

Finding Fellowship at a Soup Kitchen

"My mom gave me the gift of writing," Brian shared. "When I was a child, I would come home from a bad day; she would give me a pen and paper and tell me to write it all out."

This practice of "writing it all out" stayed with him into adulthood and became an important outlet during difficult times, including during his experience with homelessness.

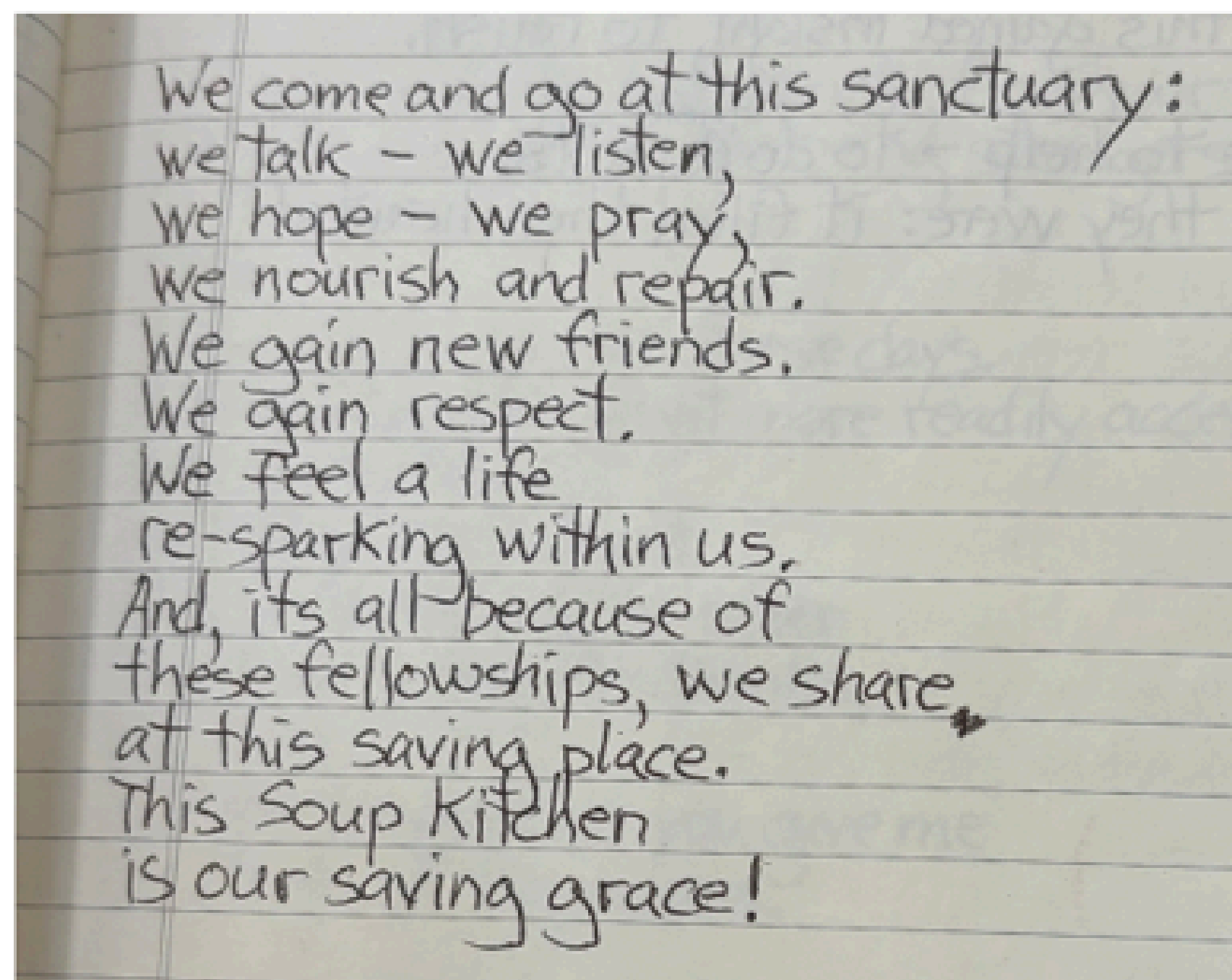
Growing up on a 57-acre market garden farm, Brian remembers being surrounded by an abundance of fresh vegetables. In 2010, Brian found himself unhoused and staying in the Westbound Broadway bus shelter.

