



**Nourishing
Community**
www.agapetable.ca

HOPE for the FUTURE



Agape Table is the longest running food program in Winnipeg. For the past 44 years Agape Table has provided food and comfort to Winnipeg's most vulnerable and marginalized population, operating from leased spaces and church basements.

Guests who visit Agape Table include seniors, students, single parents, low-income families, the unemployed and under-employed, the homeless, new immigrants, people with disabilities, and others struggling to feed themselves and their families.

Agape Table provides between 600 and 900 meals each weekday morning. In addition to this morning meal program (the current lease restricts operations to weekday mornings only), Agape Table also runs a family Hamper Program twice a week.

The word 'Agape' is defined as meaning 'unconditional love' (gr). Agape Table embraces a non-judgmental, unbiased, and respectful attitude toward all who ask for assistance.

If you are hungry, you will receive food - it is that simple! Everyone is welcome at Agape Table, and each meal is accompanied by a warm smile and a healthy helping of kindness and respect.

The statistics are staggering The reality, frightening

Since 2019, the number of people seeking food assistance has increased nationally by 78.5%. Agape Table has seen an increase of over 80% during the same period!

On August 27th, 2024 between 7am and 11am, an unprecedented 1010 individuals received a bagged meal at Agape Table.

In August of this year, Statistics Canada released a report stating that nearly one-quarter (23%) of Canadians will need to access food assistance programs in the next six months.

Current Challenges

Due to inadequate space to accommodate the tremendous increase in need, as well as numerous challenges with safety and accessibility issues, (open stairs, no elevator, limited storage and more), bagged meals are distributed by volunteers to guests from a plastic banquet table on the sidewalk in front of the current location in the basement of the Wave Church on Furby St. This has been the case for close to five years regardless of weather conditions and throughout the Covid pandemic.

continued on page 2

HOPE for the FUTURE (continued from page 1)

There is no room to invite our guests indoors for or a meal, and limited space for our volunteers to prepare the meals required. The current space is not accessible to anyone with even the slightest mobility challenge.

'A New Home for Agape Table' Capital Campaign

Several years ago, concerned and challenged by the rising demand for food assistance, Agape Table developed a plan for the future that would address the ever-increasing need in our community. A permanent home, with an increased capacity to feed more people, the potential to extend hours of operation, and resume and expand cancelled support programs was identified as critical.

In May 2022 Agape Table purchased the property and building (352-356 Furby St) adjacent to the current location in the basement of the Wave Church just north of Portage Avenue. A Building Committee was formed, and working closely with Pico Architecture and Bockstael Construction (with Board, staff, guest, and volunteer input) plans were developed to construct a new 10,500 sq foot building next to the existing 5,600 sq foot brick building located at 356 Furby St.

Fundraising efforts to fund the \$8 Million Capital Campaign began in December 2022 led by a dedicated and committed Capital Campaign Fund Advisory Committee comprised of community volunteers and Agape Table staff.

A milestone was reached in early September when total donations and pledges to the Campaign reached 50% of the \$8M goal. We anticipate that by mid October we will exceed 60% of what is needed to complete this key project.

A Ground-breaking event will be held on the site of the future building on Thursday, October 10th.

We invite you, our Agape Table Friends, and anyone and everyone who cares about the welfare of others to join us on this journey. We want to do more. Help us provide Hope for the Future to those who struggle with hunger and poverty.

Jim Steep

Executive Director
Agape Table

Kate Brenner

Chair, Fund Advisory Committee
Agape Table Capital Campaign



To donate to the A New Home for Agape Table Capital Campaign or designate your gift to support our key daily operations visit www.agapetable.ca and indicate your wishes. All gifts are gratefully accepted, and tax receipts are issued for gifts over \$20.

On behalf of Agape Table and myself, I would like to say thank you to all the Sponsors, Volunteers, Golfers and everyone who supported the Agape Table 2024 Charity Golf Tournament. We were amazed by the dedication and commitment of all who attended, despite the soggy weather conditions. To see everyone golfing, enjoying dinner and having fun together all in support of Agape Table was especially heart-warming.

With Thanksgiving quickly approaching, I am reminded of all the hard work that volunteers and supporters of Agape Table continue to provide

to ensure our guests get nourished. With food demands rising, now more than ever volunteers are needed to meet the needs of our guests. Again, thank you to all our amazing volunteers. If you, your family and friends, team or workplace are interested in helping make a difference in our guests' lives please contact:

Aaron@agapetable.ca or call 204.783.2370.

