



**Genesis House**  
Shelter for Abused Women and Their Children

January 2021

# Genesis House

Check us out on Facebook @genesishousesouthernmanitoba and Instagram @genesishousesouthcentral!

## COVID 19 UPDATE

Genesis House residential support and crisis services for women who experience violence are OPEN and available. We are limiting outside visitors to the building as much as possible and screening all clients with the Shared Health Screening Tool. We are beginning to accept donations again in a limited capacity. We are asking all visitors to the building to call ahead before they come.

### The Impact of Covid 19 on Women

- **Shadow Pandemic**—increased rates of reported and unreported domestic violence against women and girls. Calls to crisis lines increased in some places and decreased in others where victims were locked in with their abusers.
- **UN Secretary General urges all governments around the world to create concrete policy responses in four areas:**
- **FUND**—essential services on gender based violence
- **PREVENT** –gender based violence through public education campaigns and enforcement.
- **RESPOND**—to survivors needs for services like crisis lines, shelters and justice responses even during lockdown
- **COLLECT**— data to improve programs, services and policy.

\*2020 UNwomen.org

### Covid Changes the Course for Genesis House

Covid 19 has been difficult for everyone and our agency was no exception. There has been a lot of uncertainty

Our emergency shelter has and will remain open 24/7 to support women leaving abusive situations. We have been offering telephone and online counselling for follow up clients. We have also been driving by with meals and baked goodies for families in our service. It is important and just feels good to connect.

Genesis House has had to cancel all of the annual fundraising events since March 2020. The fundraising events not only increase our revenue to remain 24/7 but they are also an opportunity to connect with community in a fun way.

This year you will see us doing something different for International Womens day. Working in partnership with the Winkler Chamber of Commerce we will be showcasing local inspiring women in short video clips which will be aired on social media.

We have also worked with Golden Hour Video productions to create an introduction video about the services Genesis House has to offer of and a virtual tour of Genesis House.

Profuzion studios has created short clip which we hope to translate into more languages for use on Facebook and Instagram.

Like everyone else, we hope to return to something more normal in the near future.

### Bella's Castle Tea Party

A collaboration between Pure Anada of Morden and Bella's Castle allowed 70 children to enjoy a princess tea party with proceeds going to Genesis House. Princess Belle aka Lindsay Rae joined the party for story time and some music. The event raised \$1000 for Genesis House!



### Contact us:

Marlin Froese- Chair Person

Marlin.froese@accesscu.ca

Angela Braun—Executive Director

director@genesis-house.ca

**24 Hour Crisis Line**  
**1-877-977-0007**  
**Local: 204-325-9800**

### Shoppers Drug Mart Love You Campaign

The national Shoppers Drug Mart Love You campaign in support of women's health raised over \$4000 for Genesis House in 2020. Winkler Front store manager Mike Agnew noted that the community recognized that some families are having more difficulties than others and stepped up to do what they could to help. Amazing Support!



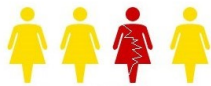
### South Central Aerials Gymnastics Club

After covid ended the gymnastic season early for the South Central Aerials a decision needed to be made for the registration funds received. Organizer Pauline Nickel said the club overwhelmingly agreed to donate to a local charity. The decision to donate to Genesis House was made based on the recognition of how difficult the pandemic has been for families dealing with domestic violence. Over \$2700 dollars was donated!



Box 389  
Winkler, MB  
R6W 4A6

Phone: 204-325-9957  
Fax: 204-325-5889  
Email: director@genesis-house.ca  
Website: www.geneshouseshelter.ca



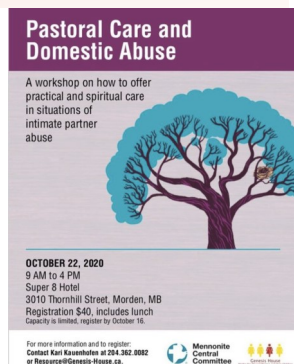
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**Donate at  
CanadaHelps.org**

**We're on the Web!**  
**genesishouseshelter.ca**

### Pastoral Care Day October 22, 2020

Genesis House was joined by 14 participants at our education day on October 22, 2020. We heard from Jaymie Friesen, the Abuse Response and Prevention Coordinator of MCC Manitoba, Cameron McKenzie and Val Hiebert of Providence College. It was a very thought provoking day discussing heavy topics openly and respectfully. We hope to facilitate this type of learning opportunity again in the future. Thank you to those that joined us and were willing to share your perspective.



### Seasonal Greeting Cards Available

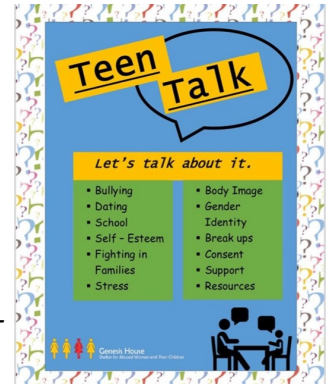
Genesis House has developed a series of greeting cards for all occasions. It was a brilliant idea to engage people of all ages, to use their creativity and talents. The cards are blank on the inside so they are easily useable for any occasion. The cards are available at a number of stores across the region. Cost is by donation. Text 204-362-0082 for more info.



### Programming Updates

*The shelter residential program has remained OPEN throughout the pandemic. We have made some adjustment to non residential programming moving forward in a world with Covid 19. We have been able to provide the Respectful Futures 10 week group at Roseau River First Nation and Morris. We plan to complete the last 10 week program in Winkler.*

*We were able to resume our time at the CW Wiebe Medical Centre for the Teen Talk grant however due to code red we were interrupted again. The grant ends January 2021. As restrictions ease we will resume regular programming.*



### Professional Development

Although there were not many opportunities for in person professional development days the Genesis House team was able to sneak in two trainings. The first was trauma informed de-escalation training with Karen Ridd and Angela Lavallee. The second was ASIST suicide prevention training with Carlucci Education and support. We had to postpone the Kairos Blanket Exercise, Hearing Voices with the Canadian Mental Health Association and Crystal Meth with the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba. The staff were also able to participate in a variety of webinars over the course of the year.

### Season of Giving

An initiative between Valley Fiber and Goldenwest Radio \$7500 was a huge success! Valley Fiber agreed to match community donations up to \$5000 in support of Genesis House. People who donated were also able to qualify for a bump in internet speeds for 3 months. A win all around!



### Amazing Community Support

While the Covid 19 pandemic has taken over most news broadcasts and changed the way we do everyday tasks we have been inspired by the way our community has come together to support our agency and the women and children we serve. The donations are too numerous to count. In our community people have taken the opportunity to turn a very difficult time into an opportunity to bless others. They have thought about how others are managing and stepped up with kindness, even while their own situation may be uncertain. We are humbled by the support. Thank you!