



A place to call home.

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



A PORT IN THE STORM SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY SPRING!

On behalf of the board of *A Port in the Storm* I would like to thank the *Port* staff for their incredible work in transitioning the *Port* to our new location at 311 Alexander Avenue, the Bag Factory Lofts, located in an up-and-coming area in the Exchange district of downtown Winnipeg, on the edge of Chinatown. The suites have a unique design blending the historic and modern, each with a separate bedroom, four-piece bath and open plan kitchen-living area. Free parking and laundry services are available. The *Port* office is located in a handy spot on the first floor.

During the move our fabulous staff – Stacey Grocholski, Executive Director and Debby Lute-Story, House Manager – received solid support from our casual employee, Cody Lockhart and all three worked tirelessly, maintaining offices in two locations and meeting all challenges with calm and patient attitudes.

Transitioning is rarely easy and not every problem can be anticipated, so the board would like to extend our thanks to our guests and referring agents for their patience, support and good advice which has helped *A Port in the Storm* to maintain services during the move.

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 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

President, *A Port in the Storm*



WE NEED YOU!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH VARIOUS EVENING AND WEEKEND SHIFTS. FOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

“As one door closes another one opens,” best describes the opportunities we can offer our clients. As we transition to 311 Alexander, we have been fortunate for all the support and generosity of volunteers and organizations who have lent a hand in the process. As you can imagine, moving 17 suites is no easy task! I’d like to personally thank Youth Employment Services for all their help in packing, organizing and teamwork to get the job done!

When we opened our doors over three years ago, the generosity and support of the St. Boniface community and Villa Aulneau residents cannot go unnoticed. Everyone opened their arms and believed in the vision and mission of the organization and because of this, we have grown exponentially. We will miss the smiling faces and compassion of the residents and for some of our clients, have made life-time friends at Villa Aulneau. Thank-you!

Finally, I would like to thank Cecile who has been our anchor over the past three years. From preparing laundry, making beds, checking in clients, to providing a friendly knock at the door nightly to see if you need an extra blanket or if you want to talk about the day, Cecile has been there for all of it! Her kind and gentle manner made *A Port in the Storm* what it is today and on behalf of the board and families, thank-you so much! We are trying to recruit Cecile to our new location, but she has officially retired at 96!

All the best,

Stacey Grocholski

Stacey Grocholski, Executive Director



DAPHNE LUTES STORY

Learning that your mom needs to travel from The Pas to Winnipeg for cancer treatment is stressful enough, but finding this out when you live 2000 km away is unbearable.

“It’s hard enough to know your mom has to go through cancer but right away I started thinking about how I would afford to stay in Winnipeg while she was getting treatment.”

The cost of a hotel each night was a daunting thought for Shelley, who lives in Kamloops, BC. When her mom, Daphne, was told about A Port in the Storm, her experience became more bearable for both mother and daughter.

Daphne arrived at A Port in the Storm on a Wednesday and Shelley arrived the following Sunday.

“My first impression was that it was just a wonderful facility and so needed,” says Shelley. “And the fact that I

could stay with mom made all the difference in the world.” Shelley raves about the staff and volunteers, especially Cecile, our extra special volunteer.

“My mom doesn’t drink coffee and one night I just felt like a cup of coffee. Cecile went above and beyond and brought me coffee. Little things like that make such a big difference when you’re going through a stressful time.”

Both Shelley and her mom got to know the other families staying at A Port in the Storm and attribute this extended support system to Daphne’s recovery. Not having to worry about the financial stress of paying for a hotel meant that Shelley could truly focus on her mom and helping her go through treatment.

“I have no idea what we would have done without *A Port in the Storm*,” Shelley says. “If I could describe the place in two words it would be overwhelmingly caring.” While she hopes she never has to come back, she wants other families to know that it’s truly a wonderful place. “I have nothing but good things to say about this place.”

WE'RE ON THE MOVE!

A Port in the Storm has officially moved into our new home at 311 Alexander Avenue in the heart of Winnipeg's historic Exchange District.

Over the past few months, our staff members and volunteers have been helping guests transition to their new suites. There have been a few hiccups along the way but we're all working hard to iron out the kinks. We know that when we all work together, great things happen!

WHY DID WE MOVE?

Our contract to stay at Villa Aulneau expired on March 31, 2016. They had been kind enough to extend this contract several times but it was time for us to find our own home. This move gives us better footing as a non-profit organization and will help us provide affordable accommodations for more families.

We are closer to Health Sciences Centre and centrally located so it will be easy to access other hospitals and all parts of Winnipeg.

WHAT HASN'T CHANGED?

A Port in the Storm is still a place to call home. The same warm, caring atmosphere that our guests have come to expect will simply move to a new location. Our rates will not change and our mission is the same.

Guests can find restaurants, shopping, a playground, and other attractions all within walking distance. All of the suites have been renovated and offer the same comforts of home including full kitchens, TV, phone and internet, on-site laundry and free parking.

ADOPT-A-SUITE PROGRAM

Help us ensure that more families from across Manitoba can stay at *A Port in the Storm* during their greatest time of need.

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. *A Port in the Storm* depends on community supporters like you to serve up to 300 families a year.

When a loved one is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, their family needs to be by their side. Many of our families are faced with long distance travel and expensive accommodation. Often a spouse or partner will take a leave of absence or quit their job.

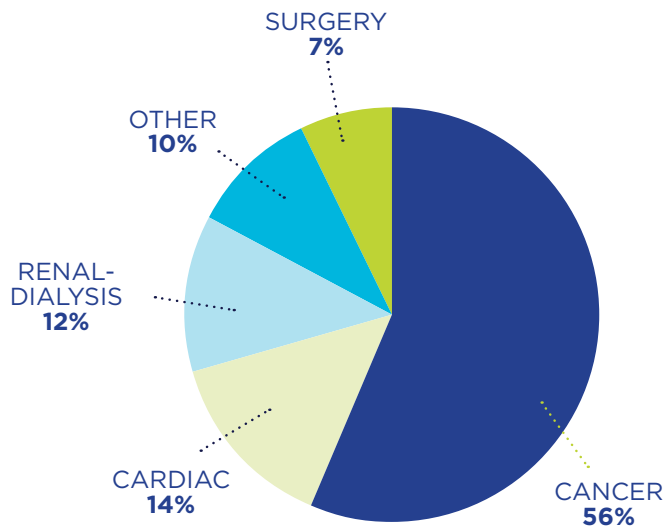
By providing a place to call home, *A Port in the Storm* eases the financial and emotional burden on families, allowing them to focus on their loved one and on healing together.

Consider adopting a suite today. For more information, contact Stacey Grocholski, Executive Director at (204) 231-0720.

A place to call home.

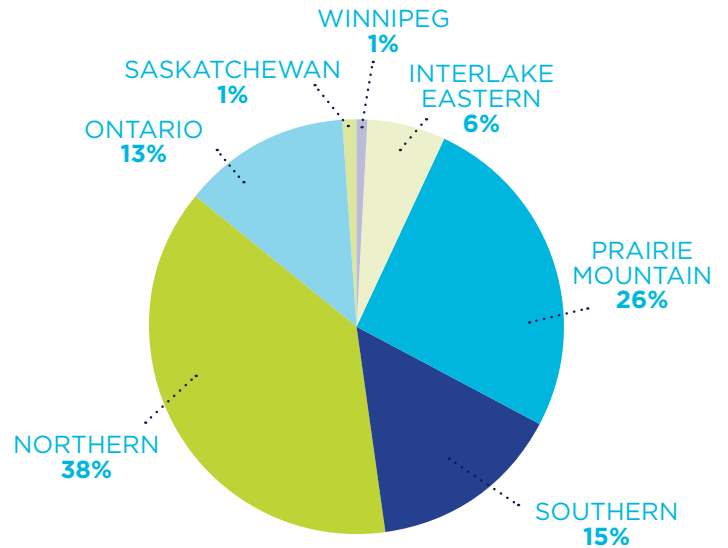
STATISTICS

DIAGNOSIS 2015 - 2016 YTD*



*APRIL 2015 - FEBRUARY 2016

REGIONS 2015 - 2016 YTD*



*APRIL 2015 - FEBRUARY 2016

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*
Debby-Lute Storey, *House 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

OPEN HOUSE!

We have officially moved and would love to show you our new location!
We're offering tours Thursdays May, 5th, 12th, 19th / 1 - 4 pm
Come by for a tour and refreshments!

*To arrange a date and time outside of the tour dates,
please contact Debby at (204) 231-0720 or admin@aportinthestorm.ca*