



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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THE COMMUNITY EXCHANGE (TCE) IS AN INITIATIVE IN ALTONA AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITY, THAT EXISTS TO SERVE AS A HUB TO CONNECT PEOPLE TO A NETWORK OF COMMUNITY EVENTS, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES TO SUPPORT LIVING AND THRIVING IN ALTONA AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.

OUR PILLARS



**GATHERING
AROUND FOOD**



**LEARNING FROM &
WITH EACH OTHER**



**PROVIDING A
COMMUNITY HUB**

“MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE EVERYDAY LIVES OF PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.”

REPORT FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

It's my privilege as the Board Chair of The Community Exchange to reflect on our first year of operations. I have to first acknowledge the hard work done by our board. They've led well, rolled up their sleeves and done the hard work of making a dream become reality. I'm so honoured to serve with you. And then there's our staff, who see this as so much more than a pay cheque. Your energy, focus and willingness to go above and beyond your job requirements inspires me. And of course, there's our donors who with your financial support, we've been able to do more than we could have imagined in our 1st year. Lastly, thank-you to our volunteers. None of this would be possible without your willingness to give of your time and energy. We're also so excited to have Paul Peters coming on as our Executive Director this summer. His energy and experience will make a huge difference moving our goals and dreams forward. But there's so much work to be done.

Here's just a few things we dream about:

- Find partners that can help us create community transportation solutions.
- Increase the impact of our food rescue program with more food and more connections with people in need.
- Build on our Café 116 model, with increased community meals, weekly lunches, affordable food hampers, food handling courses, cooking & baking mentoring and so much more.
- Find opportunities where we can bring our community together with evenings filled with local musical talent, see local artists show off their talents, and find ways to come together to explore topics that impact all of us.
- Increase our volunteer base, allowing us to increase programming, as well as our hours of operation.
- Build on our presence as a community hub, making access to local programs and services easier for those in need.
- A big dream, that will take much work, would be to become an active part of the housing shortage solution for our community.

Here's a few stats for you to consider:

- TCE is currently rescuing and distributing food with an annual retail value of roughly \$74,500. We could triple this amount and still fall short of filling the needs in our community.
- TCE's "Sharing the Warmth" has distributed close to 2,000 articles of clothing since its inception.
- TCE greets an average of 200 guests each month.
- TCE works with 18 partnering agencies in our community, who use our space or work together with us to create meaningful programming.

This journey has been so rewarding and heart wrenching for me, personally. Having been a part of TCE since it was first imagined, 4 years ago, to being hands-on over its first year of operations, I can honestly say that I've received so much more than I've invested.

CAL FUNK | BOARD CHAIR

TCE STAFF



(STARTING SUMMER '24)
PAUL PETERS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DIANA WIEBE
COMMUNITY CONNECTOR



KAYLA GIESBRECHT
ADMINISTRATOR



LISA PETERS
COMMUNITY SUPPORT
TEAM COORDINATOR



ROSE MUKARURANGWA
CUSTODIAL STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD CHAIR: CAL FUNK
BOARD MEMBERS: AMAL ABUERAIBAN, CAROL BRAUN, DARLENE ENNS DYCK,
TED ENNS DYCK, VAL KLASSEN, LAURIE SAWATZKY, MARK TIESSEN-DYCK,
PETER WOHLGEMUT

OUR VALUES

CONNECTION	COLLABORATION	COMMUNITY	COMMUNICATION	COMPASSION
				
SPACES THAT ARE WARM, INVITING, INCLUSIVE, SAFE, & WELCOMING. ORGANIC AND INTENTIONAL CONNECTIONS.	OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN FROM & WITH EACH OTHER. ACCESS (FOR ALL) TO COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.	WHAT BRINGS US TOGETHER. SYSTEMS THAT HELP US CONNECT PEOPLE TO A NETWORK OF SUPPORTS & SERVICES ESSENTIAL FOR ACTIVELY LEARNING, WORKING, AND LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY OF ALTONA AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.	ALLOWS THE BOARD & STAFF, ALONG WITH DONORS, THE MEDIA & COMMUNITY PARTNERS, TO CONNECT INTO THE VISION THAT IS TCE. WE SHARE INFO, BUILD RELATIONSHIPS, ADDRESS ISSUES, PROMOTE OUTREACH & ENCOURAGE FEEDBACK THROUGH STRONG COMMUNICATION.	OUR DIFFERENCES. DIVERSITY. PASSION, ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM. INDEPENDENCE AND INITIATIVE. VISION THAT TRANSLATES TO ACTION (PRACTICAL).

