

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

INSPIRING HOPE AND ENRICHING LIVES



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INTRODUCTION

The Adventist Community Services (ACS) Winnipeg continues to grow as a place of compassion, support, and connection for individuals and families in our community. Throughout 2025, the Centre experienced a season of transformation as we strengthened our foundation for the future.

This year marked an important period of preparation and development. While construction and renovation work progressed to expand the facility, ACS continued to serve the community through essential services such as food support and youth programming. At the same time, new initiatives and partnerships were being developed that will allow the Centre to offer expanded programs beginning in 2026.

The work of ACS is rooted in the belief that strong communities are built when people come together to support one another. Through the dedication of staff, volunteers, board members, community partners, and supporters, the Centre continues to grow as a trusted place of welcome, practical support, and hope.

This report highlights the progress made throughout the year and celebrates the many individuals and organizations who have helped move this vision forward.





A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Community is at the heart of everything we do, and its strength lies in the power of meaningful partnerships. We recognize that no single organization can address every challenge alone; it is through our collaborations with local schools, food security networks, and regional leadership that we build a resilient support system. By aligning our resources and visions, we create a unified front that can more effectively tackle the systemic issues facing our neighborhoods, ensuring that our collective impact is far greater than the sum of our individual parts.

Our mission is fueled by the dedication and passion of our volunteers, who serve as the backbone of our operations. Whether managing community gardens, supporting youth programs, or assisting in disaster response, our volunteers bring a diverse range of skills and a spirit of service that defines our organization. Their commitment transforms our strategic plans into tangible actions, providing the consistent, hands-on support necessary to keep our programs running and our community spaces thriving.

Above all, our direction is guided by listening to the unique needs of the community. We are committed to an approach that prioritizes the voices of those we serve, ensuring that our initiatives—from mental health support to sustainable food projects—are truly responsive to local realities. By maintaining an open dialogue and practicing active empathy, we ensure that our work remains relevant, respectful, and focused on creating lasting, positive change for every individual who walks through our doors.

STEPHANIE YAMNIUK
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

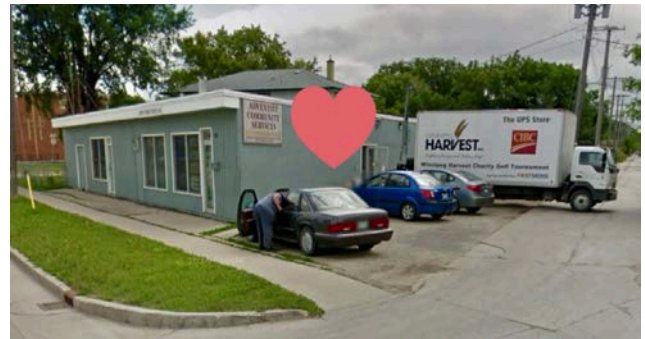
WHO WE ARE

Adventist Community Services (ACS) Winnipeg is committed to being a compassionate community hub that inspires hope and enriches lives. Through a foundation rooted in compassion, integrity, collaboration, empowerment, and love, ACS works to support individuals and families facing challenging circumstances.

Our mission is to provide practical resources and meaningful support to vulnerable communities while addressing immediate needs and building pathways toward long-term well-being. This includes initiatives focused on food security, emergency response, youth mental health, and strong community partnerships.

Throughout 2025, ACS has continued to strengthen its presence in the community by building partnerships, expanding outreach, and preparing for future programs that promote health, stability, and connection.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains focused on creating a welcoming space where individuals are supported, empowered, and given opportunities to thrive.



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2025 HIGHLIGHTS - A YEAR OF FOUNDATION AND GROWTH

2025 marked a significant and unique season for Adventist Community Services (ACS) Winnipeg, a year defined not only by service, but by intentional preparation for the future.

As renovations began to transform the centre into a more functional and welcoming community hub, program delivery was thoughtfully scaled to focus on essential services. During this time, ACS remained committed to meeting urgent needs while laying the groundwork for expanded impact in 2026. Even within this season of transition, ACS continued to serve as a reliable and compassionate presence in the community.

Food support remained a consistent priority, with ongoing distribution efforts ensuring that individuals and families experiencing food insecurity had access to essential resources. These services also provided an important point of connection, helping reduce isolation and strengthen community relationships.

Youth engagement continued through the Summer Youth Mental Health Program, where participants developed coping strategies, built peer connections, and increased awareness of mental health supports. This program reinforced the importance of creating safe, supportive spaces for young people.

At the same time, ACS demonstrated its ability to respond in moments of crisis. Through coordinated efforts with partners, the Centre provided rapid support to fire evacuees, offering essential supplies and strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities through a shared commitment to care and compassion.

