Campaign for Marymound
Investing in young lives

CASE FOR SUPPORT
Today you have the opportunity to help change the future of some of our province’s most vulnerable teenage girls.

At Marymound, to overcome, advance and belong is more than a tagline. It is a way of life.

Marymound is a private, non-profit social welfare agency. Since our founding by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in 1911, we have emerged as a leader among youth-serving agencies. For over a century, Marymound has provided care, education, support, and clinical services for thousands of youth and families.

We truly believe there is good in every person who walks through our doors. This is the motivator that guides Marymound’s caring and compassionate staff to nurture and encourage children and youth. We offer structure, safety, and resilience to some of the most vulnerable young people in Manitoba.

“Manitoba does not have the sufficient resources to meet the needs of children with complex needs. This means a minimum range of 10-30% of youth in care will always completely challenge the system’s capacity to meet their needs with existing resources.”

-from the Office of the Children’s Advocate  Special Report

We are building on Marymound’s 105 year legacy in our community by launching a $9 million campaign to meet the needs of youth by breathing life back into a vacant heritage estate on our property. Members of Manitoba’s Indigenous community, along with Elders and youth have agreed to help us implement this new vision by becoming leaders of our innovative campaign.

The renovated home will serve a new purpose as we support teenage girls whose past trauma causes behaviours that put them at risk of being harmed.

These girls need a place that is warm and welcoming, where they can feel connected to their culture and identity. It is part of their treatment that will help them transition safely back to their community.

Thank you for considering a gift to Marymound. My name is Paige. I am 18 and want to tell you my story.

I’ve seen firsthand just how caring and compassionate Marymound is. I lived here throughout my teenaged years. This is where I grew up. The fact that they’re wanting to open up a mental health unit to help even more troubled youth is just one of the most incredible things I can think of.

They have so many other resources. They have group homes, they have a school, and they accept anyone with open arms. They will try and help anyone that they can, and they do so with just as much patience and care as they possibly can have for one person, not only one person, but they make it seem like they’re not taking care of hundreds of kids. They make it seem like they’re only taking care of you and that you are their utmost priority and importance in their lives.

And that’s true. That’s how they make you feel. They make you feel like you’re wanted and you’re a part of something, and I think a lot of kids need that because a lot of kids don’t have that kind of family aspect. And Marymound, they’re a family to me. Like I’m back here and I got a warm feeling. I just can’t wait to see everyone. And I think a lot of kids, if they would just allow themselves to be helped, they would feel exactly the same way.

So thank you. Thank you on behalf of the kids like me. You’re saving lives. Thank you to all the donors who saved mine.
A new transition home for teenage girls with complex needs

There are over 10,000 children and youth in care of Manitoba’s child welfare system and due to very difficult life experiences and severe trauma, many have complex and challenging needs. Some are teenage girls at high risk of being victimized and harmed.

In September 2015, Marymound opened the first phase of its new Mental Health & Complex Needs Centre. The innovative program provides stabilization, clinical assessment, counselling and support for teenage girls ages 12-17 with very complex needs who are at risk of being unsafe. But we want to do more, and we need your help.

The second phase is the building of an unprecedented and badly needed resource that hasn’t existed before. This critical program will provide a safe and secure environment for these young girls. The transition home will offer a continuity that is especially important for youth with complex needs who have had only a short time in a stable and healthy setting.

The home’s care will encompass a safe, supportive, graduated daily living program that help the youth learn skills and practice making positive choices that will lead towards a healthier lifestyle. The transition home will provide a safe, home-like environment with a continuum of care to help the girls feel comfortable and safe. The availability of clinical supports will continue during their stay.

The home will also provide an environment where family, Elders, caregivers and community members visit and participate in a collective plan to nurture and support these young girls to secure a safe and healthy lifestyle.

“Marymound gave me the independent living skills to succeed which gave me the confidence to get a job, and the perseverance to finish high school and pursue my future goals while raising my two children.”

-Brandi Sanderson, former Marymound youth

“I support Marymound’s recent commitments to engaging the Indigenous community in meaningful ways, having their staff reflect the children and youth they serve, and supporting families.”

–Michael Champagne, Indigenous Youth Leader
A tour of the home

When the girls arrive, they will be met at the Welcome Foyer which will preserve the warmth of our heritage architecture while giving them a sense that this truly feels like a home. The residence will be designed to house a maximum of 10 girls, each with their own bedroom.

