

## Our Mission

Thrive Community Support Circle is a diverse agency dedicated to offering services that are inclusive to all persons, in all stages, to cultivate life, provide opportunities for empowerment, and to grow the community we serve.

## Our Vision

Thrive believes in the potential of people and communities to grow and create change in a positive way. Through our community services including the programming, therapeutic counselling, drop in, thrift shop and child care, we provide opportunities and support to individuals to create this change in themselves and the community as defined in their personal journey. By working in cooperation with partnerships of other community agencies; recruiting qualified, caring and like-minded staff, volunteers and donors, and by respecting each person's individuality, we provide community members with professional and supportive service within the context of our resources.

## Board of Directors

Louise Adams (The Late), Founding President  
Marni Waggoner - Chairperson  
Morgan Vespa - Secretary  
Lena Pitsanuk- Treasurer  
Kathryn Gompf- Capital Campaign Cabinet chair  
Rick Sutcliffe - Finance Committee chair  
Lana Stevenson - Governance & Human Resources Committee chair  
Mackenzie Swope - Member at large  
Dakotah Nadeau - Member at large

## Committee Members

Darla Hooker  
Liz Prall  
Jennifer Theissen  
Carrie Kulbinski  
Rebecca Mollard  
Stacy Vernon  
Kathryn Gompf  
Todd De Chateveart

mailing Address: 555 Spence Street Winnipeg, MB R3B 2R9

## Administrative Office:

- 406 Edmonton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3B 2M2
- Phone: 204-772-9091
- Fax: 204-774-2161
- Executive Director: rhondaaliaspenner@thrivewpg.com
- Executive Assistant: cynthiamoon@thrivewpg.com
- Facebook: @thrivewpg
- Web: thrivecommunitysupportcircle.com

## Program Rooms \* Counselling & Wellness Department:

- 406 Edmonton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3B 2M2
- Phone: 204-772-9091
- Fax: 204-774-2161

## Thrive Resource Centre:

- 406 Edmonton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3B 2M2
- Phone: 204-775-9934
- Fax: 204-774-2161
- resourcecentre@thrivewpg.com

## Thrive Child Care :

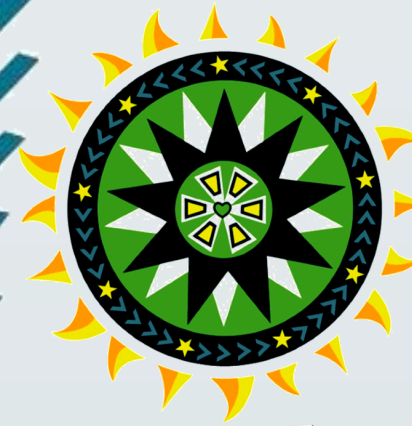
- 100-475 Sargent Ave Winnipeg, MB R3B 2V7
- Phone: 204-779-5093
- E-mail: karenbryce@thrivewpg.com

## Thrive Thrift Shop: Temporarily Closed

- 555 Spence Street Winnipeg, MB R3B 2R9
- Phone: 204-783-9281
- thrivethriftshop@thrivewpg.com
- Like us on Facebook

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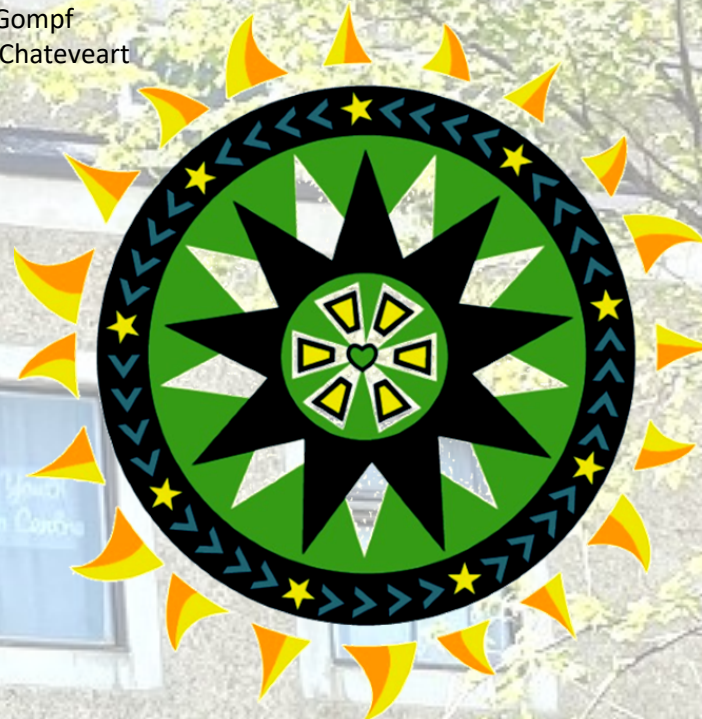
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# Thrive