This year also saw significant progress in building the foundation for future growth. New partnerships were established across community organizations, funders, and service providers, increasing visibility and strengthening collaboration. These relationships are key to ensuring sustainable, long-term impact.

A major milestone in 2025 was the advancement of the facility renovation project. With **over \$165,000** raised, construction is underway to create a space that will support expanded programming, increased accessibility, and a stronger sense of community connection.



STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION FOR IMPACT

While 2025 involved maintaining program delivery during construction, it was a year of strategic investment—both in infrastructure and in relationships.

Significant time and effort were dedicated to partnership development, funding engagement, and program planning. These efforts have strengthened ACS’s readiness to launch expanded services, ensuring that future programming is both responsive and sustainable.

Volunteer engagement continued to grow, with individuals contributing their time and skills to support essential services and community outreach. This not only increased program capacity but also fostered a strong sense of shared ownership and community involvement.

Importantly, feedback from those served reflects the meaningful impact of ACS during this time. Participant feedback indicated that ACS services are meeting a vital need in the community, providing a safe, supportive, and accessible space for connection, healing, and practical support.

Through every initiative—whether food distribution, youth programming, emergency response, or partnership development—ACS has remained grounded in its mission to serve with compassion, integrity, collaboration, empowerment, and love.

The progress made in 2025 represents more than a series of activities; it reflects the intentional building of a strong and sustainable foundation. As the Centre prepares to expand programming in 2026, ACS is well-positioned to deepen its impact and continue growing as a trusted community hub.



RENOVATIONS

In 2025, ACS undertook a significant renovation project to better serve the growing needs of the community. With a vision of creating a more welcoming, functional, and accessible space, the Centre was thoughtfully reimaged to prioritize connection, support, and program delivery.

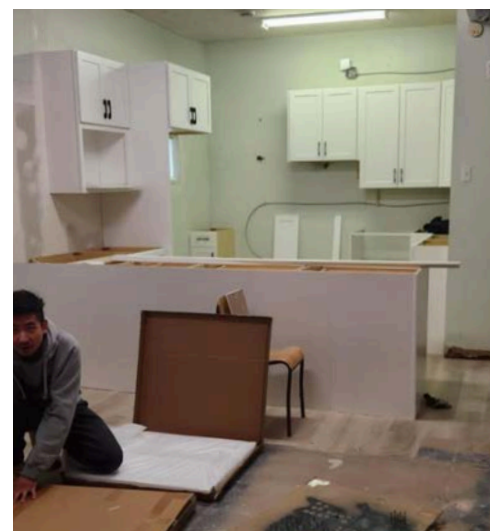
The redesigned space includes an expanded drop-in area to accommodate more guests, along with dedicated space for programming, including a youth hub. A newly renovated kitchen, upgraded HVAC system, enhanced security system, and increased storage capacity will allow ACS to operate more efficiently and safely while supporting a broader range of services.

Thanks to Tim the HandyMan for his commitment, skillset and generous donation. This project could not have happened without you!

To ensure the space could serve as many individuals as possible, office areas were intentionally reduced to create more room for community use. These changes reflect a commitment to putting people first—designing a space that is responsive to real needs and encourages engagement.

This transformation was made possible in part through a generous donors and through a grant from the City of Winnipeg, which also supported the purchase of commercial refrigerators and freezers. These upgrades significantly increase the Centre's ability to store and distribute food, strengthening its capacity to respond to food insecurity in the community.

Every aspect of the renovation was guided by a desire to better serve others. As the Centre prepares to fully reopen and expand programming in 2026, this renewed space will play a vital role in welcoming more individuals, supporting more families, and continuing to build a strong, connected community.



PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

In 2025, ACS remained committed to delivering essential supports while preparing for expanded programming in the year ahead.

Through our partnership with Harvest Manitoba, ACS operated a bi-weekly food bank serving approximately **120 families each month**, alongside an additional food distribution day supporting another **130 families** through Nueva Esperanza SDA Church. These efforts played a vital role in addressing food insecurity while strengthening connections within the community.

Over the summer, ACS delivered a **Youth Mental Health and Wellness Program** that brought together **15 youth from multiple schools, supported by 3 dedicated youth peer volunteers**. Participants engaged in activities such as fitness, art, and workshops focused on managing stress and emotions. The program contributed to positive outcomes, including improved emotional regulation, increased confidence, and stronger peer connections.



ACS also extended its impact through disaster relief and community service efforts, including support for wildfire response through donations and volunteer engagement. These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to responding with compassion in times of need.

