

# **Wings of Power**

## **Annual Report 2024-2025**

### **Mission**

*Building a better Community one person at a time.*

### **Vision**

*Wings of Power serves to be a leader in our community where all individuals and families feel safe, respected, valued and loved; have the opportunity to experience dignity, pride and equality; and have the opportunity to live healthy and fulfilling lives.*

### **Pillars**

*Our pillars are literacy, nutrition, parenting and community capacity building.*

### **Our History**

*Wings of Power evolved in 1998 from the Agassiz (now Sunrise) School Division's concerns regarding children attending Powerview School. There were children entering school with very few Kindergarten readiness skills. Some had never been read to, others did not know colors or simple counting skills; some children were coming to school hungry; others came from an environment of little or no parental support with regards to home and school related functions.*

*We have learned that a key step to building trust and confidence of the community is from the grassroots level. We learned that if the individual, the family and the community are supported, social capital and community capacity are enhanced. We continue to focus on the three pillars that were identified in the beginning, but the programs are driven by the community.*

### **Executive Summary**

*Wings of Power had a very successful 2024-2025 fiscal year. Our Day Program had 10 clients with 4 full time staff. The staff and clients work well as a team and do their best to support our local business partners in the community. The Residence program has 3 clients and 3 full time and 2 part time staff. The staff do good work providing a structured environment for the clients and create a home like atmosphere for the men to enjoy. Our Thrift store did very well this year with a steady stream of our regulars taking advantage of inexpensive clothing and household items for their families. We were able to attract new customers by adding a large sign for the roadway advertising our Thrift Store as many people didn't know what we offered. The sign helped to increased our store sales by 28% overnight. We were able to host our summer camps, host a Fall Harvest Dinner and our most popular and successful event, Breakfast with Santa. We formed 2 new community partnerships. We joined the new Pine Falls area food bank and support the program in many ways as well as the Executive Director sits on the Board. Secondly, we joined with 4 local organizations to provide a meal to the homeless community on Fridays.*

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### **Highlights**

-We acquired funding from MMF to hire 1 summer student in 2024 to help facilitate our summer boys' and girls' clubs. We hired 3 local students to run our summer program, enrollment in the boy's club and in the girl's club was down a bit but those who attended had a fun summer.

-Our Helping Hands Day Program has 10 clients enrolled in our program.

- We have 20 community partnerships like the hospital, Chicken Chef and the Powerview Catholic Church with some of them seasonal like the golf course, Chevrefils Greenhouse, and the arenas.

-CPNP was successful with a good turnout. They had 22 participants in their Prenatal and Postnatal program; they also had 6 partners attend with 24 kids throughout the year.

-Our Residence has 3 clients and 3 full time staff and 2 part time staff. They had a good year and enabled the young men to live a fruitful life. The staff and clients all have good relationships.

-Little Wings enrollment continues to be down, they had a hard time attracting kids to their program, part of this was due to subsidies at Sagkeeng daycare and St Georges school. Maggie tried her best to get enrollment up. We had 13 registered in the 3-year-old and 4-year-old program, with attendance of 8 in the morning and 5 in the afternoon.

-We were not able to run our Grand Marais Little Giggles program due to accessibility to a facility. We have no plans to try and find a new facility to run our program; Victoria Beach currently has a program that is well attended.

- Our Lil Giggles Friday Playgroup was taken over by Teresa and the Prenatal Postnatal program. They had limited success offering the playgroup every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday. They had regular attendance by 2 families and a few other drop ins.

- We had a healthy harvest from our community garden including cucs, tomatoes, zucchini, spaghetti squash and peppers. We picked daily and offer them to our shoppers in the store. Most of our garden plants were donated by Marcel and Heather at Chevrefils Greenhouse. We did receive 40 tomatoe and Pepper plants from a community member from across the river.

-I plow snow in the winter, I enjoy it for the most part other than -30 windy days and 6 am ploughing before the store is open, it is my volunteer contribution to Wings. Our clients cut the grass and wiper sniped in the summer and all staff and clients weed the gardens. The

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staff and clients shovel the steps at Wings and Teresa House and the clients and Ray look after the Residence winter and summer.

