



## Safe & Warm Shelter 2017-2018

Through the support of Brandon Police Service, Neighborhoods Alive, The United Way, Glacier Wash, CFB Shilo, The City of Brandon, Thomas Sill Foundation, Manitoba Real Estate Association, donations in cash and in kind from individuals, businesses, churches and Crocus Plains Culinary Program along with the board of directors of Samaritan House and staff the Safe and Warm emergency cold weather shelter was opened for another successful year to those experiencing chronic or episodic homelessness in our community.

The shelter opened November 1, 2017 to March 29, 2018 totaling 116 individuals accessing shelter with 689 bed nights. Temperatures continue to be severe and due to limited resources of funding, the shelter closed its service leaving shelter guests to access other resources in the community.



### Quick Facts

- 116 individuals accessed the shelter
- 689 bed nights were provided
- The Safe and Warm Shelter offered space for a maximum of 20 persons per night
- Meals were made for the frozen meal program by the Crocus Culinary Students

### Challenges

Samaritan House continues to seek options to provide the emergency shelter to the absolute homeless in the most cost effective means possible. Samaritan House also recognizes the increase in severity with mental health and addictions to methamphetamines within the community. Extra staff were put on nightly to navigate through the unpredictable needs of shelter guests this shelter season based on those above demands for service. Relationships and honest connections were made with shelter guests from support workers and security personnel. In previous years goals were set to transition shelter guests to longer term housing, however this shelter season, staff were mostly only able to assist in providing the very basic needs to shelter guests as their mental health and addictions were severe. This included and was not limited to food, shelter, water and clothing.

## Shelter Overview

Shelter guests registered at our 820 Pacific Avenue site at 7 pm. An intake process was completed by support staff and security which established connection necessary to assist the shelter guest in assessing needs. A key goal was to facilitate the assessment upon registration for those who could be referred to Housing First programming. Water, access to a washroom, clean bedding, a cot with a mattress and a warm nutritious meal (high protein, low sodium and sugar) was provided to each shelter guest. Security went with each shelter guest and their belongings secured for the night. After 8 pm Brandon Police Service would assist through assessment for shelter guests accessing shelter. Exiting and re-entering shelter is not permitted throughout the night. Prior to shelter guests exiting at 8 am for the day, they assisted with clean up so that premise was left as it was found upon opening.



### *Homelessness Statistics*

- *Vacancy rate in Brandon in 2018 is 1.5%*
- *Single person income assistance \$806*
- *First time becoming homeless average age is 18 years old*

*I am young, I am old  
I wonder if I will ever find me  
I hear birds calling  
I see hope for my future  
I want my own place  
I am young, I am old*

*I pretend I have a family who needs me  
I feel everything  
I reach out to only be rejected  
I worry that I won't make it  
I cry when I look in the reflection of the windows  
I am young, I am old  
I dream  
I try  
I hope  
I am*

*(Author 18 Year old shelter user)*

*Please consider giving the gift of shelter....*

*Donations can be made via cheque, in person or online at [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org).  
Cheques can be made out to Samaritan House Ministries Inc. Tax receipts will be provided over \$20.00.*