

First Quarter
2021



Newsletter

*A Christian
Community*

KINSHIP COMPASSION HOPE

“He is not here! He is risen, just as He said.” Matthew 28:6

Successes and Achievements

Over the last many months, four of our residents have moved on into independent living. Each of them felt they had progressed sufficiently to try living on their own. We stay in touch with each of them, and welcome them at any time to participate in our programs as they feel necessary; some are even giving thought to volunteering here. We continue to encourage them and hold them up in our prayers.

Recently a number of our men have accepted part time and full time jobs; others are beginning to consider similar paths, including volunteering (as the Covid restrictions are lifted). It's nice to see the men beginning to have hope for a better and more meaningful life than they could have even imagined just a year or two ago. Please join us in praying for each of these men as they progress on their life journey with the Lord.

One Forward House resident shares his progress in life

**Meet
Elvis Marцениuk**



“Forward House has made a big difference in my life particularly these last two years, and it has given me stability in my life. I’m better able to manage my mental stress, and now have more good days than bad ones. The anger/stress management classes have been very helpful, and I’m now better able to deal with my emotions. My Christian faith has grown deeper here.”

Elvis has been with Forward House on two occasions, most recently for three years. He has had mental health issues most of his life, but has progressed to the point of looking forward to moving into an advanced living facility for individuals with long standing mental health issues. He hopes to take a cooking course and do some work as a cook. We are pleased with the progress he has made and look forward to being an on-going source of support in his life.

Forward House welcomes Hennes Doltze ...

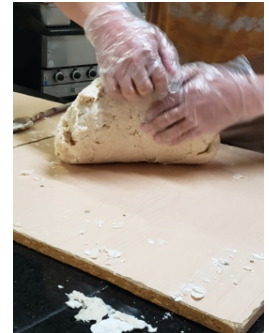


In January, Forward House welcomed Hennes Doltze as Chief Strategy and Development Officer. Hennes has many years of experience working with ministry and social service organizations in Canada and Germany, most recently with the Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services. He has held leadership positions in many organizations supporting individuals, groups and families in crisis, abuse, and with physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychological needs.

Programs & Activities

Active Participation

With the help of private donations, some refurbishing has begun in some of our rooms and common areas. Several residents have stepped forward and have been doing painting, repairing/replacing light fixtures, repairing walls, doing carpentry, cleaning, etc.



Some men continue to learn proper food handling and preparation skills under the guidance and encouragement of Sarah (cook/food service supervisor.)

The men are enthusiastic, taking more ownership of their home. They are enjoying themselves and recognize the therapeutic value of these activities and the positive impact it is having on their outlook and mental well-being, as well as inspiring others. It's really rewarding to watch them working together.

Spiritual Growth



The Sunday Gathering (voluntary attendance) has been active for a year now; held weekly, it involves an online message followed by a discussion/sharing. This Palm Sunday we experienced the highest level of attendance (15, out of 16 residents). A Good Friday Gathering/Communion was held, as well as a Sunday Easter Gathering.

There is growing interest in discussions on matters of faith and the application to the men's lives. Several are regularly reading devotionals and other spiritual books. It is encouraging to see a deepening interest in learning and developing a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Health and Well-Being

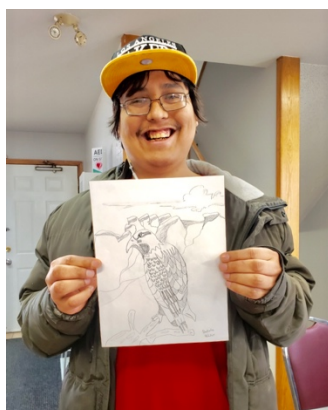
Keeping all of the residents and staff healthy has been a key objective, and we have provided residents with recommended vitamin supplements aimed at boosting their immune systems. While food donations have declined (and resulted in increased grocery costs), we appreciate the weekly donations of food we do receive from the community.

Sarah and her husband are expecting their first child later this spring - Congratulations! She will soon be taking maternity leave; as a result, **we are looking for a part time cook/food service supervisor** to join our staff as soon as possible. If you know of someone (yourself?) who might have an interest in either working part time in this role or possibly volunteering part time, we'd love to talk with you/them. We humbly ask you to keep this need in your prayers for our ministry.

Coping with Stress – Art Therapy

We shared that we had just begun Stress/Anger Management classes. With Clyde Finlay's return, the men are excited with the progress they are making and the positive impact these classes are having on their daily lives.

Clyde also understands the therapeutic value in art and leads an art class on Saturday afternoons. He is able to bring together the spiritual/faith dimension with the practical skills our residents are developing. It's exciting to observe latent artistic abilities in many of our men.



Your Help Matters

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed and welcomed in many areas. If you have a few extra hours in your week and would like to discuss ways in which you could volunteer at Forward House, we'd love to discuss opportunities with you.

Some Specific Needs

- Replacement of walk-in freezer (estimated at \$10,000)
- Roof replacement (estimated at \$7,000)
- Upgrade of many washroom facilities and fixtures (estimated at \$15,000)
- Upgrade/refurbish individual resident rooms, furniture, mattresses (estimated at \$1,500 per room)

Your Support is Crucial and Appreciated!

The Covid pandemic has had a significant negative financial impact on our ministry. Financial giving and support from individuals, churches and others has declined. In addition, revenue we normally receive from welfare and EIA has been reduced because we have not been able to fill 7-8 vacancies due to Covid. We've taken numerous cost cutting measures, and we are operating the ministry with tight financial constraints. At the same time, we need to continue our programs and services for our residents, as well as maintain our facilities.

We, therefore, appeal to each and every one of you to consider supporting this important ministry, and if already doing so, please consider increasing your support to keep this ministry going. As important, please **keep this ministry in your prayers**, as we believe the Lord has and will continue to bless our efforts and those we are attempting to help. Please consider asking your organization or church if we could present our ministry to them with a view to supporting this rewarding ministry outreach.

We need your help, as we help those in need.

You can give online through *Canada Helps*, accessible through this link: <https://forwardhouse.ca/how-you-can-help/donate/>; you can also mail your check or gift cards to: Forward House, 407 Chalmers Avenue, Winnipeg MB R2L 0G3.

Thank you ... know that your continued prayers and financial support sustain us.