Community Support Circle

## 50th AGM REPORT 2022-2023



thrivewpg.com  
204.772.9091

# 50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD

### Chair Report

In the last 12 months, the Thrive Board of Directors has undergone a restructuring which includes a complete member turnover. This change, while significant and not without new challenges, has allowed for innovation and growth with regard to how the board works. The net result is there has been noticeable benefits for Thrive, its stakeholders, funding partners, participants, and the community at large.

The new restructured board of directors is different from the past as it is not strictly a policy and strategy driven board. The change has shifted the board to a more robust role, acting as a collaborative, volunteer “working” board. This means that board members perform their fiduciary, strategic, and governance duties, as well as being available to assist with some of the day-to-day operational activities.

The board has been focusing most of its energy to support Thrive through various operational challenges at our temporary 406 Edmonton location. This is combined with the due diligence and planning tasks required to ensure the successful and sustainable redevelopment of the 555 Spence location.

Furthermore, the board has also been actively engaged in strategic planning, by-laws review, and board recruitment, orientation, and education initiatives, as well as attending to short and long-term financial planning exercises and overview.

Our goal is to present an updated 5 year strategic plan and amended by-laws at the 2023-24 Annual General Meeting. With good luck, we will be back at 555 Spence within that time frame.

The board is thankful for its many partners including Rhonda Elias-Penner and the Thrive team, the volunteer sub-committee members, mentors, community members, building partner, as well as various government, foundation, and private donors.

We look forward to collaborating with Thrive’s many supporters over the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Marni Waggoner  
Chairperson, Board of Directors  
Thrive Community Support Circle



### Donors

Albert and Louis Plamondo  
Anonymous Funder  
Arni Thorsteinson and Susan Glass  
Assiniboine Credit Union  
Brian and Jennifer Theissen  
Blue Cross  
BSI Insurance  
Canadian Bridge Federation  
Canadian Women’s Federation  
Cardinal Foundation  
Carolyn Coffin  
Sisters of the Grey Nuns  
Catholic Women’s League  
Chan Medical Corp - Jennifer Chan  
City of Winnipeg - Cindy Gilroy  
Craig Miller  
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Darla Hooker  
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Christine Davis  
Direct Farm Program  
Diva Delights – Angela Hussman  
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Early Learning and Child Care  
Elena Caliguiri  
Elizabeth Marr and Nicholas Solonsky  
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Geoff Katz – Kay Four Properties  
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James Kornishon  
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Kenaston Common Physiotherapy  
Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg  
Knights of Columbus

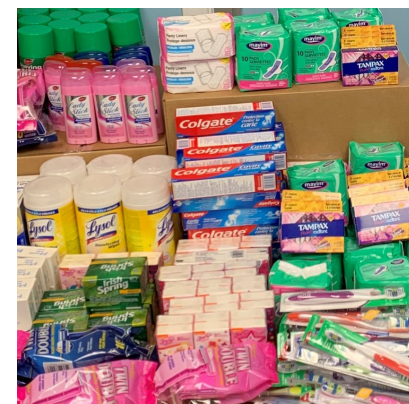
Lisa Shewfeld  
Lisagh King  
Marni Kaul  
Newcomer Employment Hub  
Pam Steinman  
Peter Tessier and Marni Waggoner  
Pollard Family Foundation  
Private Donors  
Manitoba Blue Cross  
Manitoba – Department of Families – Rochelle Squires  
Manitoba – Department Art, Sport and Culture – Obby Khan  
Manitoba Government – BSC Grant  
Rebecca Mollard  
Red Cross  
Red River Co-Op  
Red River Mutual  
SEED Winnipeg  
Shauna Filuk  
Shima Gharib  
Sigfusson Northern Ltd. – Warren Sigfusson  
Signey Styles  
Spence Neighborhood Association  
Stefan Home Builders – Sandra Douglas  
Stevenson Family  
Damia and Anna Stipanovic  
Susan Storey  
Kristie Pearson  
Talbot Foundation  
Telus  
The Cumming Event – Kristi Cumming  
Thomas Sill Foundation  
United Way  
Wellington Altus  
Wendy Krovats  
Winnipeg Building and Decorating  
Winnipeg Foundation  
Winnipeg Chamber Orchestra  
Wyatt Foundation

