

the frontline

Siloam Mission Summer 2011

Changing lives for 23 years



Housing for the homeless - finally!

It's been a long time coming, but it was worth the wait.

After years of pursuing housing options for Winnipeg's homeless, Siloam Mission recently purchased the Wolseley-area Madison Memorial Lodge on 210 Evanson Street.

The 87-unit housing complex will provide dry, supportive housing for guests of our overnight shelter who want to transition into self-sufficient lifestyles, but need supports in place to help them achieve their goals.

Siloam Mission took possession of the Madison on April 1, 2011 following a year of negotiations with the Madison Lodge organization.

Siloam bought the building and received a combined \$1.2 million in funding from all three levels of government to help cover the renovation costs, which include a complete makeover.

Siloam Mission has been meeting the basic needs – food, clothing, shelters and health care -- of Winnipeg's less fortunate since 1987, but the crucial missing link in transitioning people off the street has always been safe, affordable housing.

We are excited that this opportunity is *finally* here.

Siloam Mission is a connecting point between the compassionate and Winnipeg's less fortunate.

THANK YOU!

"When you did it for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me."

Mathew 25:40

Add your voice to the conversation on homelessness and poverty.

Connect with us online!



Renovating The Madison

The facility is run down and in dire need of repair. In the coming year, we will renovate the four-storey building top to bottom to meet building code specs and provide a safe space for residents turning a new page in their lives.

Our goal is to create a dignified place where people can start rebuilding their lives – a place that people are proud to call “home.”

To avoid bedbugs, the finished suites will have metal box springs, vinyl mattresses, metal bed frames, metal/plastic furniture and be completely void of carpet or wood.

Suites are expected to be renovated by **Spring 2012**.

Who Will Live In The Madison?

The Madison currently houses 75 people with mental and physical disabilities. Some of them have chosen to stay and others are moving on into more permanent housing.

Siloam will work with existing tenants to coordinate the renovations, which will happen one floor at a time.

Once renovated, we will start moving some of our own shelter guests into the Madison as rooms become vacant.

All residents will work closely with a case manager to build their capacity, and will be asked to refrain from alcohol and illegal substances.

Siloam anticipates that all residents living at the Madison will form a strong community that will not only benefit themselves but also the Wolseley neighbourhood.

Only The Beginning

The purchase and renovation of The Madison is only the beginning of our vision for Winnipeg's inner city. We would love to change the landscape of our city's core by creating more supportive homes for people coupled with social enterprise jobs that will employ and train them on their journey toward self-sufficiency. Stay tuned as we continue to pursue our vision in the coming years!



What I have at THE MADISON

“What I already have at The Madison that makes it a home is my own privately locked room and the common cafeteria, where I go every few hours to have a meal with my friends. And that’s a very good thing, my friends here. Not having friends, over the long run, can only lead to depression.”

-A letter from a current resident at The Madison



I Have A Story To Tell

I was born in 1960 in Fort Frances, Ontario. I was adopted at birth but would not find this out until I was 16 years old.

I grew up on a farm and my father was an alcoholic, although I didn't know what this meant until I became an alcoholic myself.

My parents would often take in up to seven foster children at a time. Because there were so many of us, we had to share bedrooms and beds.

When I was about seven or eight, one of these foster children molested me. I told my mother about it and I remember her telling my father, who then hit her and gave her a black eye.

I think my life changed forever on that day.

When I was 12 my father died of alcoholism.

Working summer jobs during high school, I saved up enough money to attend Confederation College in Thunder Bay, Ontario. I graduated in 1980 and got a good job.

Although I drank a bit in my teens, I was now turning into a regular binge drinker. Two years later I was fired because of my drinking. That same cycle continued until

the 1990's when my mother died.

I bought myself a house, kept a steady job and remained sober for five years. By this time I was estranged from my sister and wasn't happy.

In 1999 I sold my house and moved to Winnipeg. Within six months my drinking escalated and I lost my apartment. I was lonely and miserable.

I was now using Siloam Mission's shelter on a regular basis.

One morning in July of 2010 I just couldn't get up. This went on for three days. On the fourth day I had a feeling that I have never felt before. I was so empty emotionally. I was tired and scared.

I went to Siloam Mission and talked to the staff at their on site health centre. They called the mobile crisis unit.

Through their help and support, I went into treatment.

Today I am sober, living at a sober second stage recovery house and living a much different life.

Ron has been sober for 7 months. He still drops by Siloam regularly to say hello and catch up with staff.



"I truly believe that my life would have been over if Siloam Mission hadn't been there for me over the years."

