



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

Thank you so much to all of our Agape Table supporters! It is genuinely heartwarming to see how generous our donors have been as we navigate the obstacles presented by Covid-19. For a 100% donor funded charity experiencing unexpected expenses from a pandemic, thanks to our donors, we ensured that a day of nourishing the community was never missed.

While it is unfortunate that our number of meals served keeps increasing, we feel fortunate that we are able to meet the rising demand for food, a basic human need.

Many thanks to our staff and volunteers for your continued dedication and inspiring spirit, and to our Board of Directors for your unwavering support.

**From everyone at
Agape Table, we wish
you a peaceful and
joyous holiday season
and a happy and
healthy 2021.**

Sincerely,

Jim Steep

Executive Director Agape Table





Ray

I began volunteering at Agape around the beginning of the CoVid pandemic approximately seven months ago. I originally thought that this would be a short term investment but I can now honestly say that I am hoping

to stay for many years to come. I am a relative “newbie” compared to my fellow volunteers but this is what I can say with much certainty. Agape is a place guided by the principles of unconditional acceptance, respect and deep appreciation for your contributions. It is a place where age, gender, sexual orientation and social status are irrelevant and where teamwork, pride and common courtesies, like “please” and “thank you” are in abundance.

CoVid brought me to Agape Table but it is the cause, the positive work environment and mostly the people I work with and work for that keeps me coming back. I’ve found my “happy place”.

So, if you have time please join me as a volunteer or alternatively please consider giving a financial donation.

Ray Ali

John



John is a much loved and valued member of our Agape Team.

In 2013, John was a

wandering soul who decided he needed a serious change in lifestyle and wanted to reset his mind, body and soul. He went to a number of agencies who turned him away, but when he came to Agape Table, he was welcomed immediately with open arms and given a position in maintenance. John feels strongly that day saved his life and gave him purpose. Soon after that day, he was awarded Volunteer of the Month at Agape Table and Volunteer of the Year for Volunteer Manitoba. Shortly after that, he became a permanent staff member at Agape Table.

John walks to Agape Table every morning at 5:30 and gets our operation up and running. His story is one of many heartwarming tales that show the unconditional love of Agape Table.

News from the Volunteer Coordinator

The pandemic has been incredibly challenging for all of us. At Agape Table, we have been taking every precaution to minimize the possibility of transmission. Our staff and volunteers must always wear masks and face shields. To make sure that we don’t have anyone working with a fever, we check the temperature of our team with our fancy laser gun. We regularly ask our team to wash & sanitize their hands and change their gloves while volunteering. Our workstations are two meters apart and we limit how many volunteers we have in the building to around fifteen to ensure that we reduce our exposure to one another.

We would not have been able to continue handing out five hundred bagged meals daily without the help of our volunteers. They are our friends, our family, our heroes, and the best of our community. We are forever grateful for their support during this difficult time.

**Are you Interested in volunteering?
Contact us Today!**

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

Tyler Engel

Message from the Board 2020

Well, 2020 was a year we'll all remember. Back when we were ringing in this New Year, we could have never imagined what lay ahead and how the word "pandemic" would ultimately affect us all. Now as we approach the holiday season, we have an opportunity to reflect on what we've seen and how we've adapted to a new reality.

COVID-19 brought an unprecedented year for everyone, including Agape Table. Like many organizations, we were forced to completely change our operational model; from community style seating inside, to bagged meals to-go. Our dedicated staff and volunteers reacted quickly. They made the necessary changes to ensure the safety and health of our guests, and provided appropriate sanitation when needed.

The pandemic has been difficult in many ways. But, with all dark clouds, silver linings can emerge. This pandemic has shown me the heart and empathy of our donors - contributing during a time when demands are high but resources may be tight. Winnipeg truly stepped up to further our mission at Agape Table, and we couldn't be more appreciative.

Our staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly in the face of COVID-19 to ensure that our guests still had a safe space to visit - even socially distanced - and have a warm and healthy meal. They completely adapted our business operations in the space of a week to make sure that not one day of meals was missed during a time of such uncertainty.

To the Agape Table staff: Jim, Dave, Tyler, Karen, Al, John, Vishali, Ashley and Aaron - for you, we are so thankful. You have brought such hope to the guests of Agape and we appreciate your dedication.

To our volunteers; the regulars, the organized groups, and the individuals who lent us a spare morning of time - thank you. Without your help, we could not continue to operate and serve Winnipeg's most vulnerable.

To our guests - thank you for being patient with us while we navigate this new world, and thank you for bringing your kindness to the door each day.

As inspiring as some of our experiences have been with the dedication and empathy we've seen in Winnipeg, we've also learned that COVID-19 does not discriminate. In the span of only 6 months, our daily numbers of meals served has more than doubled, and they continue to rise.

Now, more than ever, we need to rely on our friends in the community to help us come together and ensure that everyone who needs our support, can rely on Agape Table for a sense of community, and a warm meal. If you're able, I ask that you please consider making a donation to Agape Table as we enter the holiday season. Your support ensures that we are able to provide the care and respect that our guests deserve.

I think we'd all like to put 2020 and the word "pandemic" behind us. But as we reflect on this past year, I am proud of the way we were able to respond and react. Things looked a bit different this year but with your help, we have stayed true to our mission and made a positive contribution to our community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff at Agape Table, we thank you, and wish you a happy holiday and all the best in 2021.

Emily Sanders
Board Member

Board of Directors

Cathe Umlah
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Guy Chartier
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Brian Degagne
Andrew Feeney
Jennifer Frain
Cassandra Montanino
David Patton
Emily Sanders
Members at Large

Agape Team

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Reg. Charitable Number

10668 7833 RR0001



Message from the General Manager



2020 has been a very tough year, many of our staff, volunteers, donors, board members and guests have had to adapt to what is becoming the “new “normal.

Along the way many of us have had to deal with work closures, a loss of a loved one, learning the new math so you could teach your kids at home, and looking after your own mental health. With that in mind it is sometimes difficult to think of other people who may be struggling with poverty, physical health issues, mental health issues and/or emotional health issues.

We have projected serving approximately 110,000 meals and giving out almost 2.3 million pounds of food to the men, women and children of our community who need our

services this year. At Agape Table, we strive to bring awareness for our community that can't always speak for themselves, or are seldom heard.

Because of donors like YOU, this is all made possible! Agape Table is 100% donor funded and does not receive any funds from any layer of government. A simple token or gesture, given in the spirit of Agape (unconditional love) is the greatest gift of all. For every dollar donated, we can turn it into \$15 dollars of food for our guests.

From the Staff of Agape Table, our guests, and myself I would like to wish you a very safe and happy holiday season.

Dave Fenick



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 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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Phone: 204-783-6369 **Email:** treasurer@agapetable.ca