Aaron Scarff

Volunteer Coordinator

Message from the Executive Director



Jim Steep
Executive Director

At this time of year, I am reminded of how much we at Agape have to be thankful for. You, our loyal supporters, have enabled us to meet the challenge of serving approximately

200 guests per hour! Imagine how much passionate work our volunteers and staff do to get food out the door to that many guests every weekday morning. I continue to be amazed and thankful for our donors, volunteers and staff.

This is a very exciting time for us all, as you can see from the front page of this newsletter. "New home for Agape Table" project is a passion driven concept that will enable us to

expand and improve our services to the community. Thank you to everyone who is dedicating their time and effort to fulfilling this dream.

Agape Table Mission - "To enhance the lives of those in need by welcoming everyone to our table without judgement or bias, offering food, fellowship and support." Your monetary contributions as well as donations of food and time enable us to continue this mission.

We at Agape Table wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Jim Steep

Executive Director
Agape Table

Dear Friends,

As we approach this season of gratitude, I am thrilled to share that I have joined the Agape Table team in the role of Donor Development. It's truly an honour to be part of an organization dedicated to serving our community, and I'm eager to contribute to the important work being done here.

With a background in community development and non-profit management, I have always believed in the transformative power of community involvement. This conviction drives my passion for giving back, and I am excited about the opportunities ahead for Agape Table as we strive to create positive change together.

As we gather with loved ones this Thanksgiving, let's take a moment to remember those in our community who may be facing challenges. Your support

is vital to our operations, allowing us to provide essential services to those in need. If you are able, I kindly ask you to consider donating to help sustain our efforts. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant impact and helps us continue our mission.

Wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with joy, warmth, and gratitude. Together, let's continue to strengthen our community and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,

Sam Braemer

Donor Development
Agape Table

Agape Team

Jim Steep
Executive Director
jsteep@agapetable.ca

Dave Feniuk
General Manager
davef@agapetable.ca

Aaron Scarff
Volunteer Coordinator
aaron@agapetable.ca

Samuel Braemer
Donor Development
sam@agapetable.ca

Vishali Wadhwa
Bookkeeper
vishali@agapetable.ca

Ashley Evans

Al Rogowski

John Thompson

Board of Directors

Cathe Umlah
Chair

Guy Chartier
Vice Chair

Kelly Hudson
Treasurer

Simon Garfinkle
Secretary

Jason Stevens
Advisor to the Board

Jessica Court

Delaney Ellis

Cassandra Montanino

Nick Noonan

David Patton

Brenda Vosters

Members at Large

**Reg. Charitable
Number**

10668 7833 RR0001



Message from the General Manager



Agape Table has been on the front lines helping the marginalized community of Winnipeg for over 44 years. As the cold winter months approach, and thousands of Winnipeggers struggle with hunger, homelessness, and

isolation, they make their way to Agape Table.

Our guests come to Agape Table for food, but it is so much more than that. Our guests look forward to a kind smiling face handing them some food and a sense of belonging, they look forward to what might be their only positive interaction that day, they look forward to not being judged because they find themselves in need.

Our staff and volunteers believe the “Agape” way is the best way, treat everyone as an

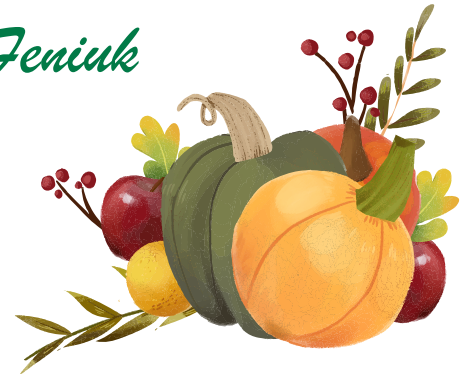
equal and unconditionally. Agape Table’s Thanksgiving meal is one more reminder to our guests that they are not alone in their daily battle and that they matter.

Agape Table and our guests are thankful this season for you our donors, with your support we can continue to provide nourishing food and strengthen our community.

Agape Table and You are truly making a difference in our guest’s lives.

Thank you & Happy Thanksgiving

Dave Fenik



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: \$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

If you would like to become a **Monthly Donor** please call **204-783-6369**

I prefer Visa Master Card # _____ Expiry date _____

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

Mailing Address: PO Box 26111, Winnipeg, MB R3G 3R3 **Physical Address:** 364 Furby Street
Phone: 204-783-6369 **Email:** treasurer@agapetable.ca