

DONWOOD MANOR
PERSONAL CARE HOME
171 DONWOOD DRIVE

VOL. 10 ISSUE 1 · SPRING/SUMMER 2023

FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Donwood Manor Foundation Newsletter

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Words to Fill the Soul

BY BRIAN LOEWEN, FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR

The Donwood Foundation is thankful for the many, supporters, Donwood Auxiliary members, volunteers, and staff who made our 2023 Spiritual Care fundraiser a huge success. It is incredible to see the many hands and hearts that brought about the success of our major fund raising event of the year. We raised \$80,000 to support spiritual care services, chaplaincy and life enrichment programs at Donwood Manor and our Elderly Persons Home.

Spirituality and Spiritual Care is a source of hope, strength and healing at Donwood and we constantly hear from families and residents how vital spiritual care is to life at Donwood. Our newsletter demonstrates the many ways in which we work to live out our calling.

Our sincere thanks for your support of Donwood, and our mission to care for seniors with dignity, respect and Christian values.

Thankful Hearts Foundation Board

The annual Pastoral Care fundraiser was once again a prosperous event! The Donwood Manor Foundation prepared "Faspa in a Box", which was picked up or delivered to 275 homes on April 23.

We gathered in homes across Winnipeg to enjoy Faspa and a beautiful online program. The program can still be enjoyed on our Donwood Manor's YouTube channel. Hosted by our chaplain, Sherryl Koop, the program is a delightful 30 minutes of scripture, song, prayer and stories.

This year's event theme was "Give us this day, our daily bread", which comes from the beloved passage- the Lord's Prayer. Even residents who struggle to communicate will join in on reciting this beautiful petition from Matthew 6.

We appreciated Terry Doerksen, Associate Pastor at Westwood Community Church for the leading prayer and Jennifer Choi, Associate Pastor of Portage Avenue Church with her prayer and kind words, and Fort Garry Mennonite Brethren Church Choir for the Doxology.

The Faspa box was stocked with plenty of favorites including Farmer sausage from Miller's Meats, New Bothwell cheese, buns from Oma's bakery, SmakDab mustard, Scott Creek honey, homemade jam from Forever Prairie, aromatic tea from Cornelia Bean and a beautiful floral piece from Addison Taylor Design.

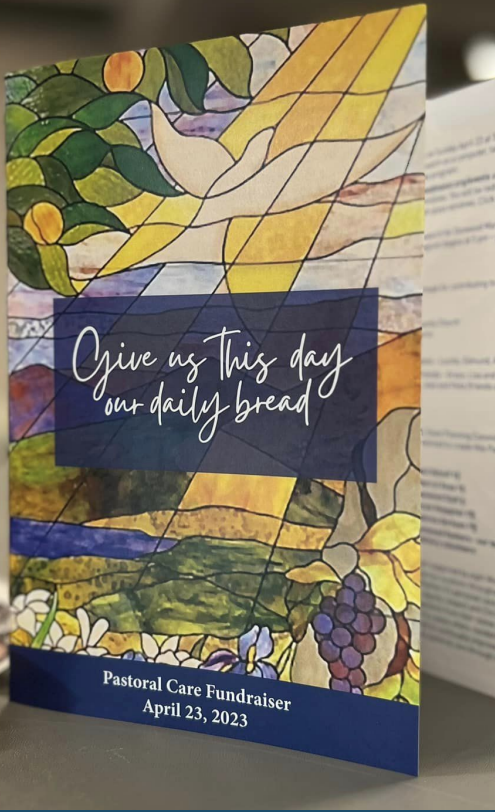
Fleisch perishky (meat buns) and cherry platz were prepared by our very own Donwood Manor food services team, along with our faithful Donwood Auxiliary.

Our volunteers & staff contributed in many ways to make this event a huge success. From cooking, baking, assembling boxes, taking calls & delivering, it all couldn't have been done without the community coming together to create such a wonderful experience.

