



From the desk of the Executive Director



friendshipinn.ca

Dear friends,

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US HELP OTHERS!

IN THE MIDST OF THIS COVID-19 VIRUS OUTBREAK our community's most vulnerable – who already live with very little – are experiencing a profound disruption as they try to meet their daily needs. We see many who are afraid of how they will get their basic needs met. They are uncertain of how they might stay safe from infection. And we know many have limited support systems or ways to stay informed with the most up-to-date information. Indeed during this difficult time our vulnerable neighbours need us most, and our mission to offer free meals, care and compassion has never been more important.

We have done our very best to respond quickly and safely – the health and well-being of our guests, employees, volunteers and community is a top priority.

- On March 14th, we shifted to a take-away meal service to halt large gatherings in our dining area.
- On March 19th we put a pause on our Volunteer and Fine Options Programs.
- And a final precaution, on March 23rd we adapted our service once more – refraining guests from being inside the building and only serving from the main door of the Inn (requiring a 2 meter spacing be maintained in line-ups).

“*During this difficult time our vulnerable neighbours need us most, and our mission to offer free meals, care and compassion has never been more important.*”

We continue to screen staff daily to ensure that they are healthy, inviting those experiencing any symptoms to self-isolate and seek a medical consult. Our usual high standards of cleaning and sanitizing continue, and as always, we are ensuring all *Food Safety Regulations* are upheld during meal preparation and distribution. In 10 short days, we have made the most amazing adaptations to our service – I'm so proud of our talented and committed team!

We anticipate more changes to come. As this outbreak unfolds, it is imperative that we think differently about how to meet the increasing need for food security. With new restrictions being imposed daily, we anticipate that regular food donations may not be as readily available. So, we are hard at work creating a simple 7-day menu with the plan to bulk shop and source food so that we can become even more efficient and scale our efforts as needed. To the best of our ability, and with the resources available to us, our desire is to continue offering a daily breakfast and lunch to those in need.

Communities come together in a crisis, and we are not alone – the Friendship Inn is just one of many agencies committed to helping those in need. **Our focus and mission is to provide food – and with every \$5 you donate we will be able to provide a meal to a person in need.** Together, we will continue this crucial food service to people in our community who need it most during this time of crisis.

Thank-you.

Sandra Kary,
Executive Director

Adapting Services to Feed Neighbours in Need

COMPASSION FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS IN NEED spurred an immediate desire to help guests of the Friendship Inn as COVID 19 reached Saskatchewan.

While the Inn initially sought food and other items necessary to prepare bagged lunches, cash donations are now preferred.

“ Funds will give us the ability to move quickly, to buy the resources we need, to be safe and efficient, and keep folks out of the grocery stores...”

“Individuals of all ages will always get food from us,” says Executive Director Sandra Kary.

“Donations from individuals and businesses enabled the Inn to quickly move to take-away, from its usual sit down meals, and will continue to be crucial as our service evolves.”

“Funds will give us the ability to move quickly, to buy the resources we need, to be safe and efficient, and keep folks out of the grocery stores if they don’t need to be there,” says Sandra.

As numerous organizations collaborate on a community response to the virus, the Inn is preparing to meet a demand that could potentially surpass the 1,000 meals per day served before the outbreak.

More people are expected to require support from community organizations like the Inn, because they lacked the financial resources to stockpile groceries or have been laid off.



At the same time, grocers overwhelmed by a surge in customer purchases are unlikely to have surplus food to donate to the Inn and the Inn’s employees are working without their usual valued volunteer teams.

To make up for the decrease in donated food and simplify employees’ workload, the Inn has begun purchasing food in bulk based on planned menus.

People wishing to contribute funds towards these additional expenses are welcome to donate online (friendshipinn.ca) or by mail (619 20th Street West, Saskatoon, S7M 0X8). Every donation counts as meals typically cost \$5 per plate to provide.



619 - 20th Street West, Saskatoon, S7M 0X8
 Phone: 306-242-5122 Email: friendship.inn@shaw.ca

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Amount: _____

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE:

Pre-Authorized Debit - Enclose a blank cheque marked “VOID”
 I authorize the Saskatoon Friendship Inn to deduct \$ _____
 from my bank account on the ____ day of each month for ____ months,
 beginning the month of _____ .

Visa Mastercard
 I authorize the Saskatoon Friendship Inn to charge \$ _____
 to my credit card on the ____ day of each month for ____ months,
 beginning the month of _____ .
 Card number: _____ Expiry Date: ____/____

One time donation Monthly donation

Signature: _____

ONLINE DONATION OPTIONS AVAILABLE AT:

www.friendshipinn.ca

Questions?

Call Colette at 306-242-5122

Charitable Reg No. 119140937

THANK YOU FOR HELPING!