PILLAR UPDATES

SINCE TCE WAS LAUNCHED IN SEPTEMBER 2022

FOOD GATHERINGS

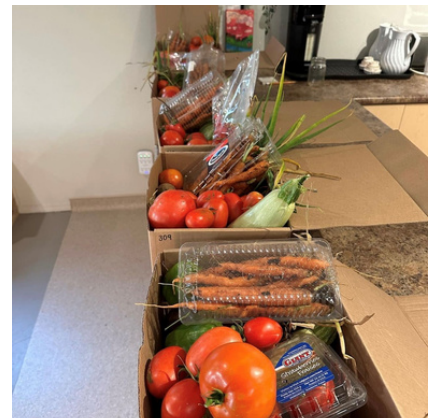
- THE **ALTONA COMMUNITY MEAL** IS A FREE MEAL THAT HAS BEEN OFFERED MONTHLY TO ANYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY. THIS PROJECT WAS INITIATED BY THE ALTONA BERGTHALER CHURCH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TCE. AS OF THIS JANUARY, WE'VE SERVED APPROXIMATELY 2,000 "FREE" MEALS. OUR GOAL FOR 2024 IS TO EXPAND THIS PROGRAM TO TWICE A MONTH.
- **MUFFIN MONDAYS** IS A FREE WEEKLY BREAKFAST DROP-IN, CONTINUING INTO 2024. THIS PROGRAM HAS GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE IT STARTED, WITH SOME MORNINGS SEEING 35-40 ATTENDEES, THAT REPRESENT A BROAD DEMOGRAPHIC FROM OUR COMMUNITY.
- **CAFÉ 116** IS A NEW INITIATIVE THAT STARTED IN THE SUMMER OF 2023. IT INCLUDES FOOD AVAILABLE DURING OUR, MONDAY, THROUGH THURSDAY DROP-IN HOURS. AS OF FEBRUARY 2024, WE'VE ADDED WEEKLY LIGHT LUNCHES AND OUR HOPES ARE TO ADD A WEEKLY DINNER OPTION FOR PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE DEALING WITH FOOD INSECURITY.
- **TOONIE TUESDAYS** IS A COMMUNITY GARDENING/FOOD RECOVERY PROJECT THAT BEGAN IN THE SUMMER OF 2023. EXCESS PRODUCE IS GATHERED FROM LOCAL GARDENS, CLEANED, AND PACKAGED & SOLD TO PEOPLE FOR \$2.00 PER LARGE BOX. IF AN INDIVIDUAL CAN'T AFFORD IT, WE WAIVE THE FEE. THIS PROGRAM WILL ONCE AGAIN BE OFFERED TO THE COMMUNITY IN THE SUMMER OF 2024.
- AFFORDABLE **COMMERCIAL COMMUNITY KITCHEN** USED BY NEW ENTREPRENEURS.



MUFFIN MONDAY



THANKSGIVING MEAL AT DROP-IN



TOONIE TUESDAY BOXES

- TCE'S **FOOD RESCUE INITIATIVE** BEGAN IN THE SUMMER OF 2023, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR LOCAL IGA. WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO OFFER FREE BAKED GOODS, DAIRY PRODUCTS AND MEATS, THAT HAVE BEEN DONATED BY OUR LOCAL IGA. WE ESTIMATE THAT TCE IS RESCUING FOOD WITH A RETAIL VALUE OF OVER \$70,000 PER YEAR. PIONEER MEAT HAS ALSO COME ON BOARD AND DONATED 100'S OF POUNDS OF FARMER SAUSAGE, VALUED AT OVER \$6,000. WE'VE ALSO BEEN ABLE TO WORK WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS AND HELP WITH FOOD HAMPERS AND BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAMS. TCE HAS ADDED AN ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL SIZED FREEZER AND FRIDGE TO MAKE THIS DREAM A REALITY.



TCE FOOD RESCUE SHELF

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE DONATIONS WE HAVE RECEIVED TO DATE, BOTH MONETARY AND TIME. VOLUNTEERS AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES ARE ESSENTIAL TO HELP ALL OF OUR PROGRAMS RUN.

STORIES

CAL WAS RECENTLY TOLD THAT THE FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM AT TCE HAS BEEN LIFE GIVING FOR A PARTICULAR FAMILY. THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD MEAT AND NOW THEY GET TO EAT MEAT.

"CATRINA" (NOT HER REAL NAME) CORNERS CAL IN THE KITCHEN AFTER SHE PICKED UP SOME FOOD FROM OUR FREEZER. SHE SAYS "CAL, IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TELL ME ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS FOR A CHANGE". SEEING PEOPLE LIKE HER MOVE FROM ATTENDEES TO VOLUNTEERS IS ENCOURAGING.

WITNESSING GENEROSITY THROUGH FORGOING RESCUED MEAT THAT "THEY" COULD HAVE USED TO FEED THEIR OWN FAMILY SO SOMEONE ELSE CAN HAVE SOME. HAVING OTHERS BRING IN FOOD FROM THEIR HOME COUNTRY FOR "US" TO SHARE. FOOD THAT WAS MADE WITH WHAT THEY RECEIVED FROM US.

