

# ACS COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRESS REPORT

2025



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# INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the recent progress, impact, and growth of the Adventist Community Services (ACS) Centre in Winnipeg. ACS is a compassionate community hub of support inspiring hope and enriching lives for generations. The Centre provides vital resources to vulnerable communities, addressing urgent needs and promoting long-term well-being through initiatives such as food security, emergency response, youth mental health programs, and strategic community partnerships.

Over the past year, ACS has taken meaningful steps toward building a sustainable, community hub that meets both urgent needs and long-term goals. Through new programs, strengthened partnerships, facility improvements, and increased community engagement, ACS is becoming a trusted place of healing, connection, and hope.

The work outlined in this report reflects the shared commitment of our staff, board members, funders, volunteers, and community partners. Together, we are not only responding to immediate needs, but laying the foundation for lasting holistic transformation physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially.

We thank each of you for your continued support, and invite you to read through the highlights, outcomes, and next steps that are helping shape the future of ACS.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADER

What a year of growth, grace, and impact it has been. On behalf of Adventist Community Services (ACS) Winnipeg, the Manitoba–Saskatchewan Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and ADRA Canada, I want to thank each of you, volunteers, donors, church members, board members, and community partners for walking alongside us in this shared mission of service. Thanks to your prayers, time, and generosity, ACS has become more than a place, it is a movement of compassion in action. From food distribution that supports over 100 families each month, to youth mental health programming, emergency response efforts, and collaborative partnerships across our city, we've seen the power of what happens when love leads the way.

Because of the support of donors and funders, we have begun renovations that will expand our capacity and create a welcoming, accessible space that reflects the dignity of every person we serve. We've launched new programs, connected with families and youth, and received encouraging feedback that ACS is filling a real and urgent need in our community.

Yet this is just the beginning.

There is still so much more we can do—together. Our vision is to build a sustainable, center of hope that offers healing, connection, and practical support for generations to come. Whether it's providing a meal, mentoring youth, supporting families in crisis, walking alongside those in recovery, or simply offering a warm smile and a listening ear, every act of service makes a difference.

As we look ahead, I invite you to dream with us. Let's imagine what's possible when we all show up with open hands and open hearts. Let's continue to be present, to serve boldly, and to love well. Thank you for being part of this journey. Your support is not only building programs, it's building people, and it's transforming lives.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Stephanie Yamniuk

Board Chair, Adventist Community Services Winnipeg  
Regional Program Manager, Manitoba–Saskatchewan Conference, ADRA  
Canada

**"Your support is not only building programs—it's building people, and it's changing lives."**



# KEY PRIORITIES

The Adventist Community Services (ACS) Centre is a compassionate community hub of support, inspiring hope and enriching lives for generations. Rooted in the values of compassion, integrity, collaboration, empowerment, and love, ACS provides tangible support to vulnerable individuals and families through practical programs and strong community partnerships. The ACS Board has formally approved three strategic priorities—Community Impact & Awareness, Partnerships & Collaboration, and community Programs—to guide the center’s growth from a small-scale initiative to a thriving, sustainable model of community-based support. These pillars reflect both the heart of our mission and the structure that will sustain its continued impact.

## 01. Community Impact & Awareness



ACS will enhance its visibility and deepen community trust through intentional outreach, health and wellness programs, and events that meet immediate needs while promoting long-term well-being. By engaging local schools, churches, and partners, and strengthening its communication strategy, ACS will expand its reach and ensure that those in need are aware of and connected to its services.

## 02. Partnerships & Collaboration



Strategic partnerships with businesses, churches, schools, and nonprofits will be central to expanding services and sustainability. By building a robust volunteer program, hosting collaborative events, and engaging donors through recognition efforts, ACS will create a strong support network that amplifies its impact and ensures program longevity.

## 03. Community Based Programs



Grounded in its mission and values, ACS will provide informed services that include health and wellness, life skills training, and disaster preparedness. These programs will reflect the mission to serve, offering practical support like job readiness, financial literacy, and emergency relief while also fostering mental and emotional resilience in the community.

