



## COVID-19 Response Issue 1- April 27,2020

*“When a storm is coming, all other birds seek shelter.  
The eagle alone avoids the storm by flying above it.”*

Recent published and anecdotal reports reveal, a marked increase in the number of bald eagles in our midst. Given the “stormy” times we are in, it seems fitting, these winged harbingers of wisdom have arrived en-masse, to help guide us through this unprecedented challenge to the community we serve.

Since we commenced our heart medicine work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been able to reach out to all members of our community. Whether it’s Youth, Elders, our neighbours experiencing homelessness or those in difficult domestic situations, we are working tirelessly to connect and care for all who may benefit from our vital outreach.

The first service we want to draw attention to is the assembly and delivery of our emergency kits. These kits include a variety of basic food and hygiene items.

- **Over the initial 24-day period of our pandemic response, we delivered in excess of 12 thousand emergency kits** to people in quarantine or self-isolation. (This service commenced March 19)
- At the time of this report, we were able to provide kits to close to **3 thousand families, more than 6 thousand children and upwards of 500 Elders.**
- We’ve also partnered with our friends at the Bear Clan Patrol who have dispersed **hundreds** more of our kits to our relatives experiencing poverty and homelessness.

*We even took extra time to try and make the long weekend more “normal” for our children and families, by adding some Easter goodies to our kits. We are mindful of how difficult it is*



*to not be able to gather and celebrate as a community. We will continue to do what we can to keep people home and safe as possible.*

Our community members has expressed sincere gratitude for the deliveries and the connections that come with them. ***One of our Elders told us, how happy she was to have a roast beef sandwich in one of her deliveries. She says she had not enjoyed a roast beef sandwich for a very long time and that it brought back some happy memories.***



However, being able to teach our children and youth about the value of isolating to keep our families safe is challenging at best. When it comes to Ma Mawi's vast array of services, much of that responsibility of knowledge sharing lies with our Care Home Families.

With that in mind, our staff has been working diligently with our families to ease boredom and to keep stimulating young minds. As an example, we have distributed arts and crafts kits to nearly 50 homes. The early indications are, these are welcome gifts at this difficult time. Our Mentors tell us, as they deliver the kits, the children are often in the windows smiling and waving as signs of appreciation.

It should also be noted, one of our Care Home providers with two young siblings in her care is seeing remarkable development in her children. Not only is she home schooling the five year old, they are including her four year old brother in the lessons. He isn't scheduled to start school until the fall. Both children are also learning Cree online with their caregiver. This is a glowing example of gifts revealing themselves in trying times.

Speaking of gifts, we are so grateful for our precious volunteers who are stepping up in ways we could never have imagined. In the weeks to come, we will be acknowledging some of these extraordinary individuals.



In this issue, we want to pay tribute to Spatch. Every day, Spatch has been helping us with emergency kit delivery to citizens in the downtown core. He has also stepped up with donations of bread, juice boxes and granola bars. His outreach doesn't stop there. Spatch has been actively seeking out other volunteers and is encouraging people to donate what they can to Ma Mawi. Perhaps the greatest gift he brings though, is his demeanour. Staff members tell us, they look forward to experiencing Spatch's smile and positivity on a daily basis. Spatch, you need to know how appreciative we are for your selflessness.

**We are beyond grateful to all our partners and funders in this time of unprecedented need.** This includes all levels of government along with the private donors and the agencies that help provide the bridges to support. In particular, we want to give special acknowledgement to the **United Way of Winnipeg, The Winnipeg Foundation and to the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) and FoodRescue** for supporting us to help our community. Because of you, we have been able to care for our community members and each other despite the most formidable odds.

Despite that remarkable support, the need never abates. We encourage you to visit [www.mamawi.com/opportunities/donate/](http://www.mamawi.com/opportunities/donate/) to learn how you can be a part of our journey. Whether you want to lend your skills as a volunteer or make a donation, we would be honoured to hear from you.

This report touches on just some of the incredible work being performed by the Ma Mawi family. In the coming weeks, we will provide more details and stories about our COVID-19 response efforts.

We know we are in the midst of what will be a long and trying time. However, by flying above the storm and continuing to work diligently from the heart, we know we will emerge from this crisis and strengthen our children, families and community in the process.

Miigwetch, Ekosani, Wopida, Thank you and Merci!