The full kitchen will be used not only to prepare food, but also teach independent living skills such as meal preparation and building healthy menus. Another service will also offer girls shopping price comparison, housekeeping, safety skills and accessing community resources, to name just a few.

With your help, we will have a common area equipped for television viewing, computer access and book shelves that will be connected to the kitchen area. A family room will be available for meetings, family visits or just a place to get away from the group for some private time. We also hope to create a four-season sunroom to use as an activity room for arts and crafts, other indoor activities (like using a treadmill) and for family visits.

Our Round Room will be a quiet place of reflection to encourage introspection and healing. Taking advantage of the 19th century floor plan of the home, the Round Room will be a circular room that celebrates the symbolism and importance of the Circle in so many faiths and cultures, and will be a place for Elders to hold ceremonies and offer traditional teachings.

All of our common areas will be designed with ample lighting that will create warmth and offer comfort and protection for the youth in our care, while maintaining the rich textures and beautiful design of the building’s heritage.

Our Youth and Elder Committee will actively work with us in the creation of the space both inside and out. We recognize that healing doesn’t just happen ‘on the inside’ of our facility but also on ‘the outside’. We envision a wrap-around flowerbed and raised vegetable beds to offer youth an opportunity to build their nurturing skills such as gardening their own plants as part of their healing process.

We eventually see another home nearby where short or long-term visits from families will be possible to actively participate in their children’s well-being. We would also like to have outreach capacity as part of the program to ensure the safety of the girls after they have left our care.

Michael Richardson, Senior Manager of Mental Health and Complex Needs Centre

Growing up in the projects of Natchez, Mississippi, Michael has seen what the effects of poverty, broken families and substance abuse can have on the development of youth in a community.

At the young age of 16, Michael became a community youth leader and supported anti-drug and Stay in School campaigns in his region. He also organized junior basketball leagues and community pancake breakfasts for the youth and homeless people in need. Giving back to the community has followed him throughout his life—before, during, and after his professional football career.

He previously worked for Ka Ni Kanichihk, an Aboriginal agency offering programs to intercity youth for 4.5 years before coming to Marymound where he quickly became the Senior Manager of the new Mental Health & Complex Needs Centre. “Healthy children help make a stronger community,” says Michael. “And kids need to feel attached by having a sense of belonging to something bigger than they have ever experienced.”

He finds his job as challenging as he does rewarding. “Seeing kids when they first come here is difficult, but when you observe the resiliency they have at overcoming major adversity and find their way back to a family or placement in the community, you can’t help but smile,” says Michael.

It’s all about giving back for Michael Richardson. And by giving to Marymound, you are investing in a child’s life, and the community.
and more than just a bed...

Marymound has a number of support programs for teenage girls on site that add value to the new Marymound Mental Health & Complex Needs Center.

Cultural programming is available with two Indigenous Mentors and Elders working with youth, in addition to a Cultural Center and sweat lodges.

SWEEP (Student Work Experience and Education Program) works with youth to prepare them for entrance into the workplace. It is important for some of the youth to be employment-ready, particularly if they don’t pursue post-secondary education.

Marymound School creates opportunities for the young girls in care to seamlessly continue their education. The school is equipped with many amenities including a computer lab and a transition teacher available for all the youth.

Recreation Programs managed and coordinated by our Program Leader engages young people in physical activity, healthy eating habits and numerous active day trips to the Zoo, farms, and other nature adventures.

Having the new Mental Health & Complex Needs Centre on the Marymound campus enables easy and seamless access to these value-added programs that engage our young girls at no additional cost. This greatly raises the value of the Centre and its programs by not having to access them off site at great expense.
Indigenous Culture and Programming

Marymound strives to encourage the healing journey of many of our young people through its cultural services program. It is often at Marymound where young people recognize the depth and strength of their own heritage. Elders provide traditional Indigenous cultural and spiritual teachings to the young people and families receiving services from Marymound. Marymound’s cultural advisor also offers many opportunities every month for youth to engage in activities. Two Youth Mentors (male and female) have been hired to be positive role models for the youth as well as growing the Cultural Program to include the building of a teaching lodge to be used for regular ceremonies and teachings such as, full moon ceremonies and medicine teachings.

