

# GIFTS OF GRACE STREET MISSION

690 Munroe Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
R2K 1J2  
(204)667-0336  
giftsofgrace@shaw.ca



“Street People: NEAT PEOPLE!.....Powered by Faith.”

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## 2019 Annual Report

In 2019 we completed our seventh full year of operations for our Beloved Mission. Our ongoing mandate is to provide food, friendship and compassion to our Street Friends in Winnipeg. We show up with Food on a regular and known schedule that can be counted on. However, it is the ongoing and growing friendships, in sharing and in dialogue with those individuals and treasured souls we serve that has had a deeper, enduring impact in our hearts and minds. In the earlier days of this Mission our thoughts and actions may have been more about how WE could benefit THEM; but over time it has become more and more apparent how THEY benefit US and touch us; and in ways we could not have imagined. For some or even many of us, our lives have been changed forever through the work of this Mission.

Our core operations are to provide a Thursday supper meal and a Sunday Breakfast, every week, year-round.

**Thursday Outings.** From mid April through early November our Thursday suppers are serviced outside at 4:30 pm in the Henry Avenue cul-de-sac; which is a highly visible area right across the street from Main Street Project and Salvation Army's Booth Centre at 180 Henry. The area also has a good sightline to the Bell Hotel, and can be seen from the NW corner of Siloam Mission's building. During the colder months we serve the meal inside Main Street Project shelter. The serving time for all Thursday meals is 4:30 pm. A typical served meal will consist at minimum of hot casseroles (4), sandwiches, bun, baking and juice. There are 4 distinct serving crews who are assigned to the 4 Thursdays of the month. The leads for these crews are Kim McIntyre-Leighton (1st Thursday), Bob Kirkhope & Rob Nykoluk (2<sup>nd</sup>), Kendra Jackson (3rd) and Bob Buchanan (4th). In the event of the month containing a fifth Thursday. Kim McIntyre-Leighton leads a pick-up crew of whoever wants to come on these dates.

**Sunday Breakfast Outings.** Our Hot Sunday Breakfasts are served inside Main Street Project from the last Sunday in October through the end of April- as **Breakfast & a Movie**. It runs from 8:30 am until 11:30 am. The hot food consists of six 16 quart roasters; and may include egg dishes, hash browns, pancakes, egg McBagels, baked beans, rice or pasta casserole, cereals, wraps and garlic bread. We also provide sandwiches, baking, coffee, juice, and snacks for movie treats. Breakfast & a Movie utilizes 4 distinct serving crews. The St. Saviour's crew, led by Kim McIntyre-Leighton, is anchored to the 4th Sunday of the month; and provides hot dogs with buns and all the condiments whenever they come. The other 3 crews rotate around the St. Saviour crew, with Bob Buchanan as lead for those crews.

During the warmer months we set up our tables outside at 7:30 am. It is a shorter, simpler breakfast with garlic bread and soup, baking, sandwiches, coffee and juice. Since Breakfast & a Movie is quite popular, we continue it inside on the last Sunday of each month. Therefore in a year there are 33 Sunday Breakfast and a Movie events at 8: 30 am and 19 outdoor Sunday Breakfasts at 7:30 am.

Providing direct support for these meals are our **Sandwich Making and Casserole Making** sessions, held usually on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. For most of these sessions, the two groups work side by side in the Parish Hall. In 2019 the Casserole Makers, led by Bonnie Scott, made 140 casseroles themselves in support of the Thursday outings; and WASO workers and clients who also contributed extra casseroles and cookies as well periodically throughout the year supplemented their efforts. All of them are popular, but the 'world famous' perogy dishes and the equally 'world famous' turkey/cranberries casseroles top the list! Our Sandwich Making gang led by Kathy Allan and Bob Buchanan made 18,201 individually bagged sandwiches in 18 sessions involving 494.5 person hours of labour. Our sandwich makers averaged making 36.8 sandwiches each per hour. This is a substantive amount of labour- to put it another way if one person were to make all of the sandwiches we needed, working a 16 hour day, it would take that person 30 days and 15 hours to do it!! As of the end of 2019, there have been 170 Sandwich Making Sessions hosted in the Parish Hall to date!