In Transition

We often talk about transition at Siloam Mission – helping people move forward and achieve their full capacity.

That change might happen in really small but significant increments, like a person letting down their barriers and starting to smile at volunteers. Or, that change might come in big steps like someone checking into treatment and kicking their addictions.

We recently launched our Transition Services program to help people transition in both small and big steps. The focus of the program is goal setting and self-determination for our guests.

It starts with a client filling out a questionnaire that evaluates where they're at

in six different areas: physical, health, social, personal/spiritual, employment/education and financial.

Together with a transition services worker, the client then identifies their strengths and weaknesses, and establishes goals they want to work on.

Once the goals are set, the transition services worker and client determine what steps to take to meet those goals. The client then checks in with their worker once a week to report on progress, which keeps them accountable.



In addition, the client is surrounded by a Circle of Care – a team made up of Siloam Mission staff from all departments that encourages the client and walks alongside them.

If there is one thing we've learned so far is that all of us – guests and staff alike – are in transition. Some of us just need more supports in place than others.

Yvette's Story

Yvette Waluck used to be afraid of Winnipeg's inner city. Specifically, she used to be afraid of the people that inhabit the city's core.

"I raised my children in the country, I'm not city smart," the Interlake resident says. "I was terrified of meeting up with someone who might come up to me and ask if I could spare some change."

But after enrolling in Red River College's Applied Counseling program on the Princess St. campus, Yvette was immersed in the sights, smells and people of downtown Winnipeg.

A few weeks later, Yvette faced her fears head-on and chose to do her practicum at Siloam Mission – just four blocks from the College – and work directly with the demographic she felt so uncomfortable with.

"I had peace. I knew without a shadow of a doubt that that's what I needed to do," she says. "Once my practicum was over I phoned Siloam and told them I needed to come back as a volunteer."

Today, Yvette is Siloam Mission's volunteer counselor – another piece in the puzzle to help people transition by helping them cope with past and current experiences.

She works directly with the employment-training participants, and meets with them once a week for counseling sessions.

"Human issues are always so complex, and each person is different in how they view the world. What I get to do is just listen," she says. "What a privilege it is to have met the participants I have the opportunity to sit across from. They have taught me a lot."

Yvette is so committed, she makes the one-hour drive into the city even if only one of the participants wants to meet that week.

"It's worth the drive just for that one person," she says. "I count it such a privilege and blessing to be at Siloam and to be doing what I'm doing."

SPONSOR THE MEAL

Our Sponsor the Meal program allows local businesses, churches and schools to partner with us in providing meals to Winnipeg's less fortunate every day. Partners can opt in at four different levels of commitment. For more information, contact Leanne Peters by calling 956-4344 or emailing leanne.peters@siloam.ca, or visit www.siloam.ca

THANK YOU!

A huge and heartfelt thank you to all of our partners who have already come alongside us through the Sponsor The Meal program.

- Alina Schumacher of Schumacher Realty
- Manitoba Pork Council
- E-Care Contact Centres
- Realty Executives First Choice — Shona and John Scappitici
- Protelec Alarms
- DeckWorks
- CHVN Radio 95.1 FM
- Boeing
- Regehr's Printing
- Cardinal Capital Management
- Winnipeg Convention Centre
- River Heights United Church



"I had peace. I knew without a shadow of a doubt that that's what I needed to do."



Radiothon

Tune in to CJOB 680AM on Monday, August 1st for the Siloam Mission Summer of Hope Radiothon

Listen to stories from the heart of inner-city Winnipeg between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.. Broaden your awareness of change that is happening among Winnipeg's less fortunate. Help Siloam's transitional programs develop further by sponsoring part of the radiothon, calling in to match a donation or challenging other listeners to do the same! Visit our website for more details or contact us at 956-4344.

Thank you for making a difference!



Message from the Executive Director



Siloam Mission has always been about caring for those that come through our doors with meals, clothing and shelter – all very important since it's nearly impossible to move forward in your life if your basic needs are not met.

But beyond meeting basic needs, we also want to help people take those steps forward and transition into more self-sufficient lifestyles.

Five years ago we started the Saul Sair Health Centre, which meets people's other basic needs such as medical, dental, podiatry, physiotherapy, massage therapy and counseling. It became apparent that many individuals were not getting their health needs addressed. Since then, we've seen many of our guests make tremendous strides because they received some medical attention.

Last summer we asked our medical professional volunteers to discuss the future of the centre. All of them agreed that the needs of our guests need to be holistically managed.

Too often a person's health is affected by their lack of appropriate housing. In other circumstances they do not follow their doctor's advice because of mental health problems. Many of the people we serve have many barriers that prevent them from getting healthy or moving ahead.