### Partnerships

Brenda Boughton  
Canadian Financial Community Services  
CDI College  
Downtown Community Safety Patrol  
Early Learning and Child Care  
End Homelessness Winnipeg  
Kani Kanichuk  
Klinik Community Health  
Manitoba Metis Federation  
Manitoba Institute for Trades and Technology  
Metis CFS  
Mosaic  
New Directions  
No Fixed Address – Al Weibe  
Nobody’s Perfect Parenting Manitoba  
Opportunities for Employment  
Positive Discipline Parenting Manitoba  
Red river Polytechnics  
Resource Center for Youth (RaY)  
Robinson College  
Access – Winnipeg Regional Health Authority  
Street Links  
SPARK  
Harm Reduction Winnipeg  
University of Athabasca  
University of Alberta  
University of Manitoba  
University of St. Boniface  
University of Yorkville  
West End Biz

Our Incredibly dedicated Volunteers from Thrift Shop, Child Care, Resource centre and Administration. The Thrive team - without their dedication and care for the community we could not do this critical work! The Board of Directors who define the vision of Thrive and for their commitment.

*Thank you for your continual support*



## TREASURER REPORT

Thrive received just under 1.5 million dollars in funding over the 2023 fiscal year, the largest amount received in Thrive's history. Funding increased by 180 thousand dollars or 13% year over year. We greatly appreciate everyone at Thrive and the effort they have made in maintaining current funding relationships, while nurturing new funding opportunities.

While Thrive has continued to make gains in funding, Thrive operated at a deficiency for the 2023 fiscal year. The organization is focused on reducing expenses while growing programming to get into a break-even position. Thrive notes we incurred significant one-time costs related to start up fees of our capital campaign.

We are grateful to all the organizations, government bodies and individuals who have graciously continued to support Thrive over the past few years. Thanks to this support, Thrive has remained in a position to provide services that make a significant difference to the community. On behalf of the Board I'd like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support, we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you,

Lena Pitsanuk

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Thrive Capital Campaign Cabinet is working hard to raise the funds necessary to meet our 4.5 million dollar goal. To date, we have raised \$2 million dollars from foundations, grants and private donors.

The funds raised will be used to support the construction of a new building at 555 Spence St. Thrive's existing space is severely limited and cannot meet the growing demand for services. Thrive currently must operate out of three separate locations in the neighborhood. None of these locations is fully accessible. A main inadequacy is the lack of private spaces for urgent care and one-on-one support, which is critical for people experiencing sexual abuse, domestic abuse, or addiction-related issues. The current building has no public washroom.

The construction contract was put out to tender and awarded to Winnipeg Building and Design.

The Capital Campaign Cabinet expects to raise another \$1 million dollars before construction commences in Spring 2024.

### AGM MEETING - THRIVE 2022

Opening: Welcoming & Land Acknowledgement

Opening remarks: Board Chair - Sarah Mann

Board & Staff Introductions: Executive Director- Rhonda Elias-Penner  
Special guests: Madskills, Matt McCormick (United Way), Community members

Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Thrive Office

Call to Order: 5:01 p.m.

