

Saskatoon Friendship Inn

Your support for the Inn is making a difference



Sandra Stack

By Sandra Stack, Executive Director

The Inn has been a hub of activity over the past few months, as we responded day in and day out to the needs of our community, feeding the hungry and walking with those who struggle with so many challenges.

We are filled with gratitude for all the generous giving that the Saskatoon Friendship Inn experienced in the holiday season. In the month of December we served 19,785 meals – which includes the 2,377 combined total of festive meals served on Christmas, Day, Boxing Day, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day. We simply could not have accomplished this outreach without all the donations of funds, food and volunteer time that keep the Inn going each and every day.

As 2015 unfolds, we can definitely see that the need continues. During the recent February break, the Inn served lunches to hundreds of children (off from school), and their families. One day that week, the line stretched throughout the building and outside around the block.

The fact is that hunger and poverty never sleep! As we reflect on our own needs, we remember the needs of others. Rest assured that your donation to the Friendship Inn makes a difference. We hear it in stories of guests like Wanda (see Page 2). A new video posted on our website at www.sfinn.ca also reveals the impact of the Friendship Inn’s compassionate outreach in the lives of those we serve.

The video project began when I approached some of my friends at the Inn one morning and asked a favour: would they consent to being filmed, speaking about what the Friendship Inn means to them? These guests, volunteers and staff members agreed to give their powerful testimony – completely from the heart, without a script or any prompting. The resulting video (which was created for us by Tim, the husband of our volunteer and event coordinator Amy Bratton), captures what the Friendship Inn is all about.



New video:

David is one of those interviewed in a video posted on the Friendship Inn website at www.sfinn.ca. David describes the compassion he encountered at the Inn – and the difference this outreach is making in the lives of those in need.

At one point in the video, asked to describe the Inn in one word, those interviewed listed words like: “Family,” “Hope,” “Resources,” “Compassion” and “Awesome!” Those descriptions resonated for all of the staff and volunteers at the Inn – and I hope they echo in your heart as well.

As Darcy says at the end of our video: “A lot of people wonder when they are giving donations: *...am I doing the right thing? Am I putting my money in the right spot? I’m going to say ‘yeah, this definitely is the right spot...’* It is giving people hope in the streets.”

Thank you!

Wanda's story: "It's like a family"

By Amy Bratton, Volunteer and Event Coordinator

Wanda has been part of the community at the Friendship Inn for many years. She appreciates the staff here who create a good atmosphere. "When you come here, they treat you like you are somebody," she says.

Wanda particularly shared that she appreciates the staff who are good at listening, really listening to her when she needs to talk. From the family worker to the floor staff, they always have a listening ear available.

She has noticed that the focus of the staff is on the people. The cleaning can wait until later when someone needs to talk. Even with the diversity of people at the Friendship Inn, Wanda noted, when conflict comes up, the staff will help everyone work out their differences.



Food donations needed at the Inn:

- "bone-in" hams • vegetables •
- butter • margarine • sugar •
- rice • mayonnaise •
- jam / honey • peanut butter •

Drop off donations at 619-20th St. W.,
Saskatoon or Phone: 306-242-5122

Visit Our Website: www.sfinn.ca
Follow us on Twitter: @SaskatoonFriend
Find us on Facebook: Saskatoon Friendship Inn

Wanda has benefited from the meals at the Friendship Inn, but she has also received help from the Inn's family worker in finding a place to live. And even more important than the programs is the love and care she has encountered at the Friendship Inn.

"It's like a family," she said. "Every day you can get a hug so big it is as if you've been gone a long time." Wanda often tells other people who are in need about what the Friendship Inn offers: not just a meal, but safety, family and love.

Monthly Giving: signing up for a regular monthly donation can have a huge impact. Every gift makes a difference! For more info contact the Friendship Inn at (306) 242-5122 or e-mail: friendshipinn@shaw.ca

When you're finished reading the Friendship Inn Newsletter, why not pass it on? Or sign up to receive an e-mail version instead!

Hunger Never Sleeps!

YES!

I want to help Fill the Plate at Friendship Inn:

- \$5 - Fills a plate
- \$35 - Fills a plate for a week
- \$150 - Fills a plate for a month
- \$500 - Fills 100 plates
- \$1,250 - Fills 250 plates
- \$2,500 - Fills 500 plates
- \$5,000 - Sponsor **A Day At The Inn**
- Other - \$ _____

\$750 - Sponsor A Meal at the Inn:

As part of Sponsoring a Meal, you or your group can choose the menu, and are welcome to come in to help prepare / serve.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Donations can be made **in person** at the Friendship Inn (cash, cheque, credit card); **by phone or online** (credit card only); or **by mail** (cheque or credit card). You can also regularly support the Friendship Inn in an ongoing way **by Pre-Authorized Debit** – simply submit a blank cheque and debit instructions.



Saskatoon Friendship Inn, 619-20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0X8
Phone: (306) 242-5122 E-mail: friendship.inn@shaw.ca
Website: www.sfinn.ca

Credit card information: Visa MasterCard

Name on card: _____ Amount: _____

Card number: _____ Expiry date ____ / ____ (YY/MM)