliance ensures students are comprehensively trained to the standards of government certification.

"It's a unique partnership between employer and training institute in an attempt to meet each other's needs and to respond to the critical shortage of trained health care aides," she says.

"I am impressed with how well We Care treats their employees. They are very focused on providing an optimal working environment and are as committed to the success of their employees as we are to the success of our students."

ROBERTSON
IN A CLASS BY ITSELF SINCE 1911
COLLEGE
www.robertsoncollege.com

We Care South and Robertson College have partnered to offer a unique employment and training opportunity to those who meet We Care South's Hiring Criteria

- Become certified as a Health Care Aide in less than 5 months
- Government financial assistance to those who qualify
- Robertson College Flexible Financing options

Do you already have experience as a Health Care Aide?

- Part time training available
- Enroll in Robertson College's HCA Challenge program that will certify you through the Government of Alberta Health Care Aide training program

wecare
Home Health Services



We Care South is hiring Health Care Aides now!

Why work for We Care South?

- **We Care South guarantees fulltime employment** (upon graduation of Robertson College Government of Alberta Health Care Aide Training Program and meeting employer hiring criteria)
- **Earn while you learn** - work part time and train full time
- Flexible Working Conditions
- Excellent People and Working Environment
- Employment Incentives
- Training Scholarships - offered by WE Care South and Robertson College!
- And more...

Call 920-0070 now to register for this unique employment and training opportunity and get ready for training starting in March!

920-0070

900 - 6th Ave. SW Calgary, AB