Minutes:

1. Motion to accept agenda

Moved: Travis Malkoske

Seconded: Morgan Vespa

Carried

2. Motion to accept AGM minutes from the 48th annual meeting 2021

Moved: Travis Malkoske

Seconded: Morgan Vespa

Carried

3. Treasurer Report: Travis Malkoske

- 2022 shows a decrease in revenue and available funds

- last year, Thrive took advantage of COVID programs and there are fewer programs this year

- if you exclude funding from 202022, there is a lower decrease compared with the last two years

Motion to approve financial statements

Moved: Jamie Gooding

Seconded: Travis Malkoske

Carried

Motion to accept audited statements/Motion to approve Cheryl Reid as the auditor for the 2023

Audit

Moved: Travis Malkoske

Seconded: Marnie Waggoner

Carried

4. Summary of Annual Report and Highlights: Sarah Mann

- new kitchen, expansion project, addition of Counselor

- challenges during the pandemic that Thrive used as an opportunity to better serve the community

5. Agency Highlights: Rhonda Elias-Penner

- 20,000 served at the resource centre, meeting food needs

6. Guest Speaker: Community safety group- Glenn/Jess and community members Patrick and Gary

- Community safety group has been meeting since June

- Meet for a monthly walk

- MLA Uzoma Asagwara to attend as a guest speaker

- Meeting format: kudos, speaker or video, sounding board, discussion to end positively

- All are welcome to attend to be part of improving safety in the area in a positive way

7. Motion for ratification of new and amended policies from 2022

Moved: Travis Malkoske

Seconded: Morgan Vespa

Carried

8. No new bylaws to be amended

9. Board positions:

Chair- Sarah Mann, Treasurer: Travis Malkoske, Secretary- Morgan Vespa

Committees:

Fundraising- Marni

Governance-

Capital campaign- Kathryn

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee-

Members at Large:

Motion to accept Board members and positions

Not applicable

10. Special announcements/Tributes: Capital project

- image of the capital project unveiled and will be in the Thrive office

Closing Remarks: Sarah Mann/ Rhonda Elias-Penner

Motion to close

Moved: Travis Malkoske

Seconded: Marnie Waggoner

Carried

## GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### 2022-2023 OVERVIEW FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

Again, Thrive saw significant changes this year, by moving to a temporary space at 406 Edmonton in preparation for a capital expansion of our building at 555 Spence, to a completely new Board of Directors. In our 50<sup>th</sup> year of service to our communities, this year is proving to be one of evolution and change.

As we moved into the third year of pandemic issues, late 2022 saw a shift in the Covid-19 crisis; the pandemic was over and the virus is something we needed to "live with". Despite the "end" of the pandemic, it continued to bring new challenges to the communities Thrive serves and supports.

While Thrive has worked hard to expand service delivery for 'in-person' interactions with our community, we all continue to feel the economic, health, and emotional stress. More importantly, for those most vulnerable the struggle to adjust to the new reality only adds to problems Thrive must manage.

While we all have seen the increased prices of everything, from groceries to gas and utilities, inflation has hit those who are economically marginalized, families, and seniors, particularly hard as they try to provide the necessities of life. Thrive has been instrumental in ensuring our community receives essential needs such as food, clothing, hygiene products, baby supplies, footwear, and outerwear while providing referrals and resources for anything we did not have. Serving a record 20,000 people at our drop-in center this year, while staggering, the increase of individuals and families experiencing complex mental health-related issues, impacting health, wellness, and interpersonal relationships has resulted in the need for more one-to-one sessions, support groups, and crisis assistance opportunities in our programs and services.

Thrive expanded our counselling services again this year, allowing us to support over 8,000 individual sessions in addition to urgent care assistance. Thrive participants were actively involved in directing staff to address the needs and concerns facing the immediate neighbourhood as well as the surrounding communities which led to art-related therapeutic programs, expanded stress release and mindfulness classes, play therapy, and a long-awaited anger management program thanks to training related grants for staff. The addition of these programs offered opportunities for participants to connect with others experiencing similar challenges and reduce their feelings of isolation. The further upside was participants could strengthen families in personal relationships and develop tools and strategies for calming and self-regulation outside of the classes. The stories that were shared by participants had a significant impact on their overall health and wellness and reduced more severe mental health breakdown-related incidents, such as self-harm and domestic violence.



Personal safety has been a factor impacting people's feelings of wellness. Thrive's Safety Club continues to be an integral aspect of community togetherness, belonging, and empowerment for people living in the area. By connecting with the resources, services, and each other to help find ways to improve the quality of life for one another, the strength in numbers approach has helped to replace fear, racism, and misunderstanding, with kindness, understanding, and inclusion.

