



friendship inn

SPRING 2021

friendshipinn.ca

SPRINGTIME AT THE INN

365 DAYS OF THE YEAR, GUESTS OF THE FRIENDSHIP INN ARE WELCOMED THROUGH OUR DOORS. We invite people in from the cold and offer them a place of refuge, warmth and compassion.

Friends, your caring and generosity enable the work of the Inn. Thank-you! Your continued support means the Friendship Inn can serve the community with steaming bowls of hearty stew, hot coffee, and a warm place to find comfort and kindness. You help people experience a brief escape from life's harsh realities and your gifts make the Friendship Inn possible. Thank-you.

As we turn the corner from winter's grasp, there is a palpable sense of anticipation for the warmer, brighter days of spring. Relief from the harsh weather will come, but we know the challenges for people struggling

with food insecurity and poverty will persist. So, with determined spirits, the Friendship Inn team will forge ahead, committed to welcoming and serving everyone who comes to the Inn.

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Of course, we could never do it alone, and we want to recognize the special efforts of students and families from École Holy Mary, Bishop Pocock, École St. Mother Teresa, École Sister O'Brien, St. Philip and St. Augustine Schools for supporting the Friendship Inn. These generous school communities took part in the *Pool Our Love* food drive, rallying to help restock the Friendship Inn pantry! Great job – bon travail, thank you – merci beaucoup!

Springtime brings renewal and a reinvigorated energy. Looking into April, we are excited to celebrate Easter with our guests by preparing and sharing a special springtime meal. Can you feel it? Sunshine, warmth, and friendship. Pass it on.

Wish List

We are seeking support from the community so we can pass it along to our guests. Ham, potatoes, fresh vegetables, and eggs are all on our Bunny Wish List. Your financial donations are also greatly appreciated.

Thank-you!



Give Us Your GREENS, please!

IT'S SPRING! You can help the Inn by donating all things GREEN:

Celery	Cucumbers	Apples	Grapes
Peppers	Lettuce	Beans	Onions
Spinach	Broccoli	Peas	Sprouts



And of course, we are always grateful to receive your **"Greenback"** (cash) donations! Donations can be dropped off from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm daily at **619 - 20th Street West**. You can GIVE ONLINE at www.friendshipinn.ca/donate-online

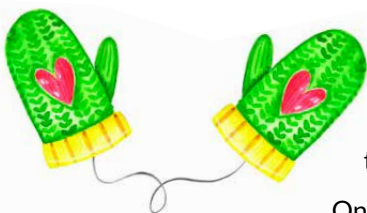


"How are you doing?"

WE'RE OFTEN ASKED HOW GUESTS AT THE INN ARE DOING.

Between bitterly cold winter weather, on-going pandemic protocols, and changes to programming and services, guests have shown incredible resilience and endless flexibility as they adapt to life's curveballs. Mask wearing, hand sanitizing, take-out and socially distanced dining have all become commonplace here at the Inn.

Friendship Inn staff regularly check in with guests to ask how we can help. For some guests, we know the interactions they have here at the Inn may be the only friendly encounter they experience in a day, so our approach is gentle and compassionate. Welcoming guests with, "How are you today?" is often the best invitation.



On a frigid -40° day, the response from a familiar guest was a cheerful, "Hey - no mosquitos today!" followed with, "But it's too cold. I need warmer mitts." Beneath the humor, her need was apparent.

On Christmas Day, when welcomed in a similar way, another guest shared, "It's humanity what you do - you prevent the chaos." These words remind us what food security and friendship truly mean to a community.

We do our best to listen, thankful for the generosity of community which enables the Friendship Inn to respond.

Help Sponsor a Meal!

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE FRIENDSHIP INN BY SPONSORING A MEAL? Bob or Laura would love to talk... 306-242-5122.



You can get together virtually with your family, friends, colleagues or business and support a meal at the Inn for \$750-\$1000. We can help schedule your sponsored meal, pick the menu and talk about volunteer possibilities too.

Sponsoring a meal at the Inn is a great way to celebrate a special occasion, honor an important person in your life and share generously with your neighbours in need!

Try this on your next zoom call!

FOR 37 YEARS, A GROUP OF 21 FRIENDS has gathered to celebrate "Friendmas" together. To be COVID-friendly, their 2020 festivities were hosted over Zoom. During their virtual visit, one friend challenged another to shave his COVID beard, offering a donation to the charity of his choice as incentive.



While we're not sure exactly what happened next, we're told this beard was promptly shaved the morning after "Friendmas", with photo evidence being shared out to the entire group of friends. The Friendship Inn has since received a donation of \$520 and we're delighted by this fuzzy fundraising! Thank-you, friends!

One Potato, Two Potato...

HOW ABOUT THOUSANDS OF POTATOES! Over the summer, our friends from Mount Royal Mennonite Church asked how they could best help the Inn. "Is there a big-ticket item your kitchen needs?" Knowing the hours and hours of kitchen time spent by both staff and volunteers to peel potatoes for meals, we responded with a hopeful request for a commercial potato peeler. With a price tag of about \$8,000, the time-saving tool was a major wish list item for the Inn.



The ball potato started rolling, and before long, multiple church communities and individuals were rallying behind the Potato Peeler Project. A potato PowerPoint was even created to help spread the word and drive donations. Over the months, gifts designated for the 'potato peeler fund' began arriving, including one from local philanthropists Les and Irene Dubé who very generously supported this truly amazing team effort.

