



Changing Seasons - a Season of Change

Growing up on a farm and living on the prairies has shaped me, particularly as I watch the changing of the seasons. We are a weather-obsessed folk - noting the lateness of spring, the timing of rains, the always-too-short summers, and the crispness and cooling of the shorter days of fall. We have a whole new vocabulary for talking about winter – a fine blend of embracing it, denying it, and steeling ourselves to endure it, yet again. Living on the prairies teaches you to navigate change, celebrate each season, and be mindful of the one coming next.

Our work at the Friendship Inn is similar. We navigate change by adapting our service model.

"We celebrate the many hands and hearts who come together regularly to be a community that cares. And we look to the future, mindful that we are stewards of the generosity and goodwill of the many friends of the Inn who give us food, finances and volunteer time – so that together, we can make a difference."

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, we are so grateful for the generosity of our donors. You inspire us to look forward and consider what more we can do to serve.

Because of your generosity, we were able to finish our last fiscal year with a remarkable number of meals served - 554,410 - an increase of almost 23% over the year prior. This is a significant feat for any organization, and only possible due to the food and finances you share with us.

To best steward these donated resources, we've taken a few big steps. This Spring we launched a supper offering, starting three days a week, with the aim to open at a time more accessible to families. We are already seeing that nearly 20% of those coming for a supper meal are kids and youth.

Along with a new supper meal, we've extended our regular breakfast and lunch service times by 30 minutes each. This is actually more than a step – it's a bit of a leap, as our Head Chef and Program Supervisors navigate the clock to ensure meals are prepared and served efficiently, and to our usual high standard.

Did you know we are now receiving, sorting and cooking through more than one million pounds of food in a year? Our efforts to optimize storage at the Inn and streamline our back-alley drop-off space have been essential as meal services evolve in response to growing community need.

Of course our staff has also grown and adapted as we navigate this season of change. We're thankful for capable, willing team members who are stepping up to serve in new and expanded ways.

These big steps forward mean we can enter into a new season of service with the ability to manage more donated food and finances, and to effectively serve more meals to a community in need.

Thank-you to all who continue to support us through the seasons, through the changes, so that we can further alleviate hunger in our city, and serve even more people who find themselves in need.

Chief Executive Officer

Everyone Welcome 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, October 1, 2026 @ 12:00 pm
Friendship Inn Boardroom

To register and receive meeting materials,
please call 306-242-5122 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 compassion, food and friendship



554,410
MEALS SHARED
this year

~1520
MEALS
served each day



7315+
GUEST
SUPPORTS:

advocacy,
referrals, hygiene
and care items



100% of **BOARD MEMBERS**
also give financially

1,246,793

POUNDS OF FOOD received from the community

~VALUE of
\$4.63M



20% protein



10% dry goods

15% bread



23% dairy

32% produce



95% of meals served are created using
RECLAIMED or **DONATED FOOD RESOURCES**



15,000+

**IN-KIND LABOUR
HOURS**



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING
supports **95%** of the budget
with \$ gifts from **1600+ FRIENDS**

STORIES from the Inn

Jack is one of those guests who remind us why the Friendship Inn feels more like a community than a service.

Many staff members share morning conversations with him, laugh at his jokes, or a simple greeting as part of their daily routine.

His week-long absence from the dining room was immediately noticed and we soon learned Jack was facing homelessness. Daily, staff would check in with the Inn's Community Support Worker to ask how he was doing and whether there were any updates.

It was a reminder of how much Jack means to the Friendship Inn community. The level of concern speaks volumes about the relationships built in our dining room and how staff genuinely care for the guests who come to the Inn.

Janice and her baby did not have safe housing and were sleeping in their car.

They began coming to the Inn for meals and to use the washroom. After saying hello to the family over several days, our Community Support Worker established enough trust to advocate on their behalf.

A connection through another supporting agency eventually resulted in a referral and safe place for Janice and her baby to sleep.

Lawrence was staying in a shelter after being released from custody. He wanted to steer clear of his previous gang life, but had little support or resources to do so. Advocacy from the Inn's Community Support Worker helped Lawrence navigate a complicated system to access the support and programming he needed to get his life back on track.

Volunteers play an enormous part in helping the Inn support guests through the sharing of both food and friendship. They often share their reflections on how meaningful and eye-opening they found their time at the Inn. While it is hard to witness people who are struggling, we often hear delight from volunteers at the gratitude shown by many diners.



Congratulations, Sandra!

2026 Recipient of the YWCA Saskatoon Women of Distinction Community Building Award.

This award recognizes leaders and changemakers who make a lasting impact in their community. Through her exemplary leadership as our CEO, Sandra has ignited community support and driven the Inn's work to compassionately support vulnerable people with nutritious meals in a dignified, welcoming environment. Sandra's passion for service shines through daily. At the Friendship Inn, she has created a community dining table and fostered a welcoming space rooted in dignity, belonging, care and hope. She's a true visionary who leads with heart and makes a meaningful difference in people's lives every day. Members of the Inn's Board and Staff were honoured to be in attendance and celebrate this well-deserved recognition. ❤️



A special thank-you to our funders: from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, the Daily Free Meal Program is supported in part by the City of Saskatoon Community Services Grant, and grants from the Community Initiatives Fund and Hockey Helps the Homeless. Our Pathway of Hope project is supported in part by funding received from the Saskatoon Community Foundation Vital Focus Grant.



Community
Initiatives Fund



Saskatoon
Community
Foundation



Did you know?

One of the most tax-efficient ways you can support the Friendship Inn is by donating publicly traded stocks, mutual funds or other eligible securities. When donating directly to the Inn, you avoid paying capital gains tax AND receive a charitable tax receipt for the full fair market value of your gift (based on the date it is received). This means more of your donation goes directly toward supporting meals for people in need.

Making a gift is simple. We'll work with you and your financial advisor to facilitate the transfer. Considering a gift of securities may be right for you if you:

- have investments that have grown significantly in value
- are planning your year-end tax strategies
- want to make a larger charitable gift than cash alone might allow
- are thinking about your legacy or long-term charitable goals

Curious? Call Laura (306-242-3979) to have your questions answered.

Every gift helps the Inn prepare and serve up to 2000 nutritious meals daily, while providing a welcoming place where people can find food, connection and hope. You can help ensure no one faces hunger alone.



Welcome, Orysia Stephaniuk!

Family, community and giving back are the heart of the Inn's new Fund Development Officer. Helping people and supporting community have always been important for Orysia. Combined with her many years working and volunteering to bring people together around causes that make a difference, she is the perfect new addition to the Friendship Inn team.

Together with Laura, Orysia will support fundraising efforts by connecting with donors and sharing the many ways the Inn supports guests in need. Reflecting her warm, compassionate spirit, she says,

"everyone deserves access to nutritious, nourishing meals, along with a comforting and safe space to enjoy them in. Food can bring people together, create connections and provide a sense of comfort. Let's make sure nobody feels forgotten or left behind"

Orysia can be reached at 306-242-3981 or by email at orysias@friendshipinn.ca

Thanksgiving WISH LIST

We anticipate serving roughly **90,000 meals** during September and October, including **2500+ Thanksgiving Meals** on Monday, October 12.



FOOD

Turkeys, celery, cheese, pies, eggs, peanut butter, jam, sugar, oil & margarine.

Thank-you!

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

7:30 am – 2:15 pm daily.
No appointment necessary.
Please ring the doorbell adjacent to the garage door in the alley and we'll be happy to meet you.

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.

\$3000



Lunch Meal Sponsorship

\$1500



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

GIVING IS EASY:

- ✓ **Cheque:** payable to **Saskatoon Friendship Inn**, 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 2:15 pm.
- ✓ **VISA or Mastercard:** call Laura at 306-242-3979 or Orysia at 306-242-3981 to make your single donation or sign up to be part our monthly giving program.
- ✓ You can give securely online at www.friendshipinn.ca/donate-online or Scan the QR code 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 email address in the message so we can issue your charitable receipt.



All eligible donations will receive a charitable tax receipt. Charitable Registration Number: 11914 0937 RR0001

