



AGAPE TABLE

**Nourishing
Community**
www.agapetable.ca



**Please support Agape Table
during this Holiday Season**

Donate online at www.agapetable.ca or use the form inside this newsletter. Thank you!

Message from the Executive Director



Jim Steep
Executive Director

Greetings to all our generous Agape Table supporters, I hope everyone is healthy and staying safe.

August 20th this year, Agape Table held our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament at St. Boniface GC. With a major sponsorship from

Banville & Jones and sponsorships coming from 19 other business, 72 players came together for a greater cause and helped us raise \$22,000 to help with our unexpected expenses from Covid-19. While that represents only 3% of our yearly expenses, we continue to put \$15 worth of food on Agape's tables with every \$1 donated, so \$22K means we can purchase more supplies that are needed and put more food out for our guests.

In 2019 Agape Table served over 2.2 million pounds of food to our guests, our numbers have increased significantly since the start of the coronavirus, we are going to surpass last years' numbers in both food given out and guests that will be helped out.

In 2020 Agape Table celebrates 40 years of serving the community, quite a milestone! Agape Table receives no financial support from any level of Government; for 40 years we have continued to survive solely on the generosity of our donors and supporters like yourselves, to whom we are deeply indebted.

**I wish you all a happy and peaceful
Thanksgiving from all of us at Agape Table.**

Sincerely,

Jim Steep

Executive Director Agape Table

Volunteers and COVID

The pandemic has forced us to change how we do everything at Agape, from whom we let into our building to what we serve. It had a huge effect on our volunteers as well. Our retirees could no longer volunteer with us and all scheduled groups immediately cancelled, leaving us with our core volunteers. Our regulars started to volunteer more often and even recruited some new faces to join us. Soon, we had both friends and families coming to fill our ranks. As the pandemic dragged on, people began to look for ways to get out of the house and thankfully came out to give us a hand. This posed another challenge; due to physical distancing, we were only able to have approximately 15 people volunteering at the same time. We chose to extend our operating hours for volunteering and created three afternoon shifts each week for this very reason. Since then, we have been operating smoothly and remain vigilant in our practices to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, especially during this much worse second wave.

With the world starting to open slowly, we have now decided to start accepting groups with a maximum size of five. Volunteering in the community is a great way to create bonds between coworkers, develop interpersonal skills and build a stronger team in the workplace. For larger organizations that are used to sending large groups to volunteer, we suggest sending several smaller teams to Agape over multiple days. This will have a greater impact in the community as a whole and in turn, ensures that less of your staff is away from the office at a time. For organizations that only have a single day of giving available, we recommend sending

teams to several smaller locations like Agape. This will allow for greater awareness of your organization's contributions to the community as each charity will undoubtedly share the story of your generosity on their own social media posts. This diverse approach to volunteering is an opportunity for a team building discussion back at the office, which will lead to a better understanding of hunger and poverty.

The real heroes of the pandemic are volunteers who risk their own safety without pay, risk recognition, or even a pat on the back (due to physical distancing) to make sure our most vulnerable are fed, clothed, and sheltered. Many of our volunteers are from the very community we serve and are proof that people will work hard for the right reasons. Thank you to everyone who has come out and volunteered during the pandemic. Your contribution is essential to those in need and has not gone unnoticed.

Tyler Engel

Schedule your volunteer experience now!

Call (204)786-2370 or email volunteer@agapetable.ca



Message from the Board 2020



It's hard to believe that it has been 15 years that I have been on the Agape Table board. Directors

were selected because they had a specific skill that the organization required.

That has since changed as folks recognize the need for guidance from the board, service delivery from the staff and the two are separate.

Treating our guests with dignity became one of the cornerstones of our mission statements. We did try to move on from being perceived as a provider of hot soup, to a Center that could also provide some better nutrition and some health-related information. Planning sessions ten years ago focused on how we could provide more for our guests, maybe come counselling about relevant issues (health, finance, legal). However, changes at All Saints church were looming, we needed to focus our efforts on planning for these changes.

Always in the background at Agape Table are the financial concerns. Every year as we prepare budget discussions there is always a worry that there won't be enough contributions to meet our needs, or really the needs

of our guests. Heavy reliance on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter donations seemed to lead to a lot of insecurity about our ability to pay bills, but we always seem to find away, whether it be from a higher power or the hard work and dedication of the board and staff.

Substantial board changes occurred about 5 years ago as folks recognized the burden of some of the tasks and the limits to their ability to contribute. Some members were feeling exhausted after planning for the move for about 4 years, therefore, over those 5 years the board has almost completely changed. The new members offer a wide variety of skills, and the enthusiasm they bring to the organization bodes well for the future of Agape Table.

In spite of the current situation with the pandemic, Agape Table hasn't slowed down. We have an enthusiastic board, and staff who are dedicated, guests, who, for the most part understand that we can't provide indoor service as usual. The future may be uncertain, but it IS certain that Agape Table will be there to help fill this need in our community, and to provide some of our hungry residents with a bit of respite during these difficult times.

David Patton

Board Member

Board of Directors

Cathe Umlah
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Guy Chartier
Vice Chair

Scott Webber
Treasurer

Courtney Weinstein
Secretary

Brian Degagne
Andrew Feeney

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Message from the General Manager



Throughout the world a lot of things have slowed down or stopped completely since the coronavirus became a global pandemic earlier this year.

Fortunately or unfortunately depending on your outlook, we have not, hunger never takes a break at Agape Table. Since the end of March 2020 Agape table has seen a 62% increase in guests coming to our door in need of a meal within the same time frame from 2019. This year July alone we served 11236 bagged lunches to those in need and we don't see it slowing down any time soon.

On the brighter side, Agape Table has learned to become just as resilient as some of our guests. By being in contact with

the public health officials regularly, and constantly tweaking safety protocols so we can serve our guests better, we can proudly say that we have not missed one day of service since Covid - 19 hit our city. Without any funding from the government or the United Way, that is an amazing fact that we are very proud of.

During these unprecedented times, while you are trying to keep your family and community safe through the fall and over the Thanksgiving holidays, please think of Agape Table and the community we serve. For every (\$1) dollar **you** donate we can provide (\$15) Fifteen dollars worth of food for our guests.

Dave Feniuk



Your generosity changes lives!

Please donate to Agape Table



First name _____ Last name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Here is my gift of: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other _____

My Cheque made payable to Agape Table is enclosed

I prefer to use: Visa Master Card # _____ Expiry date _____

Visit www.agapetable.ca or send in this form with your cheque or credit card information

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