



friendship inn

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since March and just found a two-bedroom apartment. After one week the grandson had two serious asthma attacks, probably due to mold. They found another apartment, but it was infested with cockroaches, and the grandson had yet another asthma attack. They are homeless again.

The people we serve at the Inn are some of the most vulnerable in our city. So many face significant struggles and challenges and coming for a meal in our dining room often relieves more than hunger. The Inn provides a safe space, compassion and dignity, and a listening ear and practical help for those seeking support.

Eating Together, Extending the Table

MY FIRST-BORN GRANDDAUGHTER is a toddler now, and we are most entertained watching her eat. She eats a breakfast sausage like it's a cob of corn, and strips the layers off her slice of pizza and then uses the crust like it's a washcloth! Eating is a full-contact sport at this stage of family life. I'm realizing again how much we learn from sitting around a dining room table – manners, food preferences, and connectivity amidst the news and chatter of the day.

The dining room at the Friendship Inn offers many moments and lessons as well. Many guests come alone, some with a friend, and families are fast-tracked in the line-up to get to the banquet seating. Your ear becomes attuned to the din, and you can discern amongst the chatter those who are happy, those in distress, and the piercing voices of the youngest wanting to get their mom's attention. All who come to the Inn are hungry – for food or connection, and maybe some added support. Life can be raw and despairing for many who come to our dining tables.

Jordan has struggled with alcoholism and anger issues for many years. He has maintained his sobriety now for many months and just got his own apartment. He is doing well and comes to the Inn hoping to see his ex-wife and kids. He is rebuilding his life and is regaining the trust of his family. The Inn is a safe space for them, and mom is okay to have the kids see their dad for short visits over mealtimes.

Marlene is a senior and her son, daughter-in-law and three teenagers come to the Inn to eat. They have been homeless

We know that when we eat together, we are nourished in many ways – it can be a time when not only our stomachs are filled, but our hearts and hopes as well. As we enter this season of harvest and family time at Thanksgiving, we invite you to once again 'extend your table' and support those in our community who have significant need.

With thankfulness,

Sandra Kary
Chief Executive Officer



2025

ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING

Saskatoon Friendship Inn

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

@ 12:00 pm

Everyone welcome in the
Friendship Inn Boardroom.

To register and receive meeting materials, please call 306-242-5122 or email reception@friendshipinn.ca by September 17.

Thank-you for making meals happen!

WE'RE SO GRATEFUL for your time and generosity. Your gifts of service, food and finances keep us cooking so we can respond to community need and serve vulnerable people with food and friendship.

451,035

meals shared between
July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025



966,000

Pounds of Food
received from community
\$3.48M value



30% dairy

29% produce



16% protein

13% bread



12% dry goods

1236+



Meals Served
Daily

100%

of
Board Members
also give financially



5500+

Guest Supports:
advocacy, referrals,
hygiene and care items



15,000+

In-kind Labour Hours



3905

Financial
Gifts made by
1599 Donors

Community
Fundraising
comprise

95%

of the
operating
budget.



Reclaimed or Donated
Food resources are
used to create

95%

of meals
served.

You can read our full 2024-25 Annual Report online at www.friendshipinn.ca beginning September 17.

Growing our efficiency and setting the table for rising meal counts

THE FRIENDSHIP INN HAS SEEN year over year increases with meal counts, noting a 32% increase since 2019 (pre-Covid). Since that time, we have navigated health restrictions, adapted our operations and innovated ways to serve meals via dine-in, take-out and sharing to other community agencies. We anticipate that our meal counts will likely always grow, but are pleased to share that we did shrink one key number – **we are able to provide a meal for \$5, reduced from \$6.** In an era where grocery prices are increasing and the tax and tip for dining out has a hefty pinch, the Inn is proud to say that we are pacing with the need in our community while effectively stewarding our human and financial resources. We are growing our efficiency so that we can serve even more meals with your gifts and donations! Thank-you for your continued generosity and helping to serve our community even more!



UNKEPT HAIR, DIRTY HANDS, disheveled clothing and blankets in tow. Blank stares, bare feet or conversations with invisible figures. These are some of the hallmarks of any particularly vulnerable guest or someone who is in acute distress. A person struggling in active addiction or homelessness will never be out of place at the Friendship Inn. They'll be noticed, served a hot, nutritious meal, and offered any additional assistance we can provide in the moment to help demonstrate compassion, honour humanity and rebuild dignity.

THE INN WELCOMES CHILDREN of all ages. Those who venture beyond the dining room are greeted with a smile and kind words at the reception desk. On occasion, a small treat or penny toy is shared to help brighten their day. In the dining room, staff take extra care and attention to help our smallest diners navigate the self-service drink station!



