

# House of Heseed

## Winter 2006

*... 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.*

### Why We Give to Heseed

We are continually humbled when we think about how God has blessed us with so many faithful and generous supporters. Whether it is with time or resources, we are truly thankful for being chosen as the recipients of their gifts. Although there isn't room to personally thank everyone who has given over the years, we would like to acknowledge some of those who have been committed to us for a long time. We asked these friends the question: "What is it about House of Heseed that causes you to give up your time and/or money?" These are their responses:

"The work of Heseed grabs the heart and won't let go; stirring the soul to see new possibilities. I've met people who were touched by the hope of helping AIDS victims; who were pleased to financially help gifted people bring peace and comfort to those who know both the physical and social death that AIDS can bring. I've known people moved to compassion through meeting AIDS victims. I've also known people who were moved simply by the staff's (and especially Moe's) energy and uplifting spirit. But what really grabs me is Vision; a vision of compassion, acceptance, love and hope. There are always good works to be done; and always good people to do them. And there are usually not enough resources to complete them. This is the reality that most help-groups face. Every time I'm with the staff and residents, whether it's a major fundraiser or just lunch at the House, I feel the Vision. I see it lived out. And that stirs my heart. That's what makes me say, 'Thank you, God, for giving me my journey with the House of Heseed. Thank you, God, thank you.'" (Pastor Troy van Ginkel, Gordon-King Memorial United Church, Winnipeg)

***"We have been supporters of House of Heseed since its inception. We got involved because we truly believed that those who were suffering from the effects of this terrible disease needed a place of peace and rest with love and acceptance. Truly it is a place where the love of Christ is put into action in a very tangible way."***  
(Herb and Erna Buller)



*"When...asked why I volunteer at the House of Hesus I thought, 'It's LOVE, unconditional Love.' You see, I once had someone who was very dear to me who had HIV/AIDS. He has since passed on. Now, if I can do anything for someone who can use my help, I'm also doing it for Warren. Our Lord says go out and help others and, as I wish to do as He says, I will give where I can." (June Hickson)*



"I have always had a heart for people living with HIV/AIDS. When I first heard about plans to establish House of Hesus I was excited and eager to support this venture and get involved. Two years ago I was privileged to come on board as a volunteer. I often think to myself If Jesus was walking the earth today this is where he would be hanging out. and so I come expecting to meet Jesus here. And so I do, in the caring staff, the wonderful residents, and in other faithful volunteers." (Heather Plett)

"We are proud and pleased to be associated with the House of Hesus because of its compassionate Christian care for people struggling with HIV/AIDS. While some in our society have been exposed to a harsher and judgmental form of Christianity, this ministry continues to display the gentle love of Christ as it upholds the dignity of its residents. The longer I serve in Winnipeg, the more I am impressed with the House of Hesus and its unique calling to serve hurting people in the heart of our great city." (Pastor Brian Brglez, The Bridge Church, Winnipeg)

*"To God, our city is not measured by the height of our tallest buildings or the wealth that passes through our hands, but rather in how we treat those who are most vulnerable. I love the House of Hesus because it's a place where people who are vulnerable - physically or socially - know the truth that no one has to be particularly strong to be loved. I think it's this deep awareness that has turned Hesus into something more like an amazing family than a program." (Pastor Nathan Rieger, Winnipeg Centre Vineyard)*

"For me, being a volunteer at the House of Hesus is about a ministry of presence. Just being myself in a place where others are also just themselves. Being present to the residents means not having to 'do' but simply be there for others as needed; a friendly face, a helping hand, an open and caring person who listens and responds in a non-judgmental and caring way. It also means being open to relationship. I have established friendships with a number of residents, and I look forward to seeing, talking, and just being with them. I play games, have conversations, or simply companion them in the house on their own unique journey. Learning to just 'be' has been an important lesson for me as a volunteer. I have no expectations for myself other than to affirm the residents and support them in simple and caring ways. I receive from them much more than I give. My gift to them is my presence; their gift to me is relationship and their trust." (Joël Simpson)



*In memory of Harry Lehotsky who entered into "New Life" November 11, 2006*



*I'm grateful that Harry loved all of us so much that he did whatever it took to make this city a safer, more beautiful home for everyone. Harry was a friend to me personally, and to the ministry of House of Hesus. He will be forever loved and sorely missed.*

*Thank you Virginia, Matthew, Brandon & Jarod for sharing your Beloved with all of us. Our prayers are with you, Larry & IdaLyn, Ramona, Fred, John & Carmela and everyone at New Life ministries and the Ellice cafe. Harry knew how to love really well.*

