

Donwood Update

With Gratitude

Celebrating 50 years

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We reached and exceeded our fundraising goal of \$75,000.00.

It was a difficult moment when we realized we would not be able to proceed with our 50th anniversary banquet celebration as we had planned it. A lot of thought and effort had been put in to making our event special, but with COVID-19, a large gathering on April 27 was obviously not possible.

At the same time, we needed the support of our community more than ever. New protocols required us to lock down our building; visitors were no longer admitted, many activities were cancelled; and the familiar friendly faces of staff were now covered in masks. This was (and still is) a difficult and dangerous time for our residents - who often struggle with feelings of isolation even in normal times. It was also very difficult for our staff who were required to adapt to many changes and were literally putting their lives on the line for our residents. The stories in the news about COVID-19 outbreaks in personal care homes in Eastern Canada were very scary.



Steve Bell and Lisa Enns at CMU for the virtual event .

In these difficult times, the role played by our chaplain (Lisa Enns) became even more important. Lisa could visit with residents when they had no other visitors. We heard

heart-warming stories of visitors coming to Donwood, standing outside the window of residents and video-conferencing with their loved ones. To make meetings like these possible, someone inside Donwood had to facilitate. Volunteers were not allowed in and government funded staff like healthcare aids are very tightly budgeted and do not have extra time to set up family meetings. So again, our chaplain, whose part-time position is fully funded by your donations, was able to help.



Nina Labun, CEO having a little fun while prerecording her message for the virtual event.

As we contemplated what to do about our cancelled banquet, it became clear that we couldn't just cancel the event. We had to reach out to our supporters and tell our story. We needed each other. The possibility of an online event opened up to us when CMU volunteered to help. And with some hard work from volunteers, the event came together beautifully.

Personally, I found the live-stream event on April 27 very moving. Each speaker seemed so authentic and really highlighted why the work at Donwood is important. They reminded us all why, we as a church community should remain involved in the lives of our residents and not just 'leave this to the government'. In particular, I was touched by Carolyn Klassen's stories of how she visited Donwood when she was a child and the

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**Donwood Manor
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- Debbie Kroeker
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stories of the youth whose grandparents are at Donwood today.

The event was very successful. We had 288 viewers of the live event on April 27. The likelihood is that many of these viewers were couples, so I estimate around 500 people were watching. Afterwards, a recording of the program was posted on our website. The total number of views to date is 750! In terms of donations, we set a stretch-target of \$75,000 and donations to date are at \$87,000. This is the support we dreamed about and prayed for. We as a Donwood Board of Directors as well as Donwood Management and staff are so thankful for the way you have supported us.

In these difficult COVID-19 times, I have often been asked, "What can we do to show support for Donwood's management and staff? We see all the stories in the news. We know things are very difficult. We want to do something to help." My response has been that one of the best things you can do is to listen to our story, send in your donation and then to go on remembering and praying for us. The money is needed. As noted, our chaplain's part-time position is funded by donations and we really need her to be there full time, especially at this time. Now that the event is over and we can see the results, I want to say a big thank-you for your support. We have increased the chaplain's hours to full time. Obviously, annual salary requires donations every year to support it. But at least for now, we can take this step with confidence. Thank-you. I can't tell you how encouraging this is to Donwood's management and staff to know that you are there behind them, supporting them and cheering them on, even though they are behind locked doors. Thank-you.

Brian Loewen, Chair



Hot off the Presses!

For several months, author Sarah Klassen poured over 50 plus years of archives. Some that survived two floods. Sarah faithfully dug through file box after file box looking for little nuggets of history. Together with Abe Dueck's editing, a brilliant 67 page hardcover book showcasing Donwood's Story was published.



The Donwood Story - The First Book Edition

Pictured is the first book printed and bound arrived in a beautiful velvet lined box; a treasured keepsake.

When the boxes of books arrived from Friesen's Printing it felt like Christmas. We eagerly opened a box of books to have our first glance at the finished product. Cracking open the spine, we breathed in the smell of the new book and quickly flipped through the pages seeing the fruition of 50 years of history compiled into a beautiful keepsake.

