



A place to call home.

101-311 Alexander Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3A 0M9



A PORT IN THE STORM WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER



Gail, Gilbert Plains, MB

GAIL'S STORY

Gail recalls her seven weeks at *A Port in the Storm* fondly, which is hard to believe considering she was undergoing cancer treatment the entire time.

**“I had somebody with me all the time.
That made it feel like home.”**

After a nurse in Brandon referred her to *A Port in the Storm*, Gail arrived at our new location with her husband and was able to make her suite feel like a home away from home.

“We could come and go as we wanted and that made a big difference. I like to walk and you didn't feel cooped up like in a hospital,” she says. In between her chemo and radiation treatments, Gail and her family members were able to explore Winnipeg by walking to The Forks and enjoying lunch on the river. It made all the difference in the world to have people who loved her by her side.

“I really didn't have a choice to come to Winnipeg but at least if I was here they had all the amenities.” Gail got through her treatments by spending time with family members who were able to stay with her the whole time. She explains that the process of moving to Winnipeg was enlightening because she was able to connect with others staying in the building.

The shuttle service provided an easy way for Gail to get to and from CancerCare and the free parking beside our building offered her family a space to leave their car.

“Everyone was so nice and Debby was really accommodating. Anyone who is coming to Winnipeg should give her a call to make arrangements.”

Gail has been home since the end of May and is in a monitoring phase with her treatment. While she hopes she doesn't need to return to Winnipeg anytime soon, she'll always be grateful for *A Port in the Storm* and the kindness she was shown.

VOLUNTEER

A Port in the Storm welcomes volunteers! We offer various volunteer positions that will give you valuable and meaningful experience, skill development, community engagement and sense of purpose. Please call Maria Harper, Community Engagement Manager at 204.231.0720 or maria.harper@aportinthestorm.ca for more information!



Patricia Benjaminson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY WINTER!

In May the Board and staff of *A Port in the Storm* met for two strategic planning sessions facilitated by Barb Gemmell. We began the first session with an invited speaker, Patrick Falconer who presented on government relations.

The Board discussed some of our challenges as an organization and what resources we need to develop to allow us to continue to move forward. We also reviewed our strengths with a focus on reinforcing what is working and on a plan for acquiring new skills and supports to allow us to continue to grow. We assessed emerging trends in healthcare, donor capacity and potential competing interests. We also discussed the importance of clearly articulating to government that *A Port in the Storm* is only a part of the solution and our hope that we can collaborate in addressing the larger issues.

As always our focus is on the people we help. We recognize that people from rural and remote areas who need to come to Winnipeg for medical care should not have to use their energies on finding an appropriate place to stay and we want the Port to be their safe haven, "a place to call home" in Winnipeg.

We are, as always, so grateful to all our donors for your continuing support to this organization which has made a significant difference to the lives of so many people.

Pat Benjaminson RN

Patricia Benjaminson
President, *A Port in the Storm*

Help keep families together this holiday season.

PLEASE DONATE online, by mail or calling our office.

2015-2016 Annual Review is now available on our website aportinthestorm.ca

WHAT'S UP AROUND A PORT IN THE STORM?



A Port in the Storm hosted two Open Houses in November, inviting our health care partners, local businesses, media, friends and family.

SOUPER WEDNESDAYS!



We are looking for businesses, community groups and families to volunteer to host a dinner evening. Please contact Maria Harper at 204.231.0720 or maria.harper@aportinthestorm.ca to set this up!

PROGRAM UPDATE

There is a lot going on at *A Port in the Storm!* We are always working towards making our guests and their families feel more comfortable, whether that's providing an extra blanket or pillow, or lending a popcorn machine for a late night snack!

Our goal is to make every guest feel like they are part of our family and we put their needs first.

Over the past few months we have focused on our guest surveys and receiving feedback. What are our guests telling us? They want a 'place to call home' that is safe and secure. We have partnered with Safe Walk Downtown who will walk our families to and from their car in the parking lot and to the various local restaurants or shops in the area. Within minutes of a call, they are there to help assist and make our guests feel safe. Additionally, the facility now has an on-site caretaker who is there to answer questions or concerns 24 hours a day, in addition to support from our staff and volunteers after regular business hours.

Our guests also told us that they would like a common area to meet other guests and families, share a cup of coffee and stories. Currently, we have opened up our office space for this and have been hosting Souper' Wednesdays for guests and their families to come by for an evening of homemade soup, buns and sweets. It's been very well received and a great way to connect with other families and share a few laughs! We are hopeful through the Adopt-a-Suite program, we can make this a reality for our guests and their families.

Finally, we have officially launched our volunteer program at *A Port in the Storm!* We have been working on identifying the areas of need and helping to fill this gap with volunteers. For example, after hours and weekend check-ins are requested frequently. Currently, we are able to accommodate this sporadically, however with volunteers in place, this will become something we can offer seven days a week! This is very exciting and all possible with the gift of time from our dedicated and supportive volunteers.