*"Our works are only an expression of our love for Christ". Matthew 25:40*

*"Because we cannot see Christ, we cannot express our love to Him (physically). But our neighbours we can always see and we can do to them what, if we saw Him, we would like to do to Christ." Mother Teresa*





## FINANCIAL UPDATE



Money. That word is both a blessing and a curse in our society. We've all dealt with its wrath in our own personal lives. Too much greed or too little to spend. We especially feel the emptiness in our pockets in a ministry that is not government funded. We don't like to focus on the money because we know that's not why we are here, but we need the money to continue helping our beloved residents and friends. It's not about us, it's about them and showing them the unconditional, all encompassing love of Our Father which includes providing them with the best physical environment we can (along with spiritual support).

Currently House of Heseed is operating on a budget of **\$12,573.89 per month**. The only guaranteed funding we are provided comes to us by way of rent and food allowances our residents pay to us through either unemployment rent cheques or Canada Pension Plan rent supplements. Government cheques that sometimes arrive and sometimes don't. Occasionally there are long application processes we have to follow leaving us without rent for one or two residents for months at a time. Other than that support,

### WE ARE 100% FUNDED BY GRANTS, DONATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

It is an honest and complete miracle that we have funds for salaries for our 24 hour staff (**\$10,142.39 a month**), groceries (**\$710 a month**), utilities (**\$953 a month**), and other basic necessities including phone, office supplies, promotion, transportation, and maintenance (**\$784.79 a month**). Without your help, the only transitional home in the entire province for those living with HIV/AIDS wouldn't exist. We are currently operating at a **deficit of \$605 per month**.

This brings us to a **total deficit of \$7,800** by March 2007, the end of our fiscal year. Recently, a great man reminded me that Ephesians 2:8,9,10 tells us, "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." It may be hard for some of us to donate time, we are all so busy. Likewise it may be hard for some of us to give money with kids, cars, pets, investments and the gift giving season. There is an abundance of charities to donate to. Why Heseed? Because this may be one of the good works God has prepared for you to do. Whether you are Christian or not. You don't have to give \$10,000 to make a difference. Five dollars means the world if it comes from your heart. If everyone who received this newsletter gave \$5, we'd have over \$3,000 to apply to our debt. So this season and beyond it, please give from your heart.

To people who have lost families and friends because they received a diagnosis, to those who are broken, to those who can't work because they would take too many sick days, to those who would be living in destitute conditions without this ministry, to those who are searching for peace this Christmas Season and all year long.

Heseed needs your help to continue the good work God has prepared for us to do.

- Lisa Melnick -



## Thank You

Winnipeg Housing & Homelessness for your financial support Sister Claire for your faithful visits and smiles

Stan Tataryn for your humour and fix-it skills June & Clive Hickson for your faithfulness and love

Neil Warkentin, Harold Jantz and Fiona Plett for your ongoing support and keeping Hesed running smoothly

Vance & Heather Dawn Taylor for your big hearts and words of love and encouragement

Heather Plett for your commitment and generosity

Mariette Ternowski for your lovely presence Victoria James for supporting us through the prayer network

Advisory Council for your wisdom and encouragement, Herb & Erna Buller for your faithful support and loving us

and to the following churches for your ongoing support:

Gateway Christian Community, The Bridge, Gordon King Memorial, Blessed John XXIII Parish, Westwood Presbyterian,

Winnipeg Centre Vineyard, Cornerstone Alliance, Trinity Baptist, Catholic Women's League St. Theresa's Parish

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**For our Beloved Residents:** Physical, spiritual, mental health.  
Protection for those who have left our home and care.

**For our Beloved Staff:** Encouragement, wisdom, perseverance and protection as they serve and fight for the "least of these". Financial blessing and provision for all their needs.

### HOH Wish List

- \* Towels
- \* Single Bed Sheets
- \* New computer



Do you have email? We'd love to send you our newsletter via email as an alternative to costly regular mail.

Email me at [colleen@houseofhesed.ca](mailto:colleen@houseofhesed.ca) if you'd like to make this change. It would be SO kind of you. Thanks!

*Jesus humbled Himself.  
He went from commanding  
angels to sleeping in the  
straw.*

*From holding stars to  
clutching Mary's finger.*

*The palm that held the  
universe took the nail of a  
soldier.*

*Why? Because that's what  
LOVE does.*

*- Max Lucado*

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