Building on this foundation, ACS is preparing to expand programming in 2026 by:

- Growing the youth program into a **year-round initiative**
- Open a larger **drop in space**, including a **warming center** for individuals seeking safety and connection
- Launch a **soup kitchen** to further address food insecurity and create a welcoming place for community gathering
- Expanding **community partnerships** to strengthen coordination and increase access to services
- Offer **Community Capacity Building, language classes** and **wellness workshops**
- Introduce **cultural programming** that fosters belonging, learning, and meaningful connection across diverse communities

These initiatives represent more than program expansion—they reflect a commitment to building a space where individuals feel seen, supported, and empowered. As ACS continues to grow, the Centre remains dedicated to its vision of being a compassionate community hub that inspires hope, fosters faith, and enriches lives for generations.



CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING

Investing in people is central to building strong, sustainable community programs. In 2025, ACS prioritized capacity building and training to strengthen both immediate response efforts and long-term program development.

Through her role with ADRA Canada, Stephanie Yamniuk participated in emergency response training, enhancing the Centre's readiness to respond effectively in times of crisis. This training strengthens ACS's ability to support communities during emergencies with coordination, care, and efficiency.

In addition, training sessions in community development and psychological first aid training were delivered to support staff, volunteers, and partners in deepening their understanding of the complex challenges faced by vulnerable populations. These sessions help ensure that services are delivered in a way that is trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and grounded in dignity and respect.

Recognizing that strong communities are built through shared knowledge and leadership, ACS is preparing to launch a **Community Capacity Building Course in 2026**. This initiative will equip community members, volunteers, and emerging leaders with practical skills in areas such as leadership, communication, program development, and community engagement.

The value of this work extends beyond individual training sessions. By investing in capacity building, ACS is strengthening the ability of individuals and organizations to respond to challenges, support one another, and create lasting, community-led change. This approach fosters resilience, promotes collaboration, and empowers communities to take an active role in shaping their future.

As the Centre prepares to expand programming in 2026, this continued focus on training and development ensures that ACS is not only delivering services, but also building the people and partnerships that sustain meaningful impact over time.



Emergency Preparedness Training

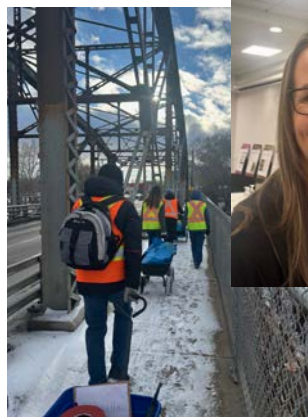


PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS ARE AT THE HEART OF OUR WORK. BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE EXPAND OUR REACH, STRENGTHEN OUR IMPACT, AND ENSURE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES RECEIVE THE SUPPORT THEY NEED.



Visiting Riverwood House & Strengthening Community Connections



Elmwood Unity Walk



Students from Prairie Central Adventist Academy working on making Elmwood a cleaner, healthier place to live



VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ACS is deeply grateful for the dedication and compassion of our **30 volunteers**, whose commitment makes our work possible.

In 2025 alone, volunteers contributed an estimated **1,900+ hours of service**, supporting food distribution, youth programming, leadership, and community outreach. Whether packing food hampers, mentoring youth, serving families, or guiding the direction of the Centre, each volunteer plays a vital role in creating a welcoming and supportive environment.

Your willingness to give your time, energy, and care reflects the heart of ACS. Through your service, you are not only meeting practical needs—you are building relationships, strengthening community, and bringing hope to those we serve.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you. Your impact is seen, valued, and deeply appreciated.



VOICES OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

My journey with the ACS began in 2024. I was curious about the building next door to where I live so I popped in to find a small group of volunteers that offered a foodbank site for Harvest monthly (bi-weekly to accommodate the growing amount of people who access it). The number of volunteers has since grown to meet the growing needs of our community.

I offered to volunteer and still do! I was looking to get out more, be helpful, be of service as well as gain experience and be more involved in community. I love that I walk to work and it only takes a minute or two.

I have had many great experiences being able to connect with more folks in this community, fellow volunteers, workers and participants. It has been exciting to see the ACS renew and grow. It's a joy to see investment in its potential. The renovations have been amazing. I look forward to watching programs launch and grow. It has been satisfying to be part of creating a positive change.

I am grateful for the opportunities and experiences- I look forward to learning more at the ACS from other volunteers, employees, the community as well as those connected to it. I feel like I am where I am supposed to be in this chapter of my life.

Angie Monkman



Volunteering with Adventist Community Services has been a meaningful experience that allowed me to serve others while growing personally and spiritually.

I assisted with Manitoba Harvest food distribution at ACS, helped prepare and distribute Christmas hampers to families in the community, and organized gift hampers for women's shelter—many of which were made possible through the generous contributions of members from Henderson Highway Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I also supported sorting donations and interacting with individuals in need with compassion and respect. Additionally, I was fortunate to witness the renovation of the center into a newly upgraded facility that can better serve the community.

This experience strengthened my communication, teamwork, and organizational skills while deepening my commitment to serving others with kindness and dignity.

Pamela Lawrence

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 of the SDA Church, 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.



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