WAYS TO DONATE

To keep our vision alive, we are always grateful for donations. Your gift goes directly towards supporting our families and every donation over \$15 is tax deductible.

While You Work: Employee matching programs and payroll deduction plans that make it easier for you to manage your charitable contributions.

As a Sustaining Donor: Make a commitment to support our programs with either a donation with a series of postdate cheques or use your credit card via our secure on-line giving. You will receive a tax receipt for the total at the end of the calendar year while you incorporate your charitable giving into your monthly budget.

Support Through United Way and All Charities: Name *A Port in the Storm* as the designated recipient of your donations made through The United Way or All Charities programs.

Host a "Do It Yourself" Event: Raise money in your own community. We have great ideas and supports for you and can provide tax receipts for eligible gifts.

Giving A Gift That Gives Again: Whether to mark a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, Tribute Gifts are a unique and personal way to recognize the event or person.

Leave a "Lighthouse" Legacy: Speak with your financial or legal advisor about establishing a planned gift through your will or insurance which names *A Port in the Storm* as the beneficiary and you will be part of our "Lighthouse Supporters".

Adopt-A-Suite: When you adopt a suite at *A Port in the Storm*, you give the gift of comfort to families staying far away from home, providing a familiar, welcoming space to come home to after a long day of medical care.

For more details on giving, please visit our website at aportinthestorm.ca or call 204.231.0720

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS



Flin Flon Motorcyclists Association raised **\$9,488** at their annual event!

Hamiota Collegiate hosted a 5km Color Walk/Run and raised over **\$5663!**

Volunteer Erin organized a Charity Craft & Bake Sale on November 12 and raised over **\$600** for *A Port in the Storm!*

Minnedosa Dinner Raffle raised over **\$3,539** for *A Port in the Storm!*

Harding Community Club raised **\$6,000** from their dinners throughout the summer, in addition to **\$1,210** at their Mini-Mall held on November 20!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

We have settled nicely into our new home at 311 Alexander over the past few months and continue to provide exceptional service and support to existing guests and new guests. We thank you for your patience and support as we transitioned

from one location to our current one.

The strategic plan has provided staff and volunteers with a great framework to set goals and objectives for the upcoming year and beyond. We are exciting to be working with an exceptional team who have started to work on making it a reality. We have welcomed back

Maria Harper from leave into the new role of Community Engagement Manager. Maria started with *A Port in the Storm* as the House Manager in 2012 and brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her new role as we continue to grow the organization.

Looking forward, we are dedicated to increasing awareness and building strong relationships within the community, helping more families by being 'a place to call home' for years to come. We are forever grateful to our donors and humbled by our families who are often facing a sea of challenges. You inspire us and give us strength.

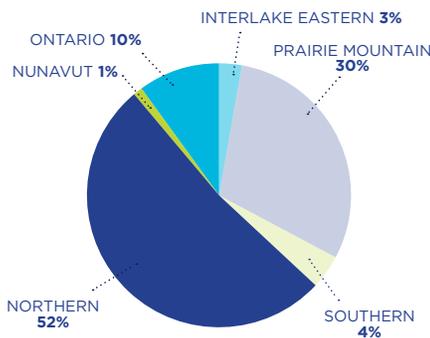
Have a wonderful holiday season,

Stacey Grocholski

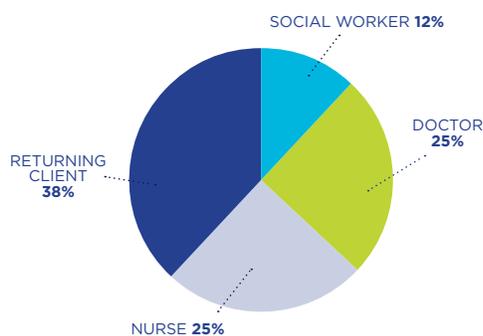
Stacey Grocholski, *Executive Director*

STATISTICS

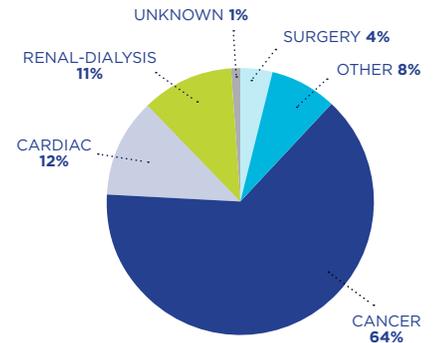
REGIONS 2016-17 YTD*



REFERRALS 2016-17 YTD*



PATIENT DIAGNOSIS 2016-17 YTD*



LOCATION:

101 - 311 Alexander Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3A 0M9

MAILING ADDRESS:

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R2H 3B4

STAFF:

Stacey Grocholski, *Executive Director*
Debby-Lute Storey, *House Manager*
Maria Harper, *Community Engagement Manager*

OFFICE HOURS:

8:30 am - 4:30 pm Monday to Friday

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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