PIONEER MEAT STEPPING UP AND DONATING 600 LBS OF SAUSAGE TO TCE. WE WERE ABLE TO SHARE WITH THE COMMUNITIES OF ROSEAU RIVER FIRST NATION, GRETNA, ROSENFELD, & ALTONA, INCLUDING THE LOCAL FOOD BANK, AND SEEING THAT IF WE'D HAD 2-3X TIMES MORE, WE COULD HAVE DISTRIBUTED THAT AS WELL.

LEARNING FROM & WITH EACH OTHER



- **RED CROSS GRANT PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT** - WE ACCESSED FUNDING FOR WORKSHOPS FOCUSED ON:
 - MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING
 - INTERCULTURAL DIVERSITY TRAINING
 - INCLUSIVITY TRAINING WITH A FOCUS ON THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY
 - INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS
- **ENGLISH CAFÉ:** A WEEKLY LANGUAGE LEARNING PROGRAM RUN BY **REGIONAL CONNECTIONS**. THEY USE THE SPACE EVERY MONDAY EVENING.
- **ALTONA & AREA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER** HAVE BEEN A VALUABLE PARTNER.
- **PEMBINA VALLEY LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (PVLIP)** HAS AN ADMIN PERSON LOCATED IN OUR OFFICE AS OF SEPTEMBER 2023.
- MEN'S GROUP BY **REGIONAL CONNECTIONS** MEETS AT TCE.
- **ALTONA COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK (ACAN)** - DELIVERS WORKSHOPS & INFORMATION EVENTS AT TCE.
- **WORKPLACE EDUCATION MANITOBA (WEM)** - HAS OFFERED WRITING WORKSHOPS
- FINANCIAL LITERACY THROUGH **ACCESS CU** WILL BEGIN IN 2024.
- **GENESIS HOUSE** IS A PARTNER ORGANIZATION THAT USES OUR SPACE & COLLABORATES TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS.
- **"A-TOWN RUNNERS"** IS A WEEKLY RUNNING, WALKING, BIKING, SUPPORT GROUP THAT MEETS AT TCE.
- THE **GINEW WELLNESS CENTRE** FROM ROSEAU RIVER FIRST NATION IS A PARTNER ORGANIZATION THAT USES OUR SPACE ON A WEEKLY BASIS.
- **COMMUNITY STORIES PROJECT** AIMS TO COLLECT & PUBLISH A RANGE OF STORIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY.



TARA WITH PVLIP



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID
COURSE



QUILT MAKING WITH GRANDMA'S
GROUP

STORIES

SEEING LONG TIME RESIDENTS JOIN WITH NEWCOMERS TO WORK ON “THE STORIES FROM ALTONA” BY INTERVIEWING LOCALS WHO ARE NEW OR HAVE GROWN UP HERE AND DOCUMENTING THEIR STORIES.

EXPERIENCING WHAT IT’S LIKE TO HAVE “NEW FRIENDS” THAT SPAN A WIDE AGE GROUP, DIVERSE CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS, COME AROUND CAL AFTER HE JOKES ABOUT HOW HE SCREWED UP THE COFFEE HE MADE THAT MORNING. WITH DIANA’S ENCOURAGEMENT, THEY EACH TELL HIM ONE THING THEY LOVE ABOUT HIM.

SEEING BUSINESSES NOT ONLY OFFER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, BUT ALSO ASK HOW THEY CAN VOLUNTEER.

COMMUNITY HUB

- **DROP-IN HOURS** - TCE CURRENTLY OFFERS DROP-IN HOURS MON. – THURS. FROM 10AM - 1PM. (FOUNDATION FOR OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTORS PROGRAM). WE’RE NOW WELCOMING AN AVERAGE OF 200 PEOPLE PER MONTH AS GUESTS INTO OUR FACILITY. DROP-IN EVENTS PROVIDE A PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO HAVE COFFEE AND SOMETHING TO EAT. BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, THEY HAVE A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE PLACE TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE THEY MAY NOT OTHERWISE KNOW. IT ALSO GIVES TCE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER INTO AN INDIVIDUAL’S JOURNEY AND EXPLORE WAYS TO MOVE FORWARD THROUGH THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF LIFE.
- ALONG WITH THE EXISTING STAFF AT TCE, WE’VE HAD COMMITMENTS FROM THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE TO MAKE TCE DROP-INS’ PART OF THEIR REGULAR SCHEDULE:
 - **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE**
 - **BORDERLAND STAFF AND SOCIAL WORKERS**
 - ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST OUR STAFF DURING DROP-IN HOURS.