During this time, Brian was introduced to Agape, at the time located in All Saints' Church on Colony Street. He explained that "you need to be out of the bus stop before the buses start to run, so I would head over to Agape for breakfast."

Brian began helping our team set up for the breakfast program, "Agape provided me with food and clothes, so I was happy to help out." He continued to stay connected with Agape as we moved over to the Wave Church.

During my conversation with Brian, he reached into his backpack and pulled out a brown notebook filled with handwritten poetry. Brian flipped to a poem titled *A Soup Kitchen* and handed me the notebook.

It quickly became clear that Brian's poems acted as a record of his life, representing memories, feelings, and the people and places that have shaped him.



***A Soup Kitchen - Fellowships, Part III* by Brian Smith**

We also discussed the shift from a sit-down breakfast to a bagged meal, a result of the pandemic. Brian shared the disconnect he recognized because of this change.

When asked about our new home and reopening to guests, he smiled, "I am really looking forward to it. The socialization and camaraderie are what the community needs." Brian and I spoke about how the sharing of stories and perspectives between guests, volunteers, and staff is a very meaningful way that community can be built.

Today, Brian has an apartment nearby, and he helps his landlord with upkeep and tasks around the property, work that reminds him of the farm.

Brian's experience is a reminder that a meal is more than food; it is a vehicle for building relationships, sharing experiences, and fostering respect and belonging.

Thank you, Brian, for allowing me to share your poetry and story with our community. - Seren Jocelyn, Marketing & Fundraising Coordinator