Several of our Personal Care Home residents starred in the video, sharing stories about the importance that spiritual care has in their lives at Donwood.

Pastoral Care Ministries at Donwood Manor are provided by our chaplains- Sherryl Koop, Gerhard Friesen and Janaya Salmond-Thiessen (on maternity leave), and are supported by your generosity.

We are incredibly grateful for the \$80,000 raised.



Donwood Auxiliary members wishing the last of the meat buns farewell. 2650 buns were made for our Pastoral Care Fundraiser!



Spiritual Care - Elderly Persons' Housing

Janaya Salamond, Community Enrichment Coordinator

One of our oldest tenants at the Elderly Persons' Housing can easily pass as one of our more youthful tenants both in looks and energy. They are lively, tender-hearted and filled with gratitude! They are also profound in the ways they care for others, and speak of Jesus' love. They recently went to the hospital, which had some of us on our toes, prepared for their passing. However, low and behold, they decided there's still lots to explore in life.

Not too long after they had returned from the hospital, I had them scheduled to speak at our Bible study. Considering their recent stay in hospital, I asked if they would still speak -assuming they would not be up for sharing the Bible study- however I was wrong and they said "No, I'll be there!"

Overall the whole Bible study was very moving—from their conversation surrounding the Psalms, and then taking us on a virtual tour of the universe by sharing with us their extensive research on astrology and physics. They encapsulated the greatness of God, and the redemptive truth of His love.

I look back to this particular Bible study with fondness, as I've heard them say countless times, and it seemed all the more appropriate to exclaim at the end of that Bible study... "God is AWESOME!!"

Spiritual Care - Personal Care Home

Sherryl Koop, Chaplain

The other day I heard a resident calling out for someone to come and help them. I entered their room and asked what kind of help they needed. They then proceeded to tell me that they needed someone to talk to, so I sat with them and listened.

They let me know that they thought they had led a very good life, have a relationship with Jesus Christ and yet feel that the suffering they are experiencing is not fair.

They then let me know all the losses they have experienced and how it is hard to believe that God loves them when grief and loss seem almost daily to them.

They also said that they no longer feel needed in any way and all their life they have felt needed ... and wanted ... except for now!

What does a Chaplain say in a situation like this? Well, this Chaplain listened for a long time, put their hand in mine and then asked if I could pray with them.

My prayer called on God to comfort them, help them to recognize not only His deep love for them but the love many others have for them and to meet them at their point of deepest need.

After I had prayed, the resident let me know that this time together had been exactly what they needed and although I was not able to answer all their questions, just my presence, listening to them and praying with/and for them was comforting!

'Presence' with residents seems often to be the best gift I can give and I feel so privileged to be able to offer that!





Hear the Great News!

Through the support of the Donwood Foundation and our many supporters, those living in Donwood are now able to access assistive hearing devices through individual headsets, or wirelessly through their hearing aids, in the multipurpose room for church services, bible study and musical events.



Heinz Wiebe of the Donwood Elderly Persons Home (pictured left) who tested the new system was enthusiastic about their ability to participate more fully in life at Donwood.

DementiAbility

In July, 2022, Donwood Manor began a journey with DementiAbility. The model of care is driven by 3 pivotal concepts: a) A prepared environment; b) The focus on the person; and c) The organization and the team work together. Ultimately, the goal is to create environments where people want to live, work and visit.

One resident rediscovered her voice for speaking and sharing God’s word with other residents and staff. Since, she had been an ordained pastor for 40 plus years; she was invited to say grace before meals.

Although, she had been somewhat withdrawn from family and friends and usually remained in her room, The DementiAbility assessments and discovery of her interests led to her praying a blessing over the food before meals in the dining room.

She prayed with grace and eloquence, the residents and staff expressed great comfort from hearing the prayers at meal times. The resident received the positive feedback that ultimately motivated her to join reading groups and enjoy her meals in the dining room.

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