Please see pages 3 and 4 for the evolution of this community movement and its achievements.

These outcomes could not be possible without the ongoing support of our generous donors, volunteers, and funding agencies. We rely on the ongoing long-term support and the individual program grants to ensure we can continue to have stable core services that address the needs of the community. The private donors, including monetary, volunteer, or in-kind donations allow us to respond to the urgent and immediate needs of the community, Whether it be food or hygiene items, a new program or group, or backpack and school supplies, we rely heavily on the deep personal commitment and generosity of so many of our Thrive supporters who always step up to help us meet the demands of those we serve.

## THRIVE RESOURCE CENTRE

### Programs & Services

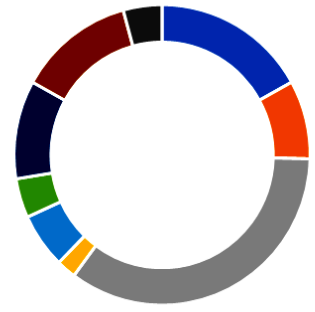
Through 1:1 conversations and focus groups, Thrive's managers recognized that many community members had intense feelings of fear due to traumatic experiences and increased violence both witnessed and experienced during the pandemic. The idea for Thrive Safety Club developed from this situation to a welcoming place to gather, eat, discuss feelings and strategize about how to support the community. The club members decided that monthly safety walks, handing out food and "making friends" in the community was the best way to help people. The slogan developed by the club was "Get out of your comfort zone and into a friendlier, safer community". The logo Safety Spider, spinning a web of kindness and support was created by community member Patrick Cook. The club participants were very motivated, giving weekly KUDOS to those who made the community safer, cleaner and friendlier. Speaker nights and community collaboration was informative and fun, resources were shared, and friends were made. Through funding received from the Winnipeg Foundation, the club members designed t-shirts and we purchased chairs and a big-screen TV for our monthly meetings. Feelings of inclusion and well-being were in the air and laughter was an observable result. TSC members were invited to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly to be honored as special guests of Uzoma Asagwara, MLA of Union Station. Thrive Safety Club received a standing ovation from the house! It was exciting for both staff and community members alike.

Thrive Safety Club is just one example of Thrive Community Support Circle's barrier-free, person-centred mental health programs created specifically to support individuals and community in positive growth and change.

The chart below shows the total tax participants, returns filed and \$\$ outcomes for the fiscal year April 1, 2022 thru March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

FISCAL YEAR TOTALS APRIL 2022 - MARCH 2023	
PARTICIPANTS	386
RETURNS	529
CLASSIC OUTCOMES	\$ 1,098,845.91
GIS	\$ 128,939.03
BENEFITS	\$ 828.50
<b>FULL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,228,613.44</b>

Thrive's Mental Health Programs



- Anger Management
- Art for Wellness
- Counseling 1:1
- Grief Support
- Men's Program
- Mind and Body Wellness
- Social Anxiety
- Thrive Safety Club
- Women's Circle

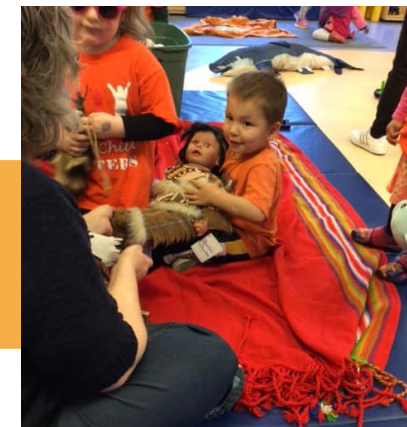


## THRIVE CHILDCARE CENTRE

Due to Covid restrictions we were unable to offer opportunities for families to come into the centre. All our parent meetings were through Zoom until May 2022. Opportunities to involve the families were limited. One highlight was receiving a Literacy for Life grant through The Winnipeg Foundation that enabled us to make book bags for 22 families and to buy a set of the same books to use for conversational reading at the centre. The books covered the topics of inclusion and diversity. It was heartwarming to hear how the books were enjoyed both at the centre and at home. Frequent exclamations of how the subjects in the books looked like themselves or others in the community were heard.