Books are available for purchase and are \$30 plus \$10 shipping. Due to COVID-19 books cannot be picked up at this time. If you live in the North Kildonan area, delivery can be arranged. To order yours please visit our website <https://donwoodmanor.org/events> where you can purchase book through PayPal or contact us at info@donwoodmanor.org or by phone at 204-668-4410.

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present.



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may over flow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Staying Connected

One thing for certain, COVID-19 has separated many from those they love. Mary who lives next door at the EPH has been married to her husband John for 70 years. John lives at the PCH and would see his wife every day, now thanks to technology they stay connected though FaceTime three times a week. Mary is thankful that she can see John and even mentioned that she gets all dressed up for him even though it is only a screen. Although it is not the same as seeing each other in person, she is thankful for the times she gets to see him and looks forward to holding his hand soon. Mary said it is too bad it has to be this way, but it is just the way it is right now. She is appreciative of caring staff who help her stay connected with the love of her life.



Mary, EPH Tenant, visiting with her husband John, a resident at the PCH via FaceTime.

For Jim, the story is much the same. His wife Pat, lives in the PCH and everyday he would come over from the EPH and they could go for walks, especially if it was nice outside. Now, they connect through music. Therapeutic Recreation staff hold the phone to Pat's ear as Jim serenades her, it truly is difficult to hold back the tears when one witnesses love like that.

Presently, Donwood has a few iPads, tablets etc to help keep loved ones connected and with great extent we need more. If you have a spare device or would like to contribute financially to the purchase of a one, please contact Jennifer Kappy at jkappy@donwoodmanor.org. Our goal is to have six per unit so multiple calls can happen at the same time as well as activities geared to social distancing can keep residents engaged.



In a Pinch

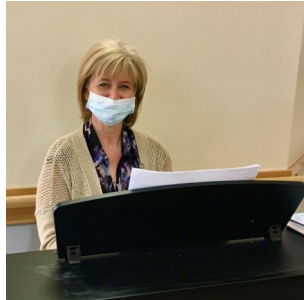
The Auxiliary's annual Perogy Fundraiser sold out weeks before the cut-off date, a testament to the reputation they hold. A total of 175 dz cottage cheese perogies were sold for a total of \$1400. This money will be used by the Auxiliary to purchase items suggested by Donwood Manor for the residents of the PCH.

Although Covid-19 has postponed the rolling and pinching of this homemade Mennonite dish, we still anticipate that once restrictions are lifted that these goodies will be ready for you to enjoy. We thank you for your patience and will be in contact with those that placed and order once more information is available.



Pastoral Care

In mid March, Donwood Manor's programming came to an abrupt halt. The energy that I put into planning and leading chapels, Bible Studies and church services quickly required the Chaplains role to be re-directed to being more "hands on" spiritual care.



Lisa Enns, Donwood Manor Chaplain, shared her talents with residents during Hallway Sing-a-long.

Most notably, I decided to dust off my almost-dormant piano-playing skills, and began to sit in the pch hallways and dining rooms with our portable piano to play hymns for residents who were lonely or bored. Sometimes, those "hymn sings" turn into mini-chapel services, including sharing and prayer. Other times, they end up being gentle background music for a beloved resident on End of Life care in a nearby room. And at still other moments, they are the springboard that draws me into more individual one-with-one spiritual care conversations with residents in their rooms afterwards. Everything looks slightly different during COVID19, but God's presence is just as tangible!

Lisa Enns, Chaplain



KNITTING WITH NEIGHBOURS

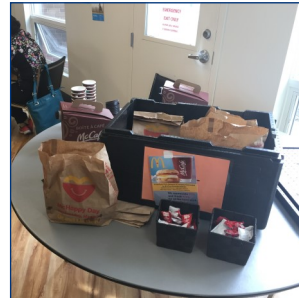
Cancelled until Further Notice

AUXILIARY MEETING

Cancelled until Further Notice

SOUP & PIE

Tentative Date - Friday, **October 23, 2020**



Jameson & Company McDonald's brought coffee and egg McMuffins as a Thank You to Front Line Workers.