- We had a somewhat good budget year with expenses slightly exceeding revenues. We had a deficit of \$8,319. This is good in some aspects as we have had a profit the past 2 fiscal years and had to return \$12,000 to the Department of Families each of the 2 years. We are allowed a 2% surplus or \$10,000 whichever is greater as outlined in our current contract. We were over about \$22,000 the past two years. Our high expenses this fiscal year were linked to our new Collective agreement kicking in on November 1, 2024.

-A New collective agreement was reached in November of 2024. We opened negotiations before March 31, 2025 to offer the staff a pension plan. Their new wage kicked in in November of 2024, which was 5 months before the old one expired. We also included a new pension plan for the staff with a 50/50 contribution plan. This plan started on December 1, 2024. Our staff are very grateful for the pension plan and realize the importance of the plan to their future. The staff will get their next raise on April 1, 2026. We signed a 3.5 year contract to expire March 31, 2028.

-We secured funding for our Ecole Powerview School breakfast program through Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba (\$33,150) and Breakfast Club of Canada (\$23,595). This gave us a very healthy budget to include the high school end again and we were able provided food hampers to families that the school recognized were in need of assistance. The extra funds allowed us to do some great work and reach students and families we couldn't previously help. The families and the school students and staff were very appreciative that we were able to help so many additional students.

- We received \$3,944 from the MMF-1 student

-Thrift store donations and sales were good. We had over 1972 bags of donations last year with 2640 shoppers in our store. Donation volume was a bit down, but the quality of goods was up, and number of shoppers was the same as the previous year. Our thrift store is well known in the community and we get many repeat shoppers weekly looking for our inexpensive items for their families. The new portable sign we purchased in April of 2024 helped attract shoppers who didn't know we had a thrift store. Our sales were up %28 from the previous year, from \$28,000 to \$36,000.

-We got rid of our wooden donation bin, leaving the red metal bin only. We advertised to drop off larger items or boxed items during business hours. This has worked very well, theft is down and the quality of goods is much better as people can't leave their junk in our wooden bin anymore.

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-We have an overall staff of 16 employees to run our business, 4 managers, 14 being full time staff and 2 part time. Our Helping Hands Program is running well with a good crew. The Residence has a good crew as well; they are always eager to pick up extra shifts to cover vacation or sick days. They do a great job with the men at the home. My managers at Little Wings, the Residence and CPNP are great, they provide good leadership in their respective worksites and keep me informed.

-Staff retention has been very good again this past year. The staff work well together which is huge to moral and promoting a fun and healthy work environment. The new collective agreement and pension plan where factors in keeping the staff and encouraging them to stay here long term.

-Our Board has had 1 member resign and another new one to take their place.

-We have a new partnership with the local area food bank, we provide printing services, pick up donations at the local drop off boxes, do weekly food pick ups at Midway and Chicken Chef and provide fridge and freezer space when needed.

-The Wings of Power Executive Director will be a permanent Director of the food bank Board of directors.

-We have partnered with 4 other local organizations to provide meals to the homeless on Fridays. Every 5<sup>th</sup> Friday we provide either soup or sandwiches to those who are looking for a meal. The program is based out of the old Pine Falls Doctors basement offices in the winter and uptown in the warmer months.

### **Goals**

-continue to source additional businesses and partnerships for our Helping Hands program. We are currently at 20 partnerships, with some of these seasonal. I will continue to reach out to businesses and organizations to see if we can offer our services. Staff have been actively pursuing new workplaces for our clients.

-grow our existing programs and add new clients when asked.

-Secure all existing funding as well as find new avenues of funding for programs and projects.

-apply for grants as needed for specific projects.

-continue to work with staff, building teamwork, promoting a healthy workplace and strengthening our Wings of Power Brand in the community.

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-continue to foster a good working relationship with the Union, we have a new Union rep and she is great! A huge improvement from the last one.