Another highlight of our year was having Todd De Chateauvert, Thrive's Cultural Liaison at the time, come to teach the children and staff indigenous teachings. Everyone loved to have him come and do some drumming and singing with us. Conversations were started amongst staff about Canada's role in Truth and Reconciliation. September 30th, 2021 we all wore matching orange shirts and offered stew and bannock to the community to mark Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We started becoming more aware of our responsibility to expose the children to books and experiences about indigenous people and their history. We received some books through Bookmates and participated in diversity training. We also started 2022 participating in Circles for Reconciliation with Dr. Raymond Currie. We have much to learn and look forward to opportunities to deepen our understanding in the future.

Thrive Child Care would not be what it is without the support of the rest of Thrive and the many community partnerships we have developed over the years. We continue to be proud of our small centre that feels like a family and community. We often have new families come by looking for spots due to a referral from a past family. We also hear how our support has benefited children and families, and the children who have attended are now doing well in school and even winning awards. We have a team of Totally Terrific Thrivers!



### THRIVE TESTIMONIAL

Future Hope is an organization that assists men in reintegrating into the community after incarceration.

We have had the honour of partnering with Thrive in a few areas as well as receiving their supports.

One example is the assistance in obtaining new citizenship papers for one of the men. He was at his wit's end as he had gone to numerous places and had received no support. When he arrived at Thrive not only did he get his problem resolved but he felt welcomed and listened to and assisted. He had not found this in other organizations he went to previously.

We then took part in a safety group meeting where our men were able to tell their life stories and meet other community members and this has led to a continued relationship between Future Hope and Thrive.

In our travels at Thrive, we have met Krista who has been an absolute blessing for her assistance with taxes. For our men completing taxes is stressful specifically if they have not filed for many years. She was kind and compassionate and walked the men through what was needed.

We continue to build a relationship with Thrive for men to volunteer and perhaps in the future assisting others in the community.

We appreciate the services very much and look forward to our continued relationship.

## THRIVE CHILDCARE CENTRE

### A Year of Changes and Recovery after the Pandemic

**Highlights:** Staff and parents took on the task of resuming life after the pandemic. Parents took on the task of returning to work and school in person. Costs of living increased and the main focus was on providing for their families. Staff relearned how to care for the increasing needs of children and families with full ratios as there are no longer funds for increasing the ratio for our Abecedarian program. Focus moved to our inclusion program as we received 20 hours of inclusion funding daily as of July 2022! Cheryl was hired and we were able to retain Sadia and Raechel. We moved to full enrollment with several drop-in spaces for Thrive programs.

Volunteers have been an important part of our program and post covid it has been hard to onboard volunteers. We have had several participants from the RaY and the YESS program to enhance our ratios. As well we continue to have students from MITT. We are thankful for their continued involvement with Thrive!

**ELCC Changes:** Many changes this year and into our next fiscal year. Operating grants have increased (July 22 and July 23) to support staff wages. Thrive has met and in many cases surpassed target wages for July 2024! On August 1st, 2023, it was announced that another 2% increase would happen to cover basic expenses! Appreciated as expenses have increased significantly.

\$10 a day maximum fee for parents effective April 2nd, 2023. Loss of income for the centre will be covered by the Reduced Parent Fee Grant.

3 new grants from ELCC: Quality Early Learning and Environment Grant for improving our environment.

Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion Grant to improve our inclusion program and to promote diversity in our programming.

The Recruitment and Retention Grant is to increase retention and recruitment at our centre.

Funds were provided upfront and will be spent in our next fiscal year.

Two proposals were submitted at the end of the fiscal year to become a funded Abecedarian program and to have GS spaces for the Newcomer Employment Hub. Announced August 1st, 2023, that Thrive was successful in both proposals! We are excited to continue the Abecedarian programming that we started with United Way and expand it. We will be able to have enhanced ratios, a lunch program, parent support staff, an Abecedarian mentor, and support from ELCC and Red River.

**Manitoba Housing:** It was announced that we will be receiving new windows and doors, and a general refresh of our yard. Updates are happening currently.