# MEASURING PROGRESS



The Adventist Community Services (ACS) Centre continues to grow as a compassionate hub, responding to urgent needs while laying the foundation for long-term community well-being. Grounded in our mission to serve with compassion, integrity, collaboration, empowerment, and love, we are pleased to share recent milestones and updates aligned with our three strategic priorities: Community Impact & Awareness, Partnerships & Collaboration, and Community-Based Programs.

## Community Impact & Awareness

We have made significant strides in increasing ACS visibility and deepening community trust through both new and ongoing initiatives:

Activity / Project		Key Outcome
<p>Summer Youth Mental Health &amp; Wellness Program</p> 	<p>6-week workshop series, funded by The Rotary Club of Winnipeg.</p> <p>15 youth registered from 4 local schools</p> <p>5 volunteers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced mental &amp; physical health literacy among youth participants</li> <li>• Improved coping strategies for stress and anxiety</li> <li>• Strengthened peer connections and reduced isolation</li> <li>• Increased awareness and use of mental health resources</li> </ul>
<p>Weekly Harvest Food Distribution</p>	<p>ACS supports 100–120 families monthly through food distribution.</p> <p>15+ regular volunteers are engaged in receiving and distributing bi-monthly food deliveries to families in need. (community &amp; PCAA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved food security for vulnerable families</li> <li>• Strengthened community connections</li> <li>• Increased volunteer engagement and service opportunities.</li> </ul>

## Activity / Project

## Key Outcome

### Fire Evacuee Relief Donations

In partnership with ADRA Canada, PCAA, West Park Manor Personal Care Home and The Southern Chiefs Organization, ACS coordinated donation efforts to support fire evacuees, demonstrating rapid, compassionate response to emergency needs.

- Rapid relief for displaced families, immediate support to evacuees, helping meet urgent needs such as food, clothing, and personal care items during a time of crisis.
- Strengthened relationships with Indigenous partners – this collaborative response deepened trust and partnership with Indigenous communities and organizations, demonstrating ACS's commitment to reconciliation, compassion, and shared community care.

### Potato Donations to Community

In partnership with a MB Colony near Portage la Prairie, ACS received a generous donation of fresh potatoes, which were distributed to families and individuals in need throughout the community. This initiative not only met practical needs but also exemplified the spirit of collaboration and generosity that defines ACS's mission.

- Enhanced Access to Nutritious Food: 100s of families received fresh, locally grown produce, improving their food security and diet quality.
- Strengthened Rural-Urban Partnerships: The donation fostered meaningful collaboration between ACS and rural agricultural communities, demonstrating shared values of service and compassion.



## Activity / Project

## Key Outcome

PCAA 100<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration



ACS actively supported the local Prairie Central Adventist Academy's centennial celebration, further strengthening ties between the center and the education community.