This last year we spent a significant amount of time developing a model for holistic support. We recognized that supportive housing is essential for people, and we bought the Madison Lodge.

The Madison provides a physical base of support for addictions recovery and health. It will also be a base of transition for people as they move towards growing their personal capacity.

Our Transition Services team that we developed this last year will work with tenants to set goals and regularly follow up with them. All of this will add a connection and communication point for tenants to ensure there is nothing blocking a person from a better life.

Volunteers will connect with our guest, providing life skill workshops, mentoring, prayer and spiritual support on an individual basis. This is an opportunity to take people out of the crowd and address their individual needs and hopes for a new life.

There are exciting days ahead at Siloam as we take some significant steps to helping change lives. I hope all of you will help us build this community of change.



Floyd Perras
Executive Director

THE POSTAL LOCKOUT

With 90% of our donations coming in the mail, the postal lockout had a significant impact on Siloam Mission. We lost an estimated \$80,000 in donations, which has pushed us below budget.

Summer is already tough for us because many people go on holidays or simply forget the issues of homelessness continue when the weather warms up.

Thank you to all of our supporters who kept donating throughout the strike – be it online, through their bank or in person. You carried us through!

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO TOWN?

You don't want to miss this year's Annual Gala on November 3rd at the Winnipeg Convention Centre! Why? Actor, singer and philanthropist Tom Jackson will rock the house as we celebrate the change happening in Winnipeg's inner city!

Reserve Your Tickets Call Beverly Bottle at 956.4344 or email beverly.bottle@siloam.ca to reserve your spot! Don't miss it!



Cowboy Party Celebrates Volunteers

We've had a lot of "times" over the past few months – a time for reflection, a time for tears, a time for laughter and a time for some good old fashioned...uh...bronc-busting-line-dancing-half-hitching-saddle-strapping Yee-Haw volunteer appreciation!

Close to 500 volunteers attended this year's Volunteer Appreciation event on May 6th and 7th at the Hitch 'n Post Ranch. The Western-themed party celebrated our 5,008 yearly volunteers with line dancing, games, dinner and prize giveaways.

This year, there was no shortage of things to celebrate – we are encouraged by



constant volunteer support, and we're impressed that people continue applying to donate their time in Winnipeg's inner city.

Summer is always challenging for us because people leave the city or simply forget that issues of poverty exist in

warmer weather, too. So here's a shout-out to all of the volunteers who keep coming back – rain or shine, snow or heat wave.

Know that your time spent here continues to bless so many!

THANK YOU!

The Round-Up

Homeless Help Sandbag When Spring floods threatened Manitoba homes, guests of Siloam Mission sprang into action to help sandbag in St. Norbert and Portage la Prairie

Social Justice Days Students at the Louis Riel School Division spent a few days learning about poverty in their city at a social justice conference organized by their teachers. The conference included four interactive workshops in which students packed more than 1,000 bagged lunches for Siloam Mission's lunch program. Thank you!

Cheddar Off With Cheese Meals at Siloam Mission have a gourmet taste to them these days thanks to a big donation of high-end cheese from Bothwell Cheese.

What You Did In 90 Hours A huge thanks to everyone who participated in

the Winnipeg Foundation's 90-hour Giving Challenge. Our final tally was \$18,863 -- 7th place overall in funds raised, and 2nd place overall in number of donations.



Working Holiday German couple George and Julia spent an entire week of their holiday in Winnipeg volunteering at Siloam Mission and getting to know our guests.

LOVE Winnipeg To kick off the city-wide LOVE Winnipeg event, we threw a big block party for Winnipeg's inner city on

June 7th, complete with hot dogs, live music and face-painting for the kids.

Big Hearts The kind folks at G&L Sales Ltd. on 1010 Logan Ave. must have huge hearts – how else do you explain the big donation of frozen meat, bread, strawberries, bananas and yoghurt? Yup, big hearts it is!

You Can Bank On Manitoba Credit Unions If you're reading this, the mail is being delivered again. But during the recent postal strike, Siloam Mission had no way of getting donations from our annual summer mail campaign. That's when close to 40 Manitoba Credit Unions came to our rescue and collected the donations on our behalf. Thanks to all of you!

All Charities Campaign Every year, all government employees give to more than 1,300 charities across Manitoba. This year Siloam Mission received \$28,000 as part of the All Charities Campaign. Thank you!

Your Support is Making a Difference

Your continued generosity is helping make change happen in Winnipeg.

TO DONATE, please call 204.956.4344 or visit siloam.ca

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