



# MESSENGER

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## Student Work Experience Leads to Summer Job

How would you like to spend some time on a farm? That's exactly what Alyssa from Marymound had the opportunity to do this past summer at FortWhyte Alive. It came about after she worked in the farm program during the school year. She did so well that she was asked back to participate as an intern over the summer.

Marymound staff went out to visit her at work and were extremely impressed by her involvement and competence.

"She called out to the pigs as we approached," said Mardy Yager, former Student Work Experience Education Program Coordinator "and they came running to the edge of the pen to greet her."

16-year-old Alyssa took the bus early every morning, taking the long trip from West Kildonan in Winnipeg all the way out to FortWhyte. She never missed a shift.

Earning a steady salary for the first time, Alyssa learned to manage her money, setting aside savings for the future.

"It is very encouraging for all of us who work with these young people," said Mardy, "to see them recognize that they are valued as people and are respected in the workplace. They see that they can

make a contribution and that life is more than just their own issues."

"I guess the lesson from this is to keep trying different things with different kids, provide them with opportunities to try new things and encourage them."

Kristine Zylstra-Moore of FortWhyte Farms provided a thoroughly positive report about Alyssa. "Alyssa has demonstrated a lot of enthusiasm for our program and clearly values the time she spends here. She is especially good at working with the pigs and chickens and at making visitors to FortWhyte Farms feel welcome."

Alyssa was selected as one of two first-time recipients of Marymound's Milestone Award, given to a youth or youths at Marymound who has made significant changes in their lives, in areas such as education, the workforce, arts or volunteerism.

She received the award at Marymound's Annual Meeting on November 18 where she also was the keynote speaker. Alyssa charmed the full house with her candid account of early days at



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Alyssa receiving Milestone Award from SWEEP Coordinator, Daniel Scouten

Marymound: "I thought it was a prison," and how her time here has changed her life, giving her the tools and the confidence to become more responsible and independent. "One day it just clicked," she said.

### Student Work Experience Education Program (SWEEP)

SWEEP provides students with vocational skills and experience. Its aim is to break down barriers, helping young people to become comfortable in work and volunteer environments, interacting with people. It also offers students valuable experience, discipline and self-esteem.

With assistance from coordinator Daniel Scouten, students receive instruction in workplace safety, resume writing, job searching, career choices, community work and volunteering. Many students at Marymound School have never had direct experience in the workforce and some have been negatively influenced because employment has not been a positive experience for family

members. Some students, like Alyssa, participate in work placements at community businesses and organizations.

The program has received the Manitoba Peacekeeper Award several years running and the United Way Community Service Award goes to individual students each year. Alyssa received this award in 2009.

Here's what Alyssa had to say about her work: "This was my first year as an intern at FortWhyte Farms and I loved it there! I originally found out about the farm through Mardy who worked with me as a counselor at Marymound. My first thought when I got here with the spring program was *"Oh great, now I have to be a farm girl!"* I guess after about a week into the program my view changed and that's when I realized that working out here is actually relaxing."

Congratulations, Alyssa - and good job!



## Preparing for the Pandemic Marymound plans for all possibilities



**I**t seems that everywhere we turn we're hearing about the H1N1 pandemic, vaccination clinics, people contracting the virus and more. Some people are apathetic while others are alarmed.

Marymound has chosen to be proactive about the pandemic. We have gone about planning very methodically, taking stock of our human resources, providing comprehensive information to our staff and clients about flu prevention, installing numerous handwash stations, training staff in the proper use of protective masks and gloves, and stepping up our regular cleaning routines throughout the organization.

Marymound, like other social services agencies, cannot just shut its doors if several staff members

come down with H1N1. The young people living in our secure units and group homes must be looked after.

We have developed a detailed continuity plan that outlines processes and staffing to put into place should a large proportion of employees simultaneously be away sick.

Marymound has also developed plans to look after ill residents, reducing the spread of infection while maintaining quality care.

While there is no way to predict how hard the flu pandemic may hit our organization, we feel confident that we have been responsible in making sure we are as prepared as possible, ensuring that the young people who depend on us will continue to receive the best possible care.



# Long Time Supporters

## “just want to be good neighbours”

If you've driven down north Main Street in Winnipeg, you've likely passed Eastern Chrysler Dodge Jeep numerous times. It takes up a full city block between Forrest and Partridge Avenues and has an impressive array of shiny new vehicles lined up from one end to the other.

Eastern has been part of the West Kildonan community since 1957 when Joe Rewucki, then in his early thirties, moved here with family from Beausejour to open a service station. Not too long after, Eastern expanded, with a franchise to open a dealership.

This was a fortunate move for Marymount. At the time, the agency had been operating for over 40 years, and was right down the street from Eastern's original location on the east side of Main (there is a Shell station there now.) It wasn't long until a relationship began between Marymount and Eastern.

"We'd often have girls walking across our lot to get to Marymount School," said Joe. "Sometimes when it was very cold, they'd even walk inside."

"The Sisters would come to us to do mechanical work on their vehicles," he said. At the time, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, who founded Marymount in 1911, made up most of the staff. Today, while there are still sisters living on the premises and providing guidance, all work is done by laypeople.

"The Sisters asked for a donation," said Joe, "and we were happy to give it. We wanted to be their good neighbour."

Eastern Chrysler has been a financial supporter of Marymount for decades, supporting various fundraising events at Marymount. They have also generously donated many in-kind gifts such as sets of tires, bicycles and even gently used hockey gear to a Marymount girl who wanted to play.

In return, when Marymount needed a vehicle, the Sisters or staff would often turn to Eastern to purchase it. In fact, an Eastern vehicle was just recently delivered to our Receiving Home in Thompson, Manitoba.

It has been a mutually beneficial relationship that both sides appreciate, but Joe, Chairman of the Board and daughter Marietta, President and General Manager of Eastern consider it just part of everyday neighbourliness. It is a way of life.

"If someone says *"Marymount needs this,"* we phone up and look after it," said Joe.

"We like to support organizations in our community," said Marietta. "The community gives to us and we want to give back. That's what he taught us," she said of her dad. "Marymount does good service to our community. We appreciate that they have always been a good supporter of ours... Marymount has a good place in our hearts."

And there will always be a place in the collective hearts at Marymount for Eastern.



Joe and Marietta Rewucki of Eastern Chrysler Dodge Jeep like to support organizations in their community.



# Creativity Flourishes at Marymound

## Marymound Bookmark Contest 2009



Marymound Bookmark Contest winning entries created by (left to right): Tatyana, Jessica, Angelica.

The walls at Marymound School and Gathering Room are starting to look like a veritable art gallery, with samples of young people's creative work displayed for everyone to enjoy.

This year, students in the Creative Arts class are trying their hand at charcoal, oil pastel and many techniques that encourage them to try something new. They have surprised even themselves with what they have been able to accomplish!



"Woolly Woos" show great attention to detail.



**Please remember MARYMOUND young people in this giving time of year.**

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.**



**MARYMOUND**

Finding the good

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

