



# House of Hesed Christmas 2008



... building a place of loving-kindness

*Hesed is a Hebrew word used in the Old Testament to describe the eternally loyal, lavish, extravagant, unrestrained, compassionate, merciful love of our Father God. As recipients of this divine love, we desire to emulate His compassion in our attitudes and actions towards others, particularly toward those people living with HIV/AIDS.*

## D's Story

Last year I attended a conference on HIV and in conversation with another attendee she said to me, "And look at you now, you're smiling."

I was diagnosed with HIV 13 years ago and it's been 13 years of feeling hopeless, angry, ashamed and, mostly, alone. I was alone because I didn't know how to tell my family or my friends. I distanced myself from all those that were close to me.

In the last 13 years my life was filled with lots of family tragedies, and at one point I tried to commit suicide because I felt overwhelmed and thought all hope was gone. I ended spending six weeks at the Psych Hospital trying to understand and cope with all the things going on in my life.

In the middle of last year my HIV was going in the wrong direction. My counts started to drop after trying just about every available drug. The doctor and I decided to go on "Salvage Therapy" which included going on two new drug trials. I now had to take over 25 pills a day and was scared and didn't want to be alone. I was scared of the side effects because in the past I had terrible side effects with just a few pills, so now I just figured they would intensify.

The previous year I attended a Heart Song conference and met some people who lived at a place called House of Hesed. I had never heard of it before. So I asked and found out what it was about. I decided to do some further inquiries to see if they were able to help me because I did not want to be alone while taking these new drugs. At this time I also had to consider moving out of my apartment because I had difficulty climbing the stairs. After making a few calls I finally met with Moe and discussed my situation with her.





She was excited but I had to wait because some other people were ahead of me on a waiting list. After about one week I spoke to her again and I was going to be able to move in on November 1, 2007. I was filled with a lot of mixed feelings. I had so much to do. I spoke to my sister about my decision to move to the House and she told me she knew of the House and the work they did and one of her friends worked there. This made me a little more at ease because now someone there was connected with my family. In early October I got a call from the hospital that the new medications were in and I had to start right away. I didn't want to be alone for two weeks while taking the new pills so I called Moe, and God made it possible for me to move in right away. I was offered help moving in, and all this, including moving in early, was without cost. I couldn't understand that. Now I know it was God's way of taking care of me.

I moved in permanently on October 15, 2007. By the third day of moving in I felt like a weight had been lifted off me. I felt at peace. I hadn't felt like that in 13 years. I was now experiencing unconditional love and support. I have been taking over 25 pills a day without any major side effects. After three months my HIV was completely undetectable.



So I am thankful for the House of HeseD, the staff, volunteers and supporters. This is exactly what I needed and where I needed to be. Here I got the sense that someone cared for me, that I was loved, that I had value and worth. Here I got the spiritual atmosphere and encouragement that I longed for. Here I got what I needed to help me heal physically, but more importantly, emotionally and spiritually. Now I have hope again.

I spent six weeks at the Psych Ward and couldn't get there what I got at HeseD in three days.

So yes!! Look at me now. After 13 years, I'm smiling again.

### W's Story

I came here because I needed some looking after because I got really sick in the hospital for a while and didn't really have any place to go until my health nurse (bless her heart) told me about this house. I love it here because of the prayers and communication with the staff and just generally all of the caring and sharing. We all seem to get along and I want to thank everyone who donates here for us. I've been here for five months now and I feel really safe. Thank you, W.



### What's Been Happenin' at HeseD?

**CONCERTS!!** Thanks to the kind donation of free tickets, some of our residents had the opportunity this fall to see Kenny Rogers, James Blunt and Elton John.

**FEASTING!!** June and Clive Hickson came to the House and made a beautiful spread for lunch on November 21.

**FUNDRAISER—NOV.6!** We had a great evening of storytelling, music and dessert. Thanks to all who braved the weather, and came out. A successful event raising just over \$11,000.

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN  
LET NOTHING YOU DISMAY.  
REMEMBER CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR  
WAS BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY ...

OH TIDINGS OF COMFORT  
AND JOY!!

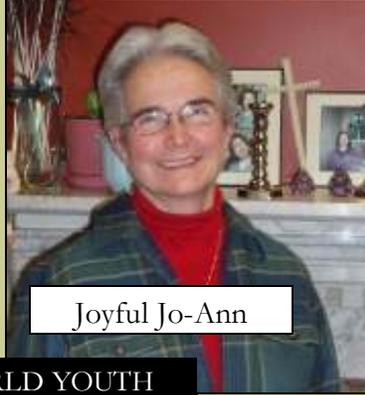
From our family to yours,  
love and blessing this  
Christmas!



PHOTO ALBUM



NEW STAFF (TO LOVE AND KEEP IN PRAYER)



Joyful Jo-Ann



Adorable Ayla

VOLUNTEERS FROM CANADA WORLD YOUTH



Neil



Dheeraj



House of HeseD T-Shirts



JUNE & CLIVE'S FEAST DAY



June & Clive know how to make our tummies happy!



# Thank You

Cathy A. who delivered a fabulous perogie dinner compliments of Gordon King,  
 The Bridge Church for bringing us Shepherd's Pie and Goodies  
 Trinity Baptist Ladies Group for hosting a ladies' night out for our girls and giving gifts for all our residents  
 Keith who cheerfully gets our groceries every week  
 JP, Adam, Matt and Co. for volunteering to pick up Winnipeg Harvest items  
 Dave for coming every Tuesday evening  
 Paulette for coming every Wednesday evening  
 Heather P. for coming alternate evenings for a long time now!  
 Stan for coming every Wednesday morning  
 Sister Claire for coming every Thursday  
 Richard L. for coming every Thursday evening  
 June and Clive for picking up Winnipeg Harvest Bonus and a host of other things  
 Cam for maintaining our web site  
 Our Board of Directors (Harold Jantz, Gord McNabb, Phil Kernaghan, Sieg Wall, Rodney Jersak)  
 Saturday Night Church from Landmark for their support  
 Starbucks on Broadway for Coffee and Treats every Friday  
 Everyone that helped out with our 10th Anniversary Fundraiser

*All the Individuals, Churches, and Businesses who support us in prayer, encouragement, financially or all of the aforementioned ways.*

*Jesus, without Whom Hesed would not exist*



### PRAYER REQUESTS

Health and safety for our residents, volunteers and staff.  
 Financial support—especially in this time of uncertain Global Economics.

*A Special Thank You* to the Canada World Youth Organization who provided us with 2 wonderful volunteers for the last three months. Thank you to *Dheeraj & Neil*- all the best in India, as you volunteer there for the next three months.

### SOME FINANCIAL GIVING OPTIONS

You can now direct your donation to House of Hesed through your employee deductions for the UNITED WAY, ALL CHARITIES CAMPAIGN (which directs Manitoba Government employee deductions) and **now... CANADA HELPS.ORG !**

All you need is our charity number: 83209 8214 RR0001 Super Easy...Super Appreciated!

**NEW MAILING ADDRESS**

House of Hesed P.O. Box 2102 Winnipeg, MB R3C 3R4 204-772-4793

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House of Hesed (Manitoba) Inc. Charity Registration #83209 8214 RR0001

THANKS TO KONE FOR PUBLISHING THIS NEWSLETTER

