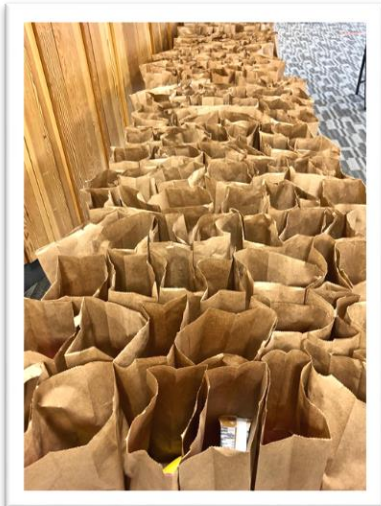


COVID-19 Response Issue 5, May 26, 2020

We are slowly returning to “a new normal.” For those experiencing poverty, domestic strife and marginalization, normalcy may feel like an eternity away.



MA MAWI WI CHI ITATA CENTRE
We all work together to help one another.



Each and every day, we are heartened to learn that the collective efforts of Manitobans in the fight against COVID-19 are starting to pay off. As fewer active cases are reported, we learn about the plans to re-open sectors of our province. While this is promising news, now is not the time to rest or become complacent when it comes to Ma Mawi’s pandemic response. We know we are needed to step up as leaders for many months to come and that our community we serve depends on our continued engagement and vigilance more than ever.

We have completed another significant week in terms of assembling and delivering our emergency kits. Even with lighter demand over the May long weekend, we still managed to reach thousands of community members.

Here are the numbers for the week of **May 16 – 22:**

- **2665 total kits delivered from our King Street Location**
- **121 of those kits were delivered to households with infants**
- **328 of those kits were delivered to youth**
- **29,419 Emergency Kits delivered since March 19th**

Since we commenced our coronavirus response two months ago, our staff, volunteers and partners have combined to deliver **tens of thousands of emergency kits** to the people we serve. This has been a remarkable team effort and we are so grateful to everyone who has played a role in our heart medicine work.

Our Wi Che Win program participants have been giving back by delivering emergency kits every Monday and Thursday to **more than 100 community members** who are experiencing poverty and homelessness. Along with food and hygiene items, we have been including activities in the kits as well as reading materials such as poems and short stories to help participants choose healthy pursuits during this time of isolation.

Our team lead **Francine Beaulieu** reports that *participants constantly express their delight and gratitude when we take the time to connect with them. They also reveal how happy they are to have regular contact with our staff and they feel like they are being cared for by extended family.*

Meeting people where they are and walking with them forms all of what we do. **Ma Mawi is a family** in every sense of the word. Along with providing for our community, we care for each other.



Strengthening Children and Families... Investing in Our Future

With the inherent stress and anxiety that accompanies our current work, we have been exploring ways of incorporating more self-care into the way we work. With that in mind, our Leadership Team developed a plan to support staff members with an opportunity to connect to the land in a safe way.



Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the last two weeks, we have been support program teams of up to 10 staff members to our **Windy Hill Community Training, Healing and Learning Centre** north of Winnipeg. We have ceremonial grounds close to the Centre, where we begin each staff gathering with a smudging ceremony around the fire. We then use a sharing circle to discuss our fears and challenges. Staff members also have the opportunity to share what they are grateful for at this time.

Ma Mawi's Keeper of the Spirit, **Wally Chartrand**, says *initially some were apprehensive about coming out to Windy Hill... but once they were here, they indicated their experience was positive and they would like to return.*

With that being said, we still have a challenging and daunting time ahead of us.

For instance, all of our **Youth Care Home** and **Child Development Centre** staff members are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) as required by the province. This is hot, cumbersome and impersonal work wear. However, our team lead **Lisa Champagne** proudly reveals that *these team members are committed to sending the message to our Youth, that we love them and do not want them to get them to get sick during our interactions.*



It's this kind of collective effort that will see us through this pandemic. We are so grateful to every **funder, partner and community member** who has stepped up to help us in any way they can possibly can. We want to give special mention to our friends at **The United Way Winnipeg** for outlining our response efforts in their [Desperate Times Heroic Measures](#) feature on their website.

While we continue to provide life saving outreach, we still need to do so much more. We invite you to keep visiting [Our Website](#) to learn how you can help our community emerge and thrive from this unprecedented challenge. Special thank you to all those who donated from our website on-line, to date we raised \$6,000!

Miigwetch, Ekosani, Wopida, Thank you and Merci!