Marymound offers their youth a number of opportunities to explore and learn about their Indigenous culture such as:

- The Seven Grandfather Teachings
- The Seven Clans Teachings
- The Seven Directions Teachings
- The Seven Pipe Teachings
- The Medicine Wheel Teachings

The theme of our Campaign is the Star Blanket, a sacred symbol among Manitoba’s Indigenous People. It holds the tradition of generosity and blessing, and symbolizes our collective role in healing and strength. Our donors will be recognized through an installation that celebrates the Star Blanket symbol.

Honouring the past.
Honouring the future.

One of the most exciting aspects of building this home is that it will reside on our property at 442 Scotia Street. The girls will benefit from the close proximity that enables easy access to clinical services and supports, and educational programming through our school.

The former Leacock Estate is a remarkably preserved example of local nineteenth-century craftsmanship featuring architectural design elements that will be fused with a modern sensibility to create an environment of light, warmth and stability. Although the structure is in place, there is a great deal of work that needs to be completed before the home can be officially opened.

Our goal for completion of the structure is early 2017 and by spring, this residence will be fully converted into a safe place for children to reflect, recover, learn, and grow.
This is truly a historic and innovative campaign.

The historic Leacock Estate was completed in 1882. It is a heritage building and one of the finest examples of Queen Anne Revival architectural style in Western Canada. Until July 2014, it was home to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd who have since moved to Toronto, creating a vacant building. It is an ideal setting and proximity for our new transition home for teenage girls.

With your support, not only will you help save an important historic landmark but by renovating instead of initiating new construction, you will help to ensure that our facility is opened more quickly, helping more girls receive the care they need.

As well, the Campaign will raise funds to the Marymound Fund that provides funding for scholarships, bursaries and extra curricular activities for all kids in Marymound care. The Campaign will also create the Indigenous Cultural & Education Fund that will enrich, advance and sustain Indigenous cultural teachings at Marymound.

Our Campaign is more than a capital campaign.

It is campaign that is focused on the next century of care at Marymound. Our Campaign is about engagement, and we are inviting members of the community to join us. We want to demonstrate to our kids that they have a large group of champions who believe in them, are investing in them and cheering them on. These champions come in many forms. Some will be members of our Circles and will help to strategically guide the Campaign, others will be major donors. Some will organize a third party event while others may ask their friends to join us. All will make a difference. All will show our kids that they are valued and loved.

“Hearing the voice of a child that was never listened to. That’s very important. Without Marymound, I don’t know where these youth would have been, because this is our foundation for youth.”

-Jo Jo Sutherland, Elder, Marymound & Member, Youth & Elder’s Circle

Our Circles

The children of Manitoba need all of us. That is why Marymound is reaching out to several communities and organizations throughout Manitoba to lead this Campaign as a member of the Circle or our Honourary Youth & Elders Circle.

To show our commitment to open communication, engagement and cultural celebration, Marymound has created a Youth and Elders Circle that consists of participants from all over the community. The Youth and Elders Circle is a collaborative effort between corporate leadership, philanthropic visionaries and Manitoba’s Indigenous community, exploring different models of philanthropy and community engagement based on traditional Indigenous worldviews, and childcare philosophies.

Throughout this campaign, our doors will be open. We welcome anyone who wishes to meet with us or to tour our facilities. We are embarking on a truly integrated campaign that celebrates donors of all levels that honours their commitment equally. The Campaign will engage our community to support the first step our children take on their journey home.
Our Capital Campaign Goal

**Capital Total:** $9 Million

Marymound Mental Health & Complex Needs Transition Home: $5 Million

Marymound Kids’ Fund: $500,000

Indigenous Culture & Programming Education Fund: $1 Million

Operating Costs: $2.5 Million
(Provided by the Province of Manitoba)

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Our Timeline

Transformation of the Marymound Sisters’ residence into Marymound’s Transition Home for Teenage girls with mental health and complex needs is scheduled to begin 2016.

In the spring of 2017, the home will open.

Now is the Time

We believe that all youth have infinite potential, and that there are no “at-risk youth”, only at-risk behaviors. We have a responsibility to protect these children, who have so much to offer.

Thank You

On behalf of everyone at Marymound, we wish to thank you for your time, consideration and support in this special request. Through your generosity and involvement, we will continue our work to reach out to Manitoba’s youth and their families so they can realize their full potential.

Manitoba is our home and its children are our future.

Please join us in making a better home and brighter future for everyone.

As of August 15, 2016

**3.5 Million**

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**Marymound**

Finding the good

www.marymound.com

Campaign for Marymound: Case for Support