Thanks to our potato-passionate Mennonite friends and their incredible reach and connection to the broader community, the Friendship Inn is now home to a brand-new Hobart industrial potato peeler! The inaugural potato was peeled in January and our kitchen staff are thrilled with the added efficiency and speed of meal preparation. Thank-you!

Funds raised through the potato peeler project also enabled the Inn to purchase three additional wish list items: a commercial salad spinner, a Super Ninja Wizard vegetable processor, and a new commercial Coffee Brew system. Wow!



CHILI TRADITION lives on!

FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS, the Friendship Inn has hosted the *Love Your Neighbour Chili Cook-off*. Knowing the competitive 'cook-off' portion of the event would be tricky given current COVID protocols, Dr. Annette Epp took the reins, rallied her physician colleagues, and together with financial support from the Saskatoon Regional Medical Association, they reinvented a Valentine's Day Chili Lunch for our neighbours in need. Donating all the meat, groceries and supplies, 10 doctors volunteered their time on February 14th to prepare and serve hearty bowls of secret recipe chili, Valentine's cookies and all the fixings. Guests were treated with Valentine's cards, warm winter clothing and hot chocolate too. For Dr. Epp and her colleagues, the Chili Lunch is a tangible way for them to show support to the community and connect with people in a meaningful way. "We love being here to serve at the Inn," said Annette, "and we're already thinking about what we can do next!"

♥ Your Neighbour Chili Cook-off

Rub-a-dub, dub!

An ENORMOUS shout out to Rick Leier and the entire team at **Rely-Ex Contracting Inc.** for transforming the Friendship Inn dishwashing space and installing a new industrial dishwasher. Over several days, Rick's crew generously donated their expertise, time and labor to repair and restore our entire dishwashing pit. Serving up to 1000 meals a day means we use a LOT of dishes! Our staff are super happy to be back in business and we are all enjoying this much improved, efficient new space. Thank-you Rely-Ex!



Holiday meals, everyday meals... YOU are making a difference

"IT'S HUMANITY WHAT YOU DO - you prevent the chaos." I know, I'm reiterating a comment already cited in this newsletter, but I feel compelled to add my reflections because I received it first-hand, and it is forever burned into my heart and mind.

The comment deserves some context.

On Christmas Day, I was floating around the dining room handing out small gift bags with chocolates to each of our guests. It was the weirdest Christmas ever- sad and joyful at the same time. Sad because of the sheer reality of only 25 guests eating a beautiful Christmas meal at a time, one per table, in 15-minute increments, all facing the same direction (a stark reminder of our COVID reality). Joyful because of the small triumph it was to

actually be hosting a Christmas meal for the community.

Barrie thanked me for the chocolates, and said, "Do you know what you do?" "Um... no, Barrie, what do I do?" I responded confused. And then the remark... *It's humanity what you do - you prevent the chaos.* Whoa.

It's true. Without a place to eat a meal, to warm up, or to socialize, our community would digress. When a person is hungry, when an immediate, daily need goes unmet, what happens? Few of us really know.

Barrie told me the answer. It's chaos when you're hungry.

The poignancy of this story is in the pronoun - YOU prevent the chaos. YOU is not just me, or the Friendship

Inn staff, or volunteers. YOU is us. Our caring community that comes together to feed people. You, yes YOU prevent the chaos.

This one comment was all the gift I needed on Christmas Day, and about all the reality I could digest. I'm still digesting the truth of it, and the power of a few words from one man who knows better than anyone what we do at the Friendship Inn.

As we 'March' into Spring, and make preparations for an Easter meal (however COVID-weird it will be), thank YOU for helping our community with two meals each day, every day.



Executive Director



COVID-19 Emergency Community Support Fund

AS A FOOD SECURITY AGENCY, maintaining a clean, safe environment for our guests and staff is always a top priority for the Friendship Inn. Added measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 have meant significant changes to our operations. In the past year, we have adapted our service model, introduced take-away meal service, adjusted our dining room to accommodate physical distancing measures, enhanced already stringent cleaning and sanitization procedures, and ramped up our diligence with respect to personal protective equipment.

We wish to acknowledge financial support from the Government of Canada, delivered through Employment & Social Development Canada's COVID-19 Emergency Community Support Fund and administered through the Saskatoon Community Foundation and United Way for helping the Friendship Inn adapt and continue delivery of a daily meal service for guests.



YES! I want to be a FRIEND by GIVING to the friendship inn

All eligible donations will receive a charitable tax receipt.
Charitable Registration Number: 119140937 RR00001

EVERY DONATION HELPS OUR NEIGHBOURS IN NEED—THANK YOU!!

- \$60 helps serve 10 meals; \$120 helps serve 20 meals;
- \$150 helps serve 25 meals; \$300 helps serve 50 meals;
- \$600 helps serve 100 meals

WAYS to GIVE: Make a **One time donation** or sign up to be part of our **Monthly Donation** program.

- Cheque**, payable to the *Saskatoon Friendship Inn* and mailed or dropped off at the Friendship Inn 619-20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0X8. We're open 7 days a week from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- Pre-Authorized Debit**. My BLANK cheque marked VOID is enclosed and I authorize the Saskatoon Friendship Inn to deduct \$_____ from my bank account on the ___ day of each month, until further notice, beginning on ___/___/_____. _____ signature
(DD/MM/YYYY)
- VISA or Mastercard**. Call us at 306-242-5122 to make a single donation or sign up to be part of our monthly giving program.
- You can give securely online at www.friendshipinn.ca/donate-online/