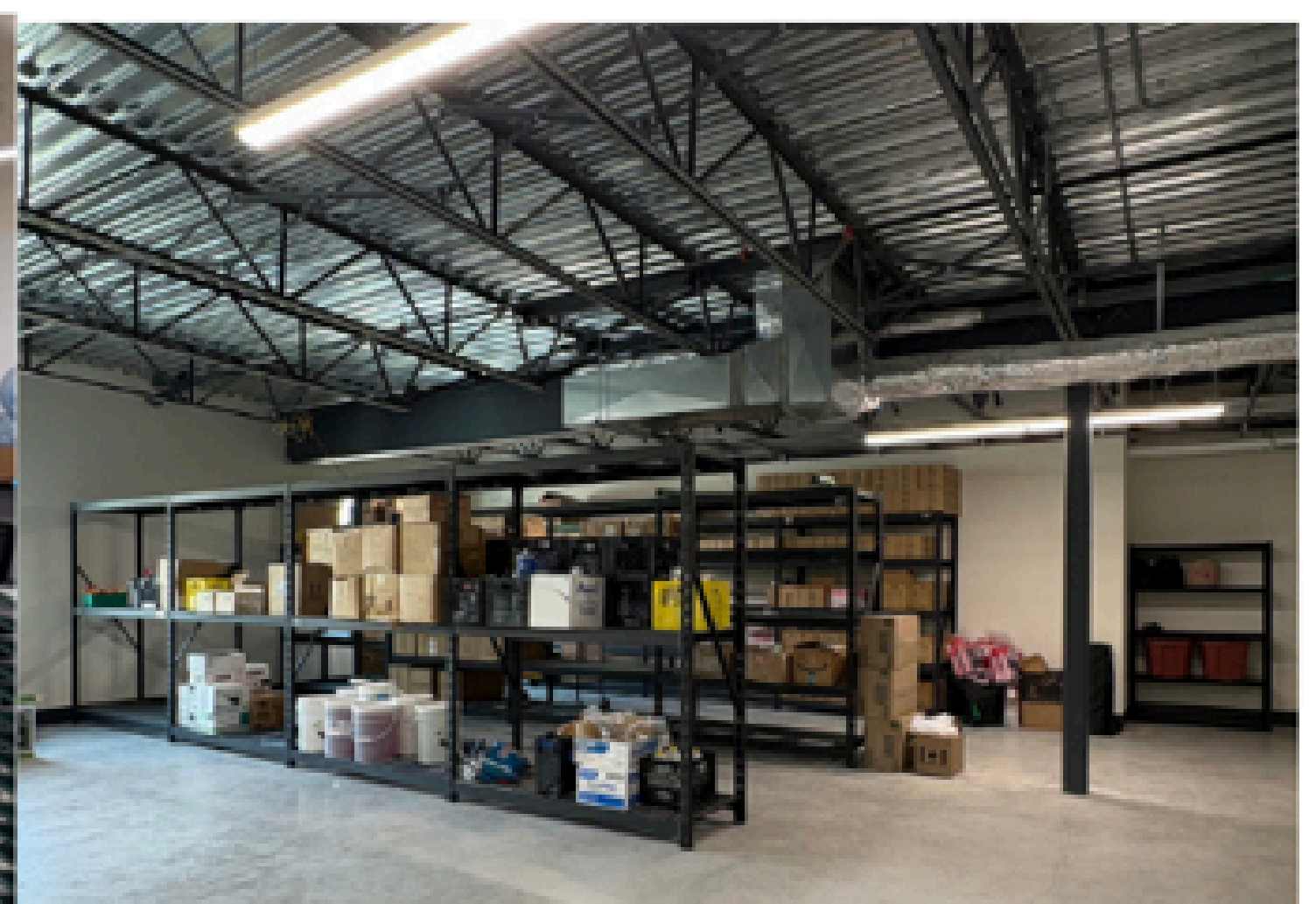
Step Inside Our New Home

It's official. Agape Table has moved into our new home. We are very excited to welcome our guests back inside in the coming weeks to receive nutritious food, comfort, and support. We are grateful to all who helped make this critical community need a reality.



Our new home is the first building and first community kitchen in Manitoba to achieve the prestigious pre-construction Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) Gold Standard. Creating a physically accessible space was a top priority to reflect our ongoing commitment to creating an environment that is welcoming, inclusive, and respectful for all who enter.

Notable highlights of our new home include a welcoming dining room where guests can enjoy nutritious meals, a commercial community kitchen, multiple washrooms, a dedicated loading dock for donation intake, and expanded cold and dry storage space. This space creates opportunities for future growth in programs and resources, as well as increased capacity for food recovery and waste reduction in Manitoba.



Agape Table's Grand Opening



On **May 7, 2026**, Agape Table held the grand opening of our new home. Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate this milestone after more than 45 years in rented spaces.

A special thank you to Elder and Chief Pathfinder at Native Clan Organization, Brian McLeod for blessing our new home. Thank you to the Honourable Nahanni Fontaine, Minister of Families, Accessibility, and Women & Gender Equity for bringing greetings from the Province of Manitoba, and to Councillor Sherri Rollins for bringing greetings from the City of Winnipeg. Additionally, thanks to Obby Khan, Leader of the Official Opposition, for his attendance and support.

Finally, thank you to our friends at Stella's Cafe and Bakery for generously providing all the delicious food and refreshments for our special day. Your ongoing partnership, including weekly donated food and support for this event means so much to our team.

Member Statement



On **May 21, 2026**, our new home was recognized in the Legislative Assembly. The Honourable Uzoma Asagwara, Minister of Health, Seniors, and Long-Term Care presented a member statement during session. Thank you Minister and all of the MLA's for celebrating this exciting milestone for Agape Table.

Non-Profit Spirit of Winnipeg Award

Thank you to The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce for selecting Agape Table as the recipient of this year's Non-Profit and Social Enterprise Spirit of Winnipeg Award.

This event gathered individuals, businesses, and non-profits to celebrate innovation, sustainability, and community. We are honoured to be among such an inspiring group of changemakers who are striving to make a better Winnipeg every day.



Left photo by Mike Sudoma, provided by The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce.

We need sponsors & prize donations for our annual charity golf tournament!

Tuesday, August 18, 2026
Southwood Golf & Country Club
Contact us: info@agapetable.ca
To learn more visit: agapegolf.ca



Can you help provide meals and comfort to our guests!

Yes! I want to support Agape Table's mission.

Visit agapetable.ca to donate online



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