The Greater Community

It is without a doubt that the staff and leadership team at Donwood Manor have been working very hard to ensure that our residents stay healthy. We have received wonderful emails and phone messages have thanked the staff for all they do. Recently, the greater community has extended a hand of thanks to Donwood. Tim Horton's, Winners, Santa Lucia Pizza, Ikea Canada and McDonald's have blessed the staff with coffee, cookies, candies, egg McMuffins. A small gesture of their gratitude. We ARE so GRATEFUL!

Wall of Encouragement



Wall of Encouragement

A wonderful reminder that we are not in this alone.

Scripture, words from the heart, messages of hope and special notes from staff, vendors and families have been written on the wall as a reminder that we are stronger together. It truly is encouraging to walk past it and feel blessed.

PRAYER requests

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:20

Please remember us in your prayers.

- Continued health for residents and staff
- Family members who are missing their loved ones
- For discernment for our Government and Health Officials as they navigate new territory of reopening Manitoba
- Four our church communities who are finding new ways to connect virtually and worship together yet apart

Donwood Auxiliary

- **Betty Unrau, Chair**

- Ellen Black
- Anne Funk
- Olga Reimer
- Maggi Klepatz
- Ann Fehr
- Agnes Roesler
- Kathy Plett
- Mary Bergmann
- Elaine Peters
- Agnes Olfert
- Luis Rempel
- Bettie Bergen
- Hildegard Thiessen
- Maria Toews
- Lena Penner
- Martha Neufeld
- Anita Beers
- Margaret Kramer

Donwood Manor is sponsored and supported by the following Mennonite Brethren Churches in Winnipeg:

- Eastview
- Elmwood
- Fort Garry
- McIvor Avenue
- North Kildonan
- Portage Avenue
- River East
- Westwood

A Night to Remember

Lisa Enns, Donwood Chaplain, opened the live event with a warm greeting from the commons at CMU. MP Raquel Dancho sent a video message congratulating Donwood Manor on 50 years of faithful caring for seniors. Steve Bell, a Winnipeg native, shared his musical talent with our online viewers, many probably sang along with him in the comforts of their own home. He even shared his colouring page for long term caregivers. Viewers learned from Nina Labun, CEO about life inside Donwood Manor during COVID-19 and the importance of Pastoral Care and family and the greater community. Sharing images of what it is like to live and work at the PCH during the pandemic. Brian Loewen, Foundation Board Chair, shared an excerpt from the 50th book, *The Donwood Story*. Julia DeFehr and James Duerkson spoke from the heart about each their grandparents who live or have lived at Donwood Manor and what Donwood means to them. Guest speaker Carolyn Klassen, Director of Connexus Counselling, gave a powerful virtual message on the importance of connections and referenced John 4:11-12. God is in all the details as this message was going to be shared LONG before our current situation and those connections seem to resonate even more so now. In the end, Tamara appealed to the audience in a way that was new to most, it wasn't in person or around a table enjoying dessert but rather through technology, a tool that has kept us connected throughout this pandemic.



Steve sharing the colouring picture for his mom in honour of PCH workers.

Donwood Manor would like to thank the Foundation Board committee Debbie Kroeker, Tamara Roehr, and Judy Klassen for the hours they put in to make our first ever Virtual Event possible and the success that it was. Your time and energy during this time is wholly appreciated. With gratitude to Darryl Neustaeder Barg and Kevin Kilbrei at CMU for making this evening possible. From the bottom of hearts...thank to all.

Looking to the future, when life is back to 'normal', we hope you will join us as we celebrate *50 plus One*. Stay tuned for details and watch your mailbox for a save the date invite. We hope to see you then!

Thank
you
For helping our

Virtual Event be a

HUGE

Success!

Please consider sharing your love for Donwood Manor by making a gift to the Foundation.

Donations can be made at:
www.donwoodmanor.org or
www.canadahelps.org