Fish Fry builds community, a great partnership with STC Sawēihtotān

WHEN THERE IS AN ABUNDANCE of a particular food resource (that we can't swiftly process or preserve) we do our best to share. Earlier this summer the Inn received a large donation of fish. Because we have an established partnership with the team from the **Saskatoon Tribal Council's Sawēihtotān Program**, we were able to make the unique phone call, 'would you like 150 lbs of fish?' 'YES!' they said, 'we have the perfect way to use this!'

Their team runs the Washroom Project on Ave M, and this year along with shower



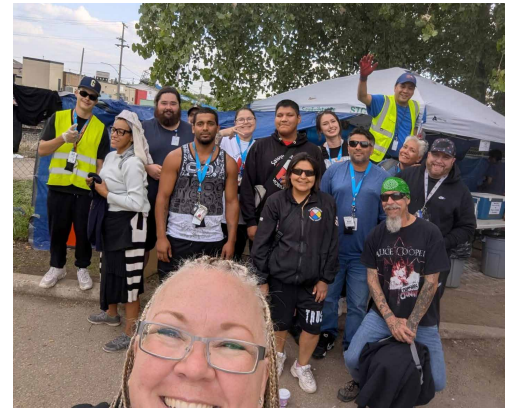
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*People gather around
the fire pit to visit, do
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and whatever else is
donated or available.”*

facilities, they've initiated what they call the 'Home Fires.' People gather around the fire pit to visit, do art, and cook Bannock and whatever else is donated or available. The donated fish was perfect for a Fish Fry!



Sarah-Dawn Matthews, the Program Manager shared:

"Thanks to your generosity, our relatives were able to enjoy some truly amazing meals, cooked over the fire at our Washroom Project. The meals brought warmth, comfort, and created a beautiful sense of family and togetherness. These photos capture just how impactful your contribution was and the joy and connection it fostered in our community."



Supporting guests by offering hope, help with taxes and a path towards housing

THE INN FOCUSES ON FOOD FIRST, but has always looked to provide hope. From December 2024 to June 2025 we have hosted the Canada Revenue Agency to provide monthly tax clinics, and between clinics, the Inn has trained staff to also support. Together, we have served 105 individuals with 183 filing years for a total amount of returns and credits equaling \$488,000!

From this initiative the Inn aims to create a unique pathway – a *Guest Services Initiative Program* – to remove barriers and support individuals who wish to move from homelessness, insecure housing or shelter living to their first successful rental placement. Commencing in July 2025, a dedicated team member will work with guests to guide them through a five-step process



to secure government-issued ID, open a bank account, file personal income taxes, complete RentEd certification and then submit a rental application. Each step is intended to help restore a sense of dignity and equity, improve mental health and ultimately see participants be in a stronger position to transition to safe, stable housing.



A SPECIAL THANK-YOU to these funders: from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, the *Daily Free Meal Program* is supported in part by a grant from the Community Initiatives Fund; the *Compassionate Care Program* is supported in part by the Saskatoon Community Foundation Quality of Life Grant, and our *Guest Services Initiative* is supported in part by funding received from the SCF Vital Focus Grant.



Hunger is happening.

We need your help to raise 90,000 meals for September and October. Your \$5 donation helps make a meal for someone in need.



Thank-you for GIVING.

\$1500 Lunch Meal Sponsorship

\$1000 Breakfast Meal Sponsorship

\$600 helps serve 120 meals

\$300 helps serve 60 meals

\$150 helps serve 30 meals

\$125 helps serve 25 meals

\$75 helps serve 15 meals



We anticipate serving up to 90,000 meals during September and October, including up to 2500 Thanksgiving Meals on Monday, October 13.

GIVING is Easy:

- **Cheque**, payable to *Saskatoon Friendship Inn* and mailed or dropped off at 619 – 20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0X8. We're open 7 days a week from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm.
- **VISA or Mastercard**. Call Laura at 306-242-3979 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/ or scan this QR Code now to make your donation through the Friendship Inn secure giving portal.
- **E-Transfer** to donate@friendshipinn.ca No passwords necessary, we use auto-deposit! Please include your name in the message section so we can issue your receipt.



All eligible donations will receive a charitable tax receipt. Charitable Registration Number: 119140937 RR0001

Thanksgiving Wish List



FOOD: turkeys, potatoes, boxed stuffing mix, vegetables, pies, eggs, peanut butter, sugar, dried spices and margarine. We love fresh garden produce too!



FINANCIAL DONATIONS: always needed and always appreciated. \$5 helps prepare and serve one meal for a neighbour in need.



VOLUNTEERS: extra hands and hearts are always welcome. Register at friendshipinn.ca/volunteer then call us at 306-242-5122 to schedule your shift.



DONATION DROP-OFF: daily from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm at 619 20th Street West, no appointment necessary. Please ring the doorbell beside the south warehouse door and we'll be happy to meet you.