**Success Stories:** We continue to offer a quality program despite the challenges of the last year! We continue to receive praise from professionals, ELCC, local schools, and families:

"I. is loving grade 1. He's made lots of good connections and comes home all the time so proud of himself for what he is learning. It's so neat to watch him integrate so well into life on the playground and in his class. He's even showing good growth developmentally in other areas too. We're so proud of him. And we remain so incredibly grateful to you and your team at Thrive Child Care for making a home for me. It was probably the best thing we could have hoped for him at that time of his life. ( a child we supported with a label and past childcare disappointments)"

Another report from a caregiver supporting a child with some challenges:" I am so grateful for all the work you guys all have done. K. is a challenging young man. And the staff has helped shape the young man he is going to become. I was going to change K's daycare because we moved so far away. But I chose to keep him in Thrive because I know the great work you guys have done. Thank you so much for being there for K. and me."



## THRIVE RESOURCE CENTRE CONTINUED

### Counselling & Wellness Department

Art and Play- The practice of doing art with others in the room is inherently good for mental health. The organized art activities helped participants talk about their mental health without feeling pressured to share or being overwhelmed by their experiences. All participants stated how much fun they had, and how they left feeling brighter and happier. Working with Thrive has been a very enriching experience in my life due to the true person-centred, trauma-informed approach of the management. At Thrive we look at how we can accommodate all the clients who seek support having very different needs and are challenged with finding places that accommodate these complex needs. We try to cater our programs mostly according to the wishes and demands of the population we work with. – Sanda, Specialized Therapist



The purpose of the Self-Kindness Crew was to create a safe and non-judgmental space for others to develop healthy coping skills and improve self-esteem through shared experiences by growing, and learning together and included a variety of interactive activities. The program was facilitated by third-year Psychiatric Nursing Students from Brandon University and supervised by our Counsellor. Overall, the reviews were positive, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the content, discussion, tools, and resources. Penny, Counselor

Our Family Support Liaison works with approximately 40 families with varying needs. Some of these families need ongoing support in the areas of communication with agency workers, helping establish regular visits with their children, and connecting them to parenting programs and other resources.

Time to Play (Playing Through Stress and Anxiety) and Youth and Young Adult Stress Management were programs developed to look at creative and fun ways to manage stress and reduce the negative impact of stress by learning how to cope in the midst of change. Some activities include making stress balls, watercolor painting, mindfulness and breathing, and using Lego to explore grief and loss. We had a great turnout and developed the group for adults and later for youth as well

Men's Support Circle- Men rarely have an opportunity to share their struggles without fear of judgment. This group is men supporting other men no matter what they are going through. Many men attend when life just gets too hard and they don't know where else to go. Some men regularly attended as a mental health check-in and found it refreshing to be able to talk about their mental health and feel supported.

### THRIVE TESTIMONIAL

"When I came to Thrive last spring, I was at the lowest point of my life. I had lost all will to live and had made a series of plans to end my life. In working with my doctor, St. Boniface Psychiatry, and my local representative Uzoma Asagwara and therapist Sanda, I was introduced to Thrive and their holistic, multidimensional modes of healing. We began with talk therapy to unpack how I was feeling and what my goals were and began CBT & EMDR when I became strong enough in order to heal the compound trauma that I had repressed. In the last year, I have navigated putting a name to the feelings that I had (anxiety, depression, suicidality, and C-PTSD), and slowly worked towards moving through and past those titles."

"In the fall, I completed Anger Management with Glenn and Sanda which helped me to understand how my anger lived in my body and helpful techniques to help me acknowledge this and be able to process my anger as best as I could. I am still learning how to make space for that emotion."

## 2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

### Thrive Childcare Staff

**Jolly:** Supervisor ECE 11- Jolly works hard to maintain quality care and ensure the cornerstones of our curriculum are carried out daily while taking care of the daily problems that pop up. She also has her own group of primaries. Jolly has taken on a year with many changes and challenges with a smile on her face. We appreciate her leading by example!

**Haifa:** ECE 11-Haifa showed her flexibility this year by moving around to meet the needs of Thrive Child Care and Thrive Community Support Circle. She was a strong part of our preschool program and then took some time to support Thrive's Thrift Shop before it closed for renovation. She now has taken on the infant room when Milashu went on maternity leave. We appreciate Haifa's ability to ask questions to ensure everything runs as it should and her strong leadership skills.