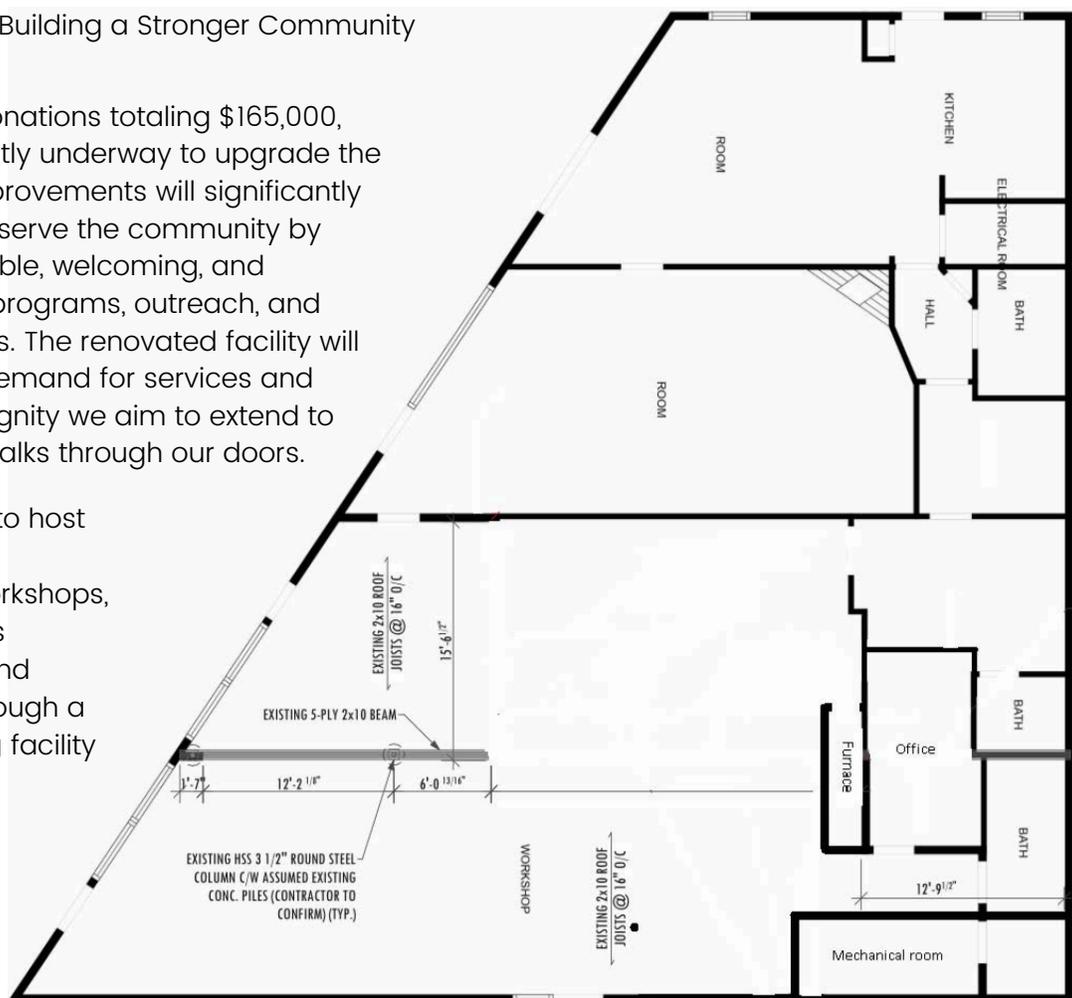
As part of the event, the ACS consultant offered a mental health session for families, which was well attended and sparked meaningful dialogue.

- Strengthened Center–School–Community Relationships: By participating in and contributing to the celebration, ACS reinforced its role as a bridge between family and community, fostering deeper collaboration with the school and community.
- Feedback from the family mental health session revealed a strong interest in more ACS-led workshops focused on anxiety and mental health highlighting a clear direction for future program development

## Facility Renovations – Building a Stronger Community Hub

Thanks to generous donations totaling \$165,000, renovations are currently underway to upgrade the ACS Centre. These improvements will significantly enhance our ability to serve the community by creating more accessible, welcoming, and functional spaces for programs, outreach, and day-to-day operations. The renovated facility will support the growing demand for services and reflect the care and dignity we aim to extend to every individual who walks through our doors.

- Enhanced capacity to host health and wellness programs, family workshops, and outreach events
- Increased visibility and community trust through a renewed, welcoming facility



## Activity / Project

## Key Outcome

Increased Exposure to Funders



New relationships formed with:

- The Winifred Stevens Foundation
- The Winnipeg Foundation
- The Caroline Sifton Foundation
- Mission Impact Fund
- United Way
- Versacare Foundation
- The Rotary Club of Wpg and others



Grant success rate (~10%) aligns with national benchmarks and reflects competitive nature of funding.

