

Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry Report - June 2020

It's been two weeks since re-open at mission, but it seems that people are following the rules better than I thought.

Some people are still indifferent to social distance, but people seem to understand most of them.

Mission restroom are open and disinfected immediately after use.

There are less than five people a day using the bathroom.

The service is back to normal, coffee and water from 12pm and sandwiches bags from 2:45pm. On the left side of the door, Put a coffee pot and a water dispenser on the table and hand out coffee, water and sandwiches.

We wear masks and gloves when we start. I always ask people what they want, some people take coffee or water, come close to me. Then I request to keep a social distance, they usually listen well.

We are handing out 30~45 cups of coffee, 10~15 cups of water and 30~40 bags of sandwiches a day.

The sandwiches bag contains two random sandwiches, juice and two cookies.

We are trying to make a special of hot meal every Friend. Usually make bbq hot dogs, but we'll plan to make spaghetti with sausage or soup when the weather is chilly because of the rain.

We have chips, crackers, cookies and juices at Food Bank.

God's bless be in a food bank that always donates for mission.

Also thanks to Lory and Josh, volunteered for the mission, I'm glad we're growing up as a team.

Report by Irene June

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We have opened alongside many others during, the 'Phase Three' re-opening of Saskatchewan. With that we have had to look over the new regulations and guidelines set out on Saskatchewan Health Authorities website. As we went over the guidelines, it became apparent that sanitization of not just our hands but the building was vital to our success to staying open. With that, we made sure to create areas and enough space that we can safely move and also operate in.

Since opening, we have been successful in the cleaning and sanitization of our areas respectively. We have decided that only one bathroom be of use during this time to monitor and adhere to the cleaning regulations. We have also worn masks and gloves while we serve both coffee and sandwich bags. At the end of each day we cart back in behind the plastic wall, all our supplies as we clean down and sanitize everything. We have had a couple incidents with people not enjoying the rules, but they are usually talked to and warned. I am not worried about the breakout as much as I was in the beginning because of everything that we are doing.

We have decided to keep the laundry program at a hold until spectrum calls us to move forwards with that. I have tried to call them and leave them a message, but I have not heard back from anyone. I think we don't need to be worrying about more things to do at this point anyways.

We got a certain email from our friend chandler next door, asking us that we take care of our messy parking lot. The situation has been dealt with.

The food bank continues its amazing support for our food program. During this pandemic they have stayed faithful to us and have kept our shelves stocked so that our spending didn't sky rocket. I am thankful as they keep on donating; they are great people and an even better service.

During these unprecedented times, it is important to remember that people need us now more than ever to be there for them and support them. Prayer and programs like ours help change the mindset of many by just being open. So I thank everyone involved in keeping our doors open for the people here at the mission. I can tell it helps and our work here does not go unnoticed. I hope you all have had a wonderful month, and I hope you are all keeping and staying safe! May the Lord continue to be with you all.

My Best,

Dylon Nippi

SNCM June 2020 Art Report

This Spring has been unimaginable. There are no meaningful words to express this pandemic experience. I see the people downtown and they are experiencing more despair and desperation than on the coldest of winter nights/weeks. It felt like a long fast with no end in sight. Not having a creative outlet, or just a welcoming space, really seems like a denial of medicine for emotional wellness. The isolation was necessary, but still emotional wellness and connection are obviously necessary for a better life. Luckily there are good organizations such as the Mission helping with feeding the people in body and mind.

In the middle of the art studio closure I was being kept sane with art and art journaling and I felt empathy and sadness for those who loved it so much but did not have that usual outlet. I wondered if they were experiencing some creative solutions to their problems. Indeed I learned from experiences and conversations they were finding ways. Some were and others are really struggling as poverty does not allow them the luxury of providing such materials like we do at the studio.

Early on I paired down my massive supply of pencil crayons (made tabs bundles), pencils and pens and placed them aside. Weeks later, feeling blue, I washed up, masked up, sanitizer in pocket, purchased colouring books, word searches and crossword puzzles and headed out towards the Lighthouse and surrounding area. Clean gloves on, I handed out to anyone who wanted. It was good to be outside, see life and experience something human with some very nice people. They were super happy as at that time downtown was a ghost town!

Thank you Irene and Dylan for painting. Irene painted both of the art doors so thank you for that.

The washroom was painted by me, Dylan put up a backsplash with tiles that were donated a long time ago. I caulked the tile with some extra that had been purchased for a previous art project. The cardboard gingerbread house group project where the caulking was used as icing brings back fond memories. Anyways, the tile is sealed.

Dylan put up a chain link across the door so people can remain at a distance, read the rules and then decide if they agree so they can then come in.

1. No food/beverage
2. 5 person max.
3. Hand sanitizer before entering
4. Must wear a mask. Do not touch face. If we do, it happens, hand sanitizer please.
5. Sit somewhat immediately when entering to do art. Supplies will be brought to you. Please no wondering around.
6. Maintain a 2 meter distance always.

This chain is most helpful as it creates immediate social distancing. Before the chain guard, people would just come in and not really hear the rules. So thank you Dylan for this solution. Even with them reading and agreeing, I will continue to specifically ask if they agree to each as to make sure they did read the rules board. It's a continual process to help people understand the importance of these measures in keeping the community safe and still able to participate in coming in.

The space has changed to honor social distancing rules and some crafts are being integrated slowly. One bathroom is being used in the building on the food side as it can be cleaned by one of the 2-4 people who are working and volunteering on that side. I appreciate having the bathroom during this COVID 19 time. As I am gathering supplies, communicating and doing various tasks including cleaning up with bleach and water after people leave, there is simply no time to worry about bathroom and laundry sanitation. I feel that I am helping people to not touch their face and observe and address behaviors that now because of COVID-19 are not acceptable. I ask them to address me too if they see I do something questionable so that they know this is not them being picked on. We are all in this together, to care and help each other out. People still have their own issues and this has just created more stress and more anxiety for all. Patience and understanding are even more important at this time.

Every single thing I do and am doing is different than what I use to do. I did not discuss it then, and really, it's for another report if there is interest, should I discuss in full length What I Do pre-COVID and What I Do During. Of real importance is the log I have of all attendees who now attend.

Things have been slow with people returning because there is so much understandable fear. The best we can do is breathe and take everything one day at a time. There is always hope and faith. As we are learning in this new world, good expression is healthy and hopefully healing expression.

Art and Medicine wheel conversations and projects are in practice and thought, as always. We are grasshoppers. (Patiently proceeding.)

Praying that all are keeping well and finding creative ways to live their best life.

Much appreciation,
Jennifer Pederson