



# Communities Coming Together

**Mount Royal Mennonite Church  
Missions and Service Ministry**

A Life is not  
important except in  
the impact it has on  
other lives.

- Jackie Robinson -

As we all know, 2020 has created challenges that many of us have never encountered before. These challenges have impacted Global and Local Communities, stretching resources for those most vulnerable and the organizations like The Friendship Inn that are on the frontlines serving those communities. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 The Friendship Inn has experienced a rapid decline in volunteer participation. They rely on volunteers to prepare and serve a healthy Breakfast and Lunch to 300-500 guests every day.

Prior to COVID-19, Volunteers peeled and cut up potatoes and vegetables, prepared bagged lunches and desserts, served meals in buffet lines, gathered and cleaned dishes and continued preparation for the next meal. With new COVID-19 protocols in place, The Friendship Inn now requires 2 meter spacing in the food preparation area and must now serve all meals individually to guests seated at tables. The additional resources required in supplies and processes presents a significant strain on the volunteers and staff.

MRMC has reached out to the Friendship Inn to inquire how we can best help with their ongoing needs. The Friendship Inn has expressed a need to become more efficient and a major contribution to this effort would be a Commercial Potato Peeler. Many of the volunteer and staff resources are allocated to peeling potatoes and with the new COVID-19 protocols this has become a significant challenge. The Missions and Service Committee at MRMC feels that this is one small way that we can serve.

# Operation Potato Peeler

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## Why a Potato Peeler?



Hours spent peeling potatoes would be reduced to minutes with a commercial potato peeler.



Valuable staff and volunteer resources would be made available to serve in many other ways.

## What is a Potato Peeler?



**Hobart 6430 30lb Potato Peeler**

Estimated Cost is \$7500.00

# Operation Potato Peeler Plan

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## Fund Raising Goal

- Our Target amount is \$7,500.00+
- We are reaching out to our local Mennonite Church Community and Mennonite business community for financial contributions.
- Any amount raised over our target amount will be designated to the purchase of a Commercial Food Processor. This will allow for further efficiencies in labour intensive food preparation.

## Work already accomplished



- \$2,000.00 contributed by MDS.
- Local corporate interest has been expressed.

## To Donate

- If you can help us with this urgent need or have any questions, please contact Claire Ewert Fisher at [claraewertfisher@gmail.com](mailto:claraewertfisher@gmail.com).
- Cheque/EFT donations can made to MRMC.



## From the desk of the Executive Director



friendshipinn.com

Dear friends,

# THANK YOU FOR HELPING US HELP OTHERS!

- On March 14th, we shifted to a take-away meal service to halt large gatherings in our dining area.
- On March 19th we put a pause on our Volunteer and Fine Options Programs.
- And a final precaution, on March 23rd we adapted our service once more – refraining guests from being inside the building and only serving from the main door of the Inn (requiring a 2 meter spacing be maintained in line-ups).

*“During this difficult time our vulnerable neighbours need us most, and our mission to offer free meals, care and compassion has never been more important.”*

We continue to screen staff daily to ensure that they are healthy, inviting those experiencing any symptoms to self-isolate and seek a medical consult. Our usual high standards of cleaning and sanitizing continue, and as always, we are ensuring all Food Safety Regulations are upheld during meal preparation and distribution. In 10 short days, we have made the most amazing adaptations to our service – I’m so proud of our talented and committed team!

We anticipate more changes to come. As this outbreak unfolds, it is imperative that we think differently about how to meet the increasing need for food security. With new restrictions being imposed daily, we anticipate that regular food donations may not be as readily available. So, we are hard at work creating a simple 7-day menu with the plan to bulk shop and source food so that we can become even more efficient and scale our efforts as needed. To the best of our ability, and with the resources available to us, our desire is to continue offering a daily breakfast and lunch to those in need.

Communities come together in a crisis and we are not alone – the Friendship Inn is just one of many agencies committed to helping those in need. Our focus and mission is to provide food – and with every \$5 you donate we will be able to provide a meal to a person in need. Together, we will continue this crucial food service to people in our community who need it most during this time of crisis.

Thank-you.

Sandra Kary,  
Executive Director

IN THE MIDST OF THIS COVID-19 VIRUS OUTBREAK our community’s most vulnerable – who already live with very little – are experiencing a profound disruption as they try to meet their daily needs. We see many who are afraid of how they will get their basic needs met. They are uncertain of how they might stay safe from infection. And we know many have limited support systems or ways to stay informed with the most up-to-date information. Indeed during this difficult time our vulnerable neighbours need us most, and our mission to offer free meals, care and compassion has never been more important.

We have done our very best to respond quickly and safely – the health and well-being of our guests, employees, volunteers and community is a top priority.

Thank you for considering donating to this small project. Your contribution will make a significant impact on the operations at the Friendship Inn and the community they serve. The impact will not only be immediate in addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis, it will also serve them for many years to come.

“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?”

- Matthew 25:37 -