



A PORT IN THE STORM... YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK SUMMER 2018



DIANA & CONNIE

DIANA'S STORY

“I’m not a weepy person” says Diana McBratney, wiping away a tear, “But things are kind of emotional right now.”

Diana and her sister Connie Wegner are in their sunny suite at *A Port in the Storm (Port)* on a February afternoon. After six weeks in Winnipeg for Diana’s radiation treatments, they’re heading home. Several bags filled with clothes and food line the hall, ready to be loaded into a family member’s car the next morning.

Diana holds up her phone to show a photo of gently rolling hills touched by sunlight. “I can’t wait to look out my window and see this again,” she says.

A year earlier, Diana’s peaceful rural life was shaken up by her diagnosis of uterine cancer. After surgery and chemotherapy, she learned she’d still need six weeks of radiation treatment. Like dozens of other critically ill people from rural and remote

areas every year, Diana also learned that the treatment she needed was only available in Winnipeg.

Already stressed about her illness, Diana wondered how she would cope – both financially and emotionally – while undergoing weeks of treatment far from home.

A nurse at her chemo clinic gave Diana information about patient accommodation options in Winnipeg, including *Port*.

Diana recalls, “I had to find something reasonably priced, because the cost would be on top of maintaining our house and everything else on our fixed incomes.” She adds, “*Port* was really appealing. It seemed homey and I could do my own cooking, which is important because I’m on a special diet.”

Diana was also happy to know that *Port’s* suites have enough room for family members, meaning Connie could stay with her in Winnipeg.

“My husband couldn’t come because he’s got bad rheumatoid arthritis,” says Diana. “I’m lucky Connie is retired and could be here with me.”

Arrangements to stay at *Port* were easily made over the phone. “I wasn’t sure exactly when I’d be coming, but they were very accommodating,” says Diana, appreciatively.

After saying good-bye to her family, and knowing she was facing six weeks of daily treatment, Diana felt pretty overwhelmed when she arrived at *Port*.

“But,” she says, dabbing at a tear again, “the people here are awesome. Judy Zubriski [Guest & Volunteer Manager] was so kind. She always went out of her way to help.” Adds Connie, “Even if it was just to talk, or listen, after a particularly stressful day.”

Diana looks around the cheerful suite, feeling both grateful for it and thrilled to be heading back to her beloved family and home. She notes, “It meant so much to me, knowing my sister and I had a good place to stay each day after the hospital,” adding, “I wish more people knew about *Port*”.

Port is entirely funded through community donations. Please see the back page to learn how you can help patients like Diana who desperately need ‘a place to call home’ when illness takes them far from theirs.

YOU HAVE PROVIDED A WARM SAFE HOME FOR MORE THAN 850 PATIENTS & THEIR FAMILIES.

A PORT *Wish List*...

Your generous donation of any of these items will help make Port as comfortable and homelike as possible.*

- Futons*
- Recliners*
- Coffee Makers*
- Ice Trays*
- Pyrex baking dishes*
- Can openers*
- Blenders*
- Cloth hangers*
- Reading lamps*
- Pillows*
- Bed linen (double/queen)*
- Shower curtains*
- Towel sets*
- Desk lamps*
- Throw pillows*
- Dinner sets (matching plates, cups, bowls)*
- Knives*
- Cutlery*

*We only accept new, unused items. Donations can be dropped off at: A Port in the Storm, 101-311 Alexander Ave, Winnipeg, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thank you!

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO TOUR

Lawrence Traa, former Port guest and current board member, along with Stacey Grocholski, Executive Director, travelled to Dryden, Fort Frances, and Kenora in April. They met with Rotary Clubs, hospitals, clinics, media, and donors to bring awareness about the incredible impact A Port in the Storm has on many families in this region.

Thank you to everyone for your warm, Northwestern Ontario hospitality!

"My daughter stayed at Port for nearly 3 months. It was comfortable, and a blessing you were there. I could come for the weekends to visit and know when leaving she was in good hands."

~ Father of former Port guest.

Please see our back page to learn how you can help Port give other patients from Northwest Ontario 'a place to call home' when staying in Winnipeg for essential treatment.

RECOGNITION FOR THE DIFFERENCE YOU ARE MAKING IN OUR COMMUNITY!

On March 9, 2018, A Port in the Storm was awarded the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce's Spirit of Winnipeg award, in the 'Non-profit and Social Enterprise' category, which recognizes "social innovators driven to solve complex socio-economic challenges."



Says Port President Pat Benjaminson, "Our board, staff, and volunteers are very honoured to have received this award. We want to congratulate the other two very worthy finalists, Main Street Project and Jocelyn House and of course thank Port's donors, who make our work possible."

HUBBAY AND HERITAGE CO-OP (MINNEDOSA) AIDS PATIENTS AND FAMILIES IN CRISIS BY 'ADOPTING' PORT SUITES



HUBBAY

Hubbay and Heritage Co-op each recently committed to giving hundreds of people a place of comfort and

community to return to after long days of medical care through Port's 'Adopt-A-Suite' giving program.

Thank-you for your generosity and caring, and for inspiring others to support Port's important work!

By adopting a Port suite for \$5,000 per year, you can provide hundreds of people with a warm, comfortable place to call home – a place where loved ones can heal and be together. For more information on adopting a suite please call Stacey Grocholski at 204-231-0720.

CARRYING A LOVED ONE'S COMPASSION FORWARD THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

~ by Heather Emerson-Proven, Board member and donor, Minnedosa, Manitoba



HEATHER

In 2008, my sister-in-law and dear friend was diagnosed with leukemia and admitted to Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre. During our talks while she was in the hospital, she said she'd been deeply moved by the plight of some of her fellow patients who, like her, came from outside Winnipeg. She met people of all ages – from young patients with families to retired adults on fixed incomes – who were struggling with the financial burden their diagnoses had placed on them.