**Shannon:** ECE 11-Shannon was on leave twice this year. We appreciate her smiling face and sense of humor. She excels at supporting our outdoor program, and inclusion program and making sure that the centre is full of music daily. Shannon gave notice in August and we value her contributions to our centre.

**Rorie:** ECE 11-Rorie is in her second year of being at Thrive and working as an ECE. Many children love Rorie and she works hard at learning more about the field.

**Soraya:** CCA-Soraya quietly does her job well. She is a good role model to our newer staff, students, and casual staff members as she knows our program well and treats the children with care and respect.

**Maya:** CCA and Abecedarian Mentor-Maya has started her journey to being an ECE 11. She is balancing school work and working 3 days a week at Thrive. Soon she will be adding the mentoring of the Abecedarian Approach when we start as a funded centre.

**Raechel:** CCA-Kitchen Staff-Raechel ensures the children have a nutritious snack program and warms up their lunches. She goes to Harvest weekly. Soon she will take on a lunch program!

**Alem:** CCA- Congratulations on finishing the 40-hour course and learning more about quality care as you spend more time on the floor.

**Sadia:** CCA-Sadia works 6 hours a day to help enhance the ratio for our inclusion funding. She works hard to support the team.

**Cheryl:** CCA-Cheryl joined us in October 2022 to help cover our inclusion hours. She has been a great addition to the team and has fit in very well.

**Essence:** CCA-She has joined us as a sub to cover the days Maya is in school. She moved over from Thrive's Thrift Shop to give childcare a try.

**Milashu:** CCA-Milashu had a baby girl Nadi in the spring. She is on maternity leave. We miss Milashu at Thrive!

**Karen:** Director-ECE 111- It was a busy year filling the big shoes both Rhonda and Jess have left in supporting TCC with all the changes and challenges this year! Many staff and parents have experienced significant trauma this year. I have learned how to be a director, navigated the changes in ELCC, and learned to be a parent facilitator in Nobody's Perfect, Positive Discipline, and Circle of Security. I am on the board of MITT and C4F as well.



## THRIVE THRIFT SHOP

### The big "close"

Sales were low coming out of the pandemic. Seasonal sales continued to be unpredictable as we came out of the pandemic. The agency moved over to 406 Edmonton in December, while we kept the store open over the Christmas season and closed slowly (while remaining open) in January of 2023.

The closure was hard as we had decisions to make as to what display items and shelving we throw away, keep, and where to store it all. We had a small but mighty group of volunteers who helped tear down every shelving unit in all the nooks and crannies of the store. A big thank you to Winnipeg Furniture Services Ltd. for storing our warehouse supplies while we await the new building.

Danielle, thrift shop manager) had gone on a medical leave in November of 2022 and Haifa Akra (from the Thrive Childcare Centre) temporarily filled her position beautifully. She led the team in closing down the store and learned a lot about the store and the agency while doing so.

Due to the pandemic, we did not hold any special events however, we were a partner in Fashion Revolution's Clothing Swap, held at The Forks in April of 2023. They donated \$300 for our involvement.

Another fun partnership was with the Wrench Backyard Bike Giveaway. They gave away 60 bikes to the community and fixed a few dozen too!

Our long-standing volunteer, Sammy, was highlighted for the United Way campaign. As the story tells, he found purpose and confidence through volunteering at the thrift shop, this was after years of living with Schizophrenia and homelessness. We are so proud of him for sharing those intimate details of his life, so that others may hear it and be helped through his journey.

Uzoma Asagwara, MLA of Union Station, was given a tour of the thrift shop by Amber at REES (Reaching E-Quality Employment Services). As a participant of REES, Danielle landed at Thrive and has been one of their success stories.

Our volunteer pool stayed small throughout the year but had many students from different youth programs.

Kristy and Danielle

## THRIVE TESTIMONIAL

"The staff at Thrive has also been integral to my therapy journey, as they make an effort to know every participant and create a safe space for all. I am grateful to Thrive Community Support Circle for supporting me in this chapter and guiding me into the next." -MK