We also serve a hot pizza supper on (usually) the first Monday of each month, in which our generous partner Santa Lucia Pizza provides on average 24 XL pizzas, which are served with pop as the beverage. Our Mission is extremely grateful to Santa Lucia Pizza and owner Koz Simeonidis for their ongoing commitment to our work. As of year-end, our Mission has hosted 65 Pizza Monday events to date since we originally started the event in April of 2016.

Our year ended with our last Thursday outing on Boxing Day and with Breakfast & a Movie #336 with Crew 2 on Sunday December 29.

We enjoyed several instances of enthusiasm and support of our work by our Community Youth in 2019. In February, the East Transcona Before and After School Program from Harold Hatcher School prepared Valentines cards for the patrons, which were well received. The 66 Pathfinders helped us make 1039 sandwiches on January 23 and another 1289 sandwiches on October 23. The 303 Pathfinders helped us make 1249 sandwiches on April 24 and another 926 sandwiches on May 22. Sherwood School children came out to an exclusive session at St. Saviour's June 27 and made us 743 sandwiches. The 219 Pathfinders helped us make 1275 sandwiches on September 11. The 303 Guides helped us make 1023 sandwiches November 27. The Magic AA Ringettes helped us make 956 sandwiches December 18. Also in December, the Stars Purple Pee Wee A2 Girls under 12 Hockey team made us 166 sandwiches as well as 50 Christmas cards which were handed out with the sandwiches on December 12. Hooray for our Youth!

### **Other highlights:**

Our Mission continued its efforts to supply juice at every one of its Thursday and Sunday meals. We are the only Mission we are aware of that does this. In addition, applesauce, fresh and canned fruit are also served whenever possible at Thursday and Sunday meals. For Breakfast & a Movie for example, we manage to have fruit available about 40% of the time.

In February we mourned the passing of our Street Friend Viola Karen Cook, who was only 47 years old.

Our 6th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Night was held on Wednesday June 5, from 6 to 8 pm. It was well attended and spirited, with Santa Lucia Pizza, chips, soft drinks and other beverages. Entertainment was provided by Kevin McIntyre and Tyler Leighton. Special guests included... EVERYONE WHO WAS THERE! A good time was had by all!

-Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Street BBQ was held August 15, serving over 600 hot dogs, 12 bags of coleslaw, 12 bags of pasta salad, 150 sandwiches, potato chips, baking, cookies from three different church drives, 2 large Gatorade Jugs of juice, about 400 bottles of water and 200 dixie cups of ice cream donated by Jocelyn Vann. Caricature artist Al Sideen was again on site for his 5th straight year rendering portraits for our delighted patrons. DMS Industrial Constructors provided the food.

Our Social Media presence guided by Rob Nykoluk continues to yield dividends on numerous fronts:

- 1) It has raised the general awareness about our Mission tremendously. We have been able to publish our current wish list of food items whenever we have felt the need to, and many people who care have responded to the cause.
- 2) We have been able to actively promote our Food Depots: **Transcona Salon & Spa, Washeteria Laundromat and Santa Lucia Pizza (Henderson Highway)** who assist us so that people know where they can drop off food. The same is true of our clothing depot at **TSEN**.
- 3) We are also able to publicize what other people have done to assist us in a Food Drive.
- 4) All of the above have contributed to the fact that our own necessary food purchases have been significantly reduced from previous years because of these increased food donations.

We are thankful to everyone who has supported our efforts in 2019. We extend our thanks to those companies who have partnered with us on a substantial and ongoing basis: **Cottage Bakery, Sobeys Kildonan Green, Core-Mark International, Oma's Bakery, Sobeys Reenders, Santa Lucia Pizza, Burnbrae Farms and Safeway Kildare.**

We are extremely grateful for all of the quality people who have played a role in the work of this Mission and for providing their service to it. We pray for 20/20 vision and clarity as we look ahead in 2020 to continuing the work we love for the People We Love.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bob Buchanan  
Communications Officer