Coping with lost wages plus parking, meals, travel, and accommodation costs for family, many were facing a bleak financial situation. For some who had to stay in Winnipeg for more care after their hospital discharge, the burden had become overwhelming.

One day, my sister-in-law saw some *A Port in the Storm* pins at the nurses' station. She did some research on the organization, and then decided that after her recovery she would become involved with *Port*. She wanted to help people to be able to focus on healing, rather than worry about financial hardship. Sadly, she passed away only 8 weeks after her diagnosis.

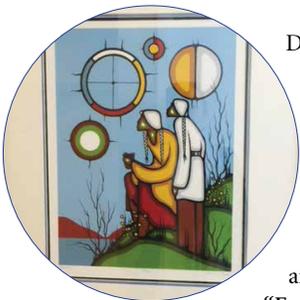
Later, I contacted *Port* to see if I could honour her wishes by volunteering. I'm now a board member and have had my life enriched by being involved with this organization. I've seen the founding vision realized, with *Port* giving more than 850 patients and families a 'place to call home' since the doors opened in 2012.

It's very rewarding to be able offer people a safe supportive environment while they work through their medical journey.

Coretta Scott King said, *"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members, a heart of grace and a soul generated by love."*

I've never regretted my decision to volunteer and advocate for *A Port in the Storm*. I encourage anyone who is interested in volunteering to call our office today at 204-231-0720.

THE HEALING POWER OF ART



Did you know that *Port* has its very own art gallery? Located in our common suite, the gallery was designed to help make people's experience at *Port* as pleasant as possible through displays of donated local art work. In addition to enjoying the art when visiting the common suite, guests can select art work for their suites and even change it from time to time.

"For many long-term guests, it gives them an opportunity to rotate art work in their suites, learn about the various artists, and just have something soothing or inspiring to look at," comments Judy Zubriski, Guest & Volunteer Manager.

Building on the art gallery experience, *Port* is now offering an Expressive Art Therapy program in partnership with the Wheat Institute (Winnipeg Holistic Expressive Arts Therapy). Through an individualized approach, guests dealing with long-term health challenges can express themselves through music, sound, visual art, and creative writing.



MINNEDOSA & DISTRICT FOUNDATION INSPIRED TO CONTRIBUTE TO PORT

"One of the joys of being on the Foundation board is getting to know the projects that have been undertaken ... within our communities. A Port in the Storm was not something I was even aware of, but after reviewing their application, we can see the benefit of this program. We are pleased to make a donation to help upgrade the furnishings at Port. Thank you for your continued support of these families in need."

~ Bruce McNabb,
Chairperson Minnedosa & District Foundation



STACEY

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT

Did you know that *Port* receives no government funding? We rely entirely on donations to give people who must leave home for medical treatment in Winnipeg a comfortable, affordable 'place to call home' while in the city.

Stacey Grocholski and Board member Lawrence Traa will be visiting communities in Northern Manitoba early this summer. In addition to meeting with *Port* stakeholders, Stacey and Lawrence will be sharing information and stories about how *Port* helps people who must leave their home community to receive medical care in Winnipeg.

All the best for a restful and enjoyable summer!

Stacey Grocholski

Stacey Grocholski,
Executive Director

Pat Benjaminson R.N.

Patricia Benjaminson,
Board President

PS... Please see below to learn how you can help A Port in the Storm say "yes" to someone in crisis.



PATRICIA

Every time we can say "yes, we have a place for you" to someone in crisis, every time we see a client who's able to cope with medical challenges because their partner can stay with them at *Port*, every time someone tells us that if *Port* hadn't been here, they might have made the almost unthinkable decision to forego essential treatment... we see your thoughtful charitable support making a powerful difference in people's lives. Thank you for your caring and generosity!

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR OPEN HOUSE ON JUNE 12!

Please join us for refreshments and tours of our suites, and see first-hand how community donations allow *Port* to offer a safe harbour for patients staying in Winnipeg for treatment.

"Hi, I'm Linzey, a client at Port. I hope you'll come on June 12 so I can show you what a huge difference your support makes for people like me who depend on Port when we have to leave home for medical treatment."

Date: June 12, 2018

Time: Drop in any time between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Place: 101-311 Alexander Avenue, Winnipeg

Refreshments will be served!



A FAMILY IN CRISIS NEEDS YOUR HELP RIGHT NOW

A Port in the Storm receives no government funding – our clients depend entirely on donors like you who believe that someone in a health crisis shouldn't also have to face isolation and financial stress.

Your tax-deductible gift provides an affordable 'place to call home' for someone pulled away from their own home by illness.

"A Port in the Storm drastically reduced [our] financial burden. We sincerely hope others will donate to help those in a state of crisis and helplessness."

~ Mervin and Sharon Mettal, Former *Port* clients, current donors



PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

Online: aportinthestorm.ca

Email: admin@aportinthestorm.ca

Phone: 204-231-0720

Mail: A Port in the Storm
Box 85, Winnipeg MB R2H 3B4

Thank you!



LOCATION:

101 – 311 Alexander Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3A 0M9

MAILING ADDRESS:

A Port in the Storm
Box 85, Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2H 3B4

STAFF:

Stacey Grocholski, *Executive Director*
Judy Zubriski, *Guest & Volunteer Manager*

OFFICE HOURS:

8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday to Friday

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone: 204-231-0720

Fax: 204-594-6435

Email: admin@aportinthestorm.ca

Website: aportinthestorm.ca

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