



# MESSENGER

ISSUE 3 VOLUME 1 February 2010

## It Really Does Take a Village to Raise a Child

### *"It takes a village to raise a child."*

This well-known African proverb could well be applied to Marymound. Our front line staff works with over 1300 young people and families every year, in a variety of capacities. You might be surprised at the range of work they do.

Following are a few 'snapshots' of some Marymound staff members and brief insights into what they might be doing on any given day. They come from all over Marymound – and each one approaches his or her job with purposeful caring and dedication. They believe in the young people here and do everything they can to help them thrive, grow and learn.

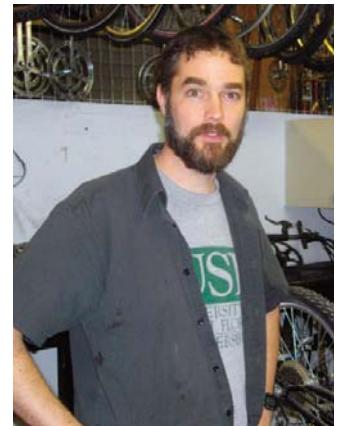


**Melanie, Youth Care Worker in a Marymound Secure Unit**

"We did karaoke with three of the girls for an hour. It was awesome! One of the staff brought in a special microphone that made different voices – alien voice, singing in the shower, robot. We had a lot of fun."

**Daniel, Coordinator Student Work Experience Education Program (SWEEP)**

"We were out snow shoveling with two girls from one of the secure units. It took us all morning and we did about 10 or 11 properties (driveways and walks). There was lots of snow and it was quite heavy. They did a great job."



"Another one of our girls works twice a week in the kitchen at Marymound."



**Pamela, Spiritual Care Coordinator**

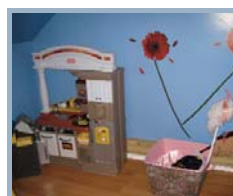
"I try to identify children's gifts and encourage them. Some of them are making a prayer braid. While they work on it, we talk and kind of 'debrief'. I try to provide a presence of support, offering opportunities for inspiration. It's all about building relationships and doing compassionate listening."

continued...

### Inside...



...2 Drum group performs



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...4 Artwork by Marymound youth

"I do clinical pastoral work. We talk about family and sometimes light candles for members of the young person's family. They lead each visit and I go wherever they are."

*\*Green Classrooms Care is a reading program that empowers students to make our planet a greener place, just by reading. When a class reads 100 books by Earth Day, April 22, 2010, Scholastic Book Clubs makes a donation to help protect 100 sq. km of Canadian Boreal Forest in honour of the class.*



**Beata, Clinical Case Manager Treatment Foster Care**

"In the next two weeks I will be busy developing transition plans with several of my foster homes because their children will be attending new schools next year."

**Sheryl, Clinician**

"I've been having the young people I see work with art. Using art as a medium helps them explore parts of their lives. Art is a safer way to express their feelings which then give me access to further exploration."



**Leanne, Teacher Marymound School**

"The focus right now is on reading and writing. I want to decrease the anxiety my students feel about writing. We are working on parts of a short story – how to keep it simple. They're learning how to put the "who, what, where, when, and why" into a story. They also each write in a journal every day."



**Lorise, Program Coordinator Futures (Thompson, Manitoba)**

Our teen parent group is making moccasins for themselves and their babes. Our Social Work student is teaching them and they are really enjoying beading. They even work on them at home."

"We also just read 100 books as part of the \*Green Classrooms Care program by Scholastic."



## Marymound Drum Group in Demand in the Community



Strong Singing Turtle Women performing at the Park Theatre

The photograph is a little dark, but the lights were low at the Women's Night of Culture fundraising event at the Park Theatre on February 11. This didn't stop the Strong Singing Turtle Women, Marymound's own drum group, from providing a spine-tingling opening for the fundraiser, hosted by the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre.

The group performed three songs, even closing the evening with their strong and spirited drumming and singing.

We are very proud of the girls who participated. They practised diligently to be ready for the evening and did a wonderful job, representing Marymound and themselves.

Thank you to the drum group and to Ida Mae and Elizabeth from our Aboriginal Cultural Centre for preparing and transporting the girls for this performance.

**Meegwetch!**



# A Place to Meet, A Place to Play, A Place to Share

Imagine that you are a young mom. You have limited financial resources and the demands of parenting and maintaining a household often leave you feeling alone, with little time for yourself. You might not be able to provide your youngster with many toys or chances for interaction with other children.

Wouldn't it help to have a place to go that is safe and clean, well-equipped with toys and activities that children like - and an opportunity to be with other moms in similar situations to talk and share with?



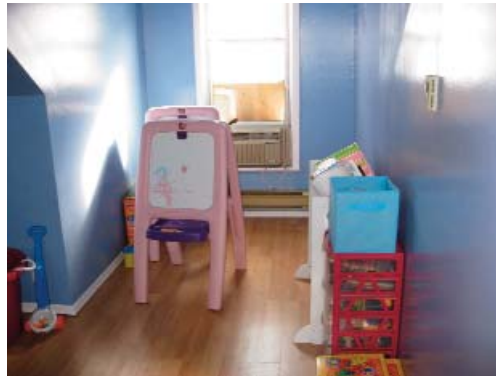
Books and toys for everyone!

Marymount has such a program. Thanks to a grant of \$16,362 from the McKesson Foundation, the Young Parents Program was able not only to completely renovate the top level of their facility on College Avenue in Winnipeg but also to furnish it with everything needed to provide a welcoming and engaging environment for young moms and their children.

"We've already held some meetings up there," said program manager Nadia Dias. "It's great for our clients with children. They mix with each other and it breaks the isolation."



A colourful play structure is a highlight of the room



Sun streams into the arts and crafts area

The area is arranged creatively, making the most of every square foot.

"There's an arts and crafts area, a reading cubby area, every kind of puzzle, a felt board, chalk board, TV/DVD area, a baby centre with developmental toys and playmats, a breastfeeding area and nursery/nap area, a doll house and toy kitchen and lots of trucks and trains," said Dias.



Nap time? No problem! Moms can also nurse in private in this cozy armchair.

As you can see from these photos, the place has been transformed into a child's dream play area. "We hold family meetings here," said Dias. "Kids play while their parents meet. We'll also hold family reunification sessions and run programs."

Already planned is a program teaching young parents about potential child predators, to help them keep their children safe.

**Marymount would like to thank the McKesson Foundation for making such a significant contribution to the lives of these young parents and their children.**

An Open House is planned for April.



# Art Classes at Marymound School Going Swimmingly!

Here is just a sampling of some of the artwork being done by students at Marymound School.

You will get a chance to see it and more at two upcoming events being held this spring:

## Marymound Spring Marketplace Saturday, May 1 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Even bigger and better than last year! Plants, jewellery, scrapbooking/stamping supplies, used books, skin care products, food and artwork created by Marymound youth for sale.

If you have a home-based business and would like to rent a table, please contact Lynda Gilchuk at [gilchuk@marymound.com](mailto:gilchuk@marymound.com) or 336-5265.



## "Heartbeats of Spring" Variety Show Thursday, May 6 1:30 p.m. in the Marymound School Gym

A showcase of the many talents of Marymound youth. Music, movement, magic, artwork and more. You'll laugh, you'll cry - you'll be moved and amazed!



Please consider a donation to MARYMOUND today!  
It's easier than ever at [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org) - the safe, secure and convenient method to donate from your home or workplace.  
Your help means so much. **Thank you.**



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Founded by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Marymound is a member of