MAKING FOOD TOGETHER



- **SHARE THE WARMTH:** THE DISTRIBUTION OF GENTLY USED WINTER CLOTHES TO SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES IN THIS AREA. SINCE OCTOBER 31, 2022 WE'VE COLLECTED & DISTRIBUTED CLOSE TO 2,000 ITEMS.
- **THE COMMUNITY SHOP:** FREE TOILETRIES AND ESSENTIALS AVAILABLE AT OUR LOCATION, FOR ANYONE WHO NEEDS THEM. AS OF JANUARY 2024, WE'VE PURCHASED AND DISTRIBUTED OVER 2,500 ITEMS.
- **SHARED COMMUNITY OFFICE SPACE:** COMPUTER AND INTERNET ACCESS FOR BOTH PUBLIC USE AND FOR RESOURCE AGENCIES HAS BEEN A GREAT ADDITION.
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT TEAMS PARTNERSHIP:** ALTHOUGH THIS IS AN INDEPENDENT PROGRAM FUNDED THROUGH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, IT FEELS LIKE IT'S "OUR" PROGRAM. LISA PETERS RUNS THE PROGRAM AND IS IN OUR BUILDING. SHE CONNECTS WELL WITH OUR STAFF AND OUR GOALS ARE SO CLOSELY ALIGNED.
- **CFS AND DAKOTA OJIBWAY CFS** USE TCE SPACE REGULARLY FOR FAMILY MEETINGS.
- **HEALTHY BABY/SOUTHERN HEALTH:** HEALTHY BABY/SOUTHERN HEALTH CONTINUE TO USE TCE SPACE FOR DROP-INS FOR PARENTS AND BABIES.
- **PEMBINA VALLEY PRIDE:** PARENTS INFORMATION EVENINGS AND GAMES NIGHTS.



COLOURING TOGETHER DURING DROP-IN



COMMUNITY SHOP SHELVES



- **DANCE CLASS:** SPONSORED BY TCE AND REGIONAL CONNECTIONS
- CONVERSATIONS STARTED REGARDING THE CREATION OF A **TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP** FOR ALTONA AND THE SURROUNDING AREA. ADDITIONAL FUNDING, STAFF AND/OR VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO MOVE FORWARD.
- **MB FOOD CURRENCY PROGRAM** IS A NEW PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY TCE AND FUNDED THROUGH THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, WHERE QUALIFYING FAMILIES ARE GIVEN “CURRENCY” THEY CAN USE TO PURCHASE FOOD AT THE LOCAL FARMERS’ MARKET.



REGIONAL CONNECTIONS JOB FAIR HELD AT TCE

STORIES



HAVING A CONVERSATION THAT LED TO SOMEONE FEELING SAFE AND COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO USE OUR SHOWERS AND WASHER AND DRYER FACILITIES. BUT ALSO FACING THE REALITY THAT THEY HAVE NO “REAL” HOME” TO GO BACK TO.

SEEING SOME OF OUR NEIGHBORS FIND A HOME, BENEFIT FROM OUR PROGRAMMING, AND THEN OFFER TO GIVE BACK. BOTH WITH NEEDS LIKE CLOTHING, BUT ALSO WITH THEIR TIME THROUGH VOLUNTEERING AT TCE DROP-INS.

WITNESSING SONYA (NOT HER REAL NAME) HAVE HER FIRST UNSUPERVISED VISIT WITH HER 2 YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEN HAVE HER ASK TO REPORT BACK HOW WELL IT WENT WITH HER CFS WORKER. BUT ALSO RECOGNIZING THAT SHE’S PREGNANT WITH ANOTHER CHILD, THAT THEIR LIVES WILL CONTINUE TO BE COMPLICATED, AND THAT THE SOCIETAL STIGMAS THAT COME ALONG WITH BEING A YOUNG SINGAL PARENT WILL REMAIN.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE	
GRANTS	\$29,290
GIFTS	\$39,568
NON-RECEIPTED GIFTS	\$6,800
RENTAL INCOME	\$13,240
TAX RECEIPTED GIFTS	\$85,821
INTEREST	\$1,377
TOTAL REVENUE	\$174,719
EXPENSES	
SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$39,632
PROGRAMMING EXPENSES	\$15,775
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$20,731
RENT	\$4,000
INSURANCE	\$2,160
OFFICE EXPENSES	\$15,416
SERVICE FEES	\$1,585
TRAVEL	\$189
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$99,488

TCE IS A NON-PROFIT REGISTERED CHARITY CURRENTLY FUNDED THROUGH SMALL GRANTS AND DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS FROM OUR COMMUNITY. **TCE** HAS A VISION OF IMPACTING THE LIVES OF EVERYDAY PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS NEEDED TO HELP US CONTINUE TO DEVELOP PROGRAMMING AND TO OFFER A SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE SPACE IN ALTONA TO MEET THE NEEDS IN THIS COMMUNITY.



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