### **Programs and Services Offered**

- Breakfast Program at Ecole Powerview School in partnership with Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba, the Breakfast Club of Canada, Manitoba Egg Farmers and Community Donations
- Little Wings Preschool Program (at École Powerview School)
- Community Drop-In (coffee, support, fellowship, etc)
- Community Connections – Community Access Program
  - ◆ Free Internet, Phone and Faxing services
- “Thrift Store”
- CPNP Program (Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program)
- Community Garden with free plants and seeds from Chevretils Greenhouse
- Helping Hands Adult Day Program currently consisting of 10 clients
- Residential Home for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (3 clients)
- Annual Events
  - ◆ Community Harvest Dinner, October 10, 2024. 212 participants which was up from 2023.
  - ◆ Breakfast with Santa, December 6, 2024. 167 participants which was up from the previous year as well.
  - ◆ We planned a summer kick off BBQ, but it was rained out
  - ◆ We had a year end farewell to summer BBQ at the end of our Boys and Girls summer camps for the kids and parents of the program.
- Outreach and Support
- Boys and Girls summer programs
- Partnerships with IERHA
- Partnership with the Pine Falls and area food bank
- Partnership with local organizations to feed the homeless
- Helping Hands volunteer community program

### **Program Outcomes**

**Breakfast Program Ecole Powerview School:** We provide fresh fruit, cheese, eggs, milk and yogurt tubes daily. Teachers report increased concentration, improved grades and behaviour. This School year we were able to include the high school students for the first time and averaged over 400 students per day from grades K to 12 on a regular basis. We received additional funding from the Breakfast Club of Canada this year. These funds were used to increase the food types including chocolate milk, yogurt, granola bars, bread, butter and jam. Through additional funding from The Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba we were able to add a food hamper program through Ecole Powerview School. Resource staff were able to identify families in need. These families had food hampers delivered to them twice monthly throughout the school year. This program proved to be very successful.



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**Summer Programming:** We had a successful year providing summer activities for our Boys and Girls club aged 6-11 years. Our boys club had 14 registered and an average attendance of 6. The girls had 25 registered with average attendance of 10 girls. Programming was provided by our 3 summer students.

**Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program:** we hope to offer again in the future.

**Mini Chefs:** We hope to offer this program again in the future.

**Little Giggles Grand Marais:** We were not able to offer this program due to no facility available; we currently have no plans to reopen this program at the beach. Victoria Beach has program that is well attended.

**Little Giggles Playgroup Pine Falls:** This program was hosted this year by our Prenatal and Postnatal staff with limited success.

**Prenatal, Postnatal Care:** Increased knowledge of prenatal care and nutrition. Goals are healthy birth weights, decreased Fetal Alcohol Effect Disorder rates, decreased social isolation, increased links to other resources, and improved health for improved early childhood development. Our CPNP program was successful, reaching **22** women and **6** partners.

**Child Care during CPNP Programs:** Development of language, social, emotional and cognitive skills for children is achieved through structured play. Allows parents some personal time and space to reenergize and concentrate on programs they are attending without having to worry about childcare. We hosted **24** kids during our programming.

**Thrift Store:** Store sales were up this year. Our busiest service, it allows residents of the communities a place to shop for gently used items at a price that everyone can afford. Housing the store in the centre gives people a casual and non-threatening means of getting to know staff and to learn about other programs and resources offered. Thanks to the generosity of the Community from The Beaches to Silver Falls, we received an abundance of household clothing and items that we make affordable to the many visitors to our store. Our sales for the fiscal year were \$36,000, our highest total ever.

**Drop-In:** We offer fax, phone and computer access for community members who need it.

**Little Wings Preschool:** Children are better prepared for school when entering kindergarten. Interaction between parents and their children during "book bug club" has led to parents reporting an increase in time spent at home reading and actively playing with their children. Parents who have participated in the preschool program also report being more comfortable participating in their child's education.

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**Helping Hands Program-** The guiding principle behind this program is that individuals with disabilities should be entitled to live in their communities with their families and friends and that they are part of the fabric that makes our communities strong and diverse. Goals for the program are to ensure that individuals have structured daily activities that are fulfilling for them and are meeting their needs. We currently have **10** Clients working with **4** staff and **20** partnerships throughout the community.

**Residential Home-** We have **3** permanent residents in our home with **3** full time staff and **2** part time. The men help out around the house and yard as much as requested and are respectful to the staff. The staff continue to do good work teaching them life skills. This was a good year with the clients able to get back in the community and be active in the things they like to do.

**Summer kick off BBQ Canada Day Celebration-** Our BBQ was rained out.

**Harvest Dinner** – October 10, 2024. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we offered a takