



House of Heseed

Spring 2005

... building a place of loving kindness

Heseed 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.

“The Learning Curve”

Katie Cameron



I'm sure you will agree with me, it's nice to see the grass again. It's amazing how the sunshine and warmer weather brings joy to our residents. Our commitment has been tested during the bleak months of winter. We have had some tense moments with regard to illness. We made several trips to the hospital by ambulance. We're well into a new year and things are just moving along here. We had two residents move out in the last few months and we welcomed another resident. We continue to have several potential residents on our waiting list.

I've been here almost nine months now and I'm beginning to see the big picture! Not everyone loves our residents or our work as much as we do. In the area of funding, I have become very aware of how little is available for people with HIV/AIDS. Yes, our residents have a nice home and people to take care of them (thanks to our generous supporters). Many others are out on the street with no one to care for them or to take care of them. Can you imagine being in this situation? The government is funding treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS. I think they have done a great job in educating the general public in issues surrounding the AIDS epidemic. I am amazed at the treatment that is available now to improve the quality and quantity of life. People are living longer now with HIV/AIDS. Where are these people living and who is taking care of them? Manitoba does not have any place for these people to go but to look after themselves.

People with HIV/AIDS in Winnipeg are our modern day “lepers”. They are often abandoned by friends and family when they are first diagnosed with the disease. It's heartbreaking to hear our residents tell their stories. One resident recently told me, “My mother wouldn't pick me up at the hospital, even if I paid her.” We have several people on our waiting list. In a conversation with a potential resident, he told me, “They've been mean to me ever since they found out I was positive. I don't know how they found out.” He's looking for a safe place where he will be accepted. An aunt, referring to her niece, said, “I don't know what to do with her.” The stories are endless, some more heart wrenching than others.

It is difficult to be the sole caregiver of a person with HIV/AIDS. This disease manifests itself in many ways. It is often difficult to distinguish what is HIV related and what is due





“The Learning Curve” (cont)

to some strain of virus that is “in the air”. Well, I hope the viruses are finished now. We make many trips to the doctors with various residents and I’m sure it must be frustrating for them to try and unravel the mysteries. As I watch our residents, I often think, “There, but for the grace of God, go I.” It could be me, it could be my children or someone else close to my heart who is suffering the effects of a terrible disease. We cannot do this work without the prayers and financial support of dedicated donors. Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.” Isn’t that what life’s all about?

On another note, do you know of someone who would be interested in our mission? We are always looking for contacts in the business world who may be able to help us. A few corporate donors, donating on a monthly basis, would be very helpful. Don’t forget to tell others about us. If you’re interested, why wouldn’t they be?

We send this newsletter with lots of love! On behalf of our residents and staff, we thank you!

Katie Cameron



Kristina on Love-N-Care and House of Hesed

Hello. My name is Kristina, and I am from Indiana in the United States. I moved to Winnipeg in January of 2004 to work with a non-profit organization called Love-N-Care Canada. The directors of Love-N-Care (LNC) are Al and Paulette Revet. LNC is located in the heart of downtown at 376 Notre Dame Ave. We reach out to the nations around us, sharing the Gospel and ministering to the needy. There is also a Discipleship Training Centre. Our website is www.lovenecare.ca. Right now, the Lord has our primary focus on new immigrants. These immigrants face so many challenges when they arrive; many have come from refugee camps. LNC has the privilege of helping with these challenges, from the weather to the completely different food and culture. In return, the relationships that have developed have enriched our lives and broadened our view of the other side of the world.

LNC has had a relationship with the House of Hesed since before its inception. We regularly pray for the House of Hesed, and bring ministry teams to see the incredible work that goes on there. Moe is just the best!

Through this connection between LNC and the House of Hesed, I began volunteering. I now regularly volunteer every Tuesday. I love my time at the House! Not only is it rewarding, but fun too! The staff and residents are great. I learn new things with every visit, not just practically, but also about the joy in serving others. I would encourage anyone to inquire about volunteering at the House of Hesed. I am blessed every time I am there!

Kristina Eddins

Thanks and Thanks again

All praise, glory and honour to our God, our provider who takes exceedingly great care of all of us here at House of Hesed. Because of His compassion, mercy and generosity, Hesed is able to continue to provide a loving home to men and women living with HIV/AIDS in Winnipeg. Abba gets all the glory, but the following individuals greatly Bless us on a daily basis.

Neil Warkentine for all his “handyman” work around here

Barry and Darlene Rowley for grocery shopping

(cont. on next page)



HESSED FUNDRAISER



JUNE 16TH, 7PM (Thursday!)

- * Rev. Troy van Ginkel - Minister, Gordon-King Memorial United Church →
- * Dessert reception, bake-sale, and live music by Colleen and Rob Kwade
- * At Portage Ave. MB Church, \$15 per ticket
- * Come and celebrate with us!



Come and Help at the Fundraiser

We need some willing and able folks to help!

25 people would just about do it. If you can come at 10:30AM, or even 1PM, or maybe just to help cleanup afterwards, please give the office a call at 772-4793 weekdays 9-4, and let us know you'd like to volunteer!

Invitations will follow shortly. If you aren't on our regular mailing list, please call 452-1826 for tickets!!!

Also with Dean Jenkinson - an awesome Christian comedian you will love!



Thanks and Thanks again (cont)

Kristina Eddins for her willingness to help out wherever we need her

Phillip Schmidt aka the Phlower man for his faithful weekly visits and the beautiful flowers he always brings

Darlene (DoDo) Feakes for Wednesday evening meals. Best Macaroni in Winnipeg!!

Winnipeg Harvest for providing so much wonderful food

Rodney Jersak and **Joe Podosky** for picking up all that wonderful food from Winnipeg Harvest

Jessica Schellenberg for spending many afternoons keeping a certain resident out of trouble (playing games)

Starbucks on Broadway for donating pastries and coffee every week

Annette Stadt for picking up all our goodies from Starbucks, **Heather Plett** for bringing sunshine and energy to our residents, **John Rademaker** for keeping us supplied with meat, **Harry Lehotsky** for letting us use New Life Ministries for our staff party. It's a good thing we're not rock stars, hey Harry!!!

Thanks to our all financial donors - because of your generosity we can pay our wonderful staff and all our bills.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for healing for our residents as well as a greater intimacy with Jesus
- For protection, wisdom, discernment and health for our staff
- That all staffing/volunteer requirements would be filled
- That our stair lift/elevator would get installed very soon
- For favour with city officials