- Developed strong relationships with funders, opening the door for future conversations and opportunities
- Strengthened internal readiness through clearer program goals, refined messaging, and updated support materials
- Increased organizational visibility, introducing the center and its mission to new audiences
- Strategically positioned the center for upcoming funding rounds with a stronger foundation and clearer value proposition

## Partnership & Collaboration

Our focus on building a strong network of support has resulted in several new partnerships and collaborative efforts:

New Community Partnerships established

- Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation
- Elmwood Community Resource Centre
- Riverwood House
- Thrive Community Support Circle
- Higher Learning Foundation and more

- Collaborated with partners to deliver complementary services, avoiding duplication and maximizing impact
- Established mutual referral pathways and shared resources to improve access and efficiency
- Secured letters of support and aligned efforts with partners to strengthen grant applications
- Built trust and credibility as a respectful, collaborative community hub



Activity / Project		Key Outcome
Volunteer Engagement	<p>Ongoing efforts to strengthen our volunteer base include supporting regular food distribution, events, and community outreach.</p> <p>Plans underway to develop a volunteer engagement framework as part of our capacity-building goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded program capacity without added staffing costs</li> <li>• Increased community involvement and ownership</li> <li>• Strengthened faith in action through service</li> <li>• Developed future leaders through mentorship and skill-building</li> </ul>

### Community-Based Programs

Rooted in the values of compassion and service, Adventist Community Services continues to provide humanitarian and community-based programming that supports the practical and overall well-being of individuals and families in need.

Future Programming in Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathways to Healing (launching in Fall 2025 in partnership with Thrive Community Support Circle)</li> <li>• Depression &amp; Anxiety Recovery Program (2026)</li> <li>• Community Capacity Building Program (2026)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster greater awareness between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, promoting reconciliation, respect, and shared learning</li> <li>• Improve mental health and well-being in community</li> <li>• Strengthen volunteer and community capacity</li> <li>• Create safe, inclusive spaces for relationship-building, dialogue, and shared service across diverse groups</li> </ul>
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**ACS and PCAA partner on Earth Day to clean up Elmwood Community while engaging physical activity**

# CONCLUSION

In just a few short months, ACS has demonstrated significant momentum, growing from a small initiative into a trusted and active community presence. By continuing to align our efforts with our strategic pillars, and remaining open to the leading of lived experienced voices and community, we are confident in the path forward.

We are grateful for the dedication of our staff, volunteers, board, and community partners whose commitment and collaboration continue to strengthen our shared impact.



PCAA, ACS and SCO



100%

**of participants across programs reported that the Centre and its services are meeting a vital need in the community, offering a safe, supportive, and accessible space for healing, connection, and practical support.**

# NEXT STEPS & CALL TO ACTION

Adventist Community Services (ACS) invites all leaders, board members, and community to join hands in advancing our mission. Here's how we can work together to build a stronger, healthier community:



## 01. Engage & Serve

Whether you're a community member, leader, or board member, your participation in ACS programs and events is vital. Volunteer your time, share your talents, and help us extend hope and support to those in need.



## 02. Advocate & Support Funding

Amplify ACS's impact by advocating within your networks. Support fundraising efforts through letters of support, connecting us with donors, and helping to secure the resources needed for growth and sustainability.



## 03. Champion Volunteerism & Leadership

Help us recruit, mentor, and recognize volunteers who are the heart of our work. Leaders and board members can also offer guidance and open doors for strategic partnerships and collaborations.



## 04. Share Your Gifts and Wisdom

Your talents, mentorship, experience, and community connections are invaluable. Together, we can nurture a compassionate, community center that meets urgent needs and fosters long-term healing and wellness.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to the growth and success of Adventist Community Services. Our deepest thanks go to the dedicated volunteers, staff, and leadership whose commitment and compassion bring our mission to life every day.

We are also profoundly grateful for the generous support of The Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, ADRA Canada and our funding partners whose faith in our vision empowers us to serve our community more effectively.

**Thank you to our leaders, board members, churches and community partners for your ongoing guidance, support, and collaboration.**

**Together, we are creating a stronger, healthier, and more compassionate community, grounded in love.**



**Contact: Stephanie Yamniuk**  
**Regional Program Manager, MB/SK**  
**M: 204.391.7585**  
**E: [stephanie.yamniuk@adra.ca](mailto:stephanie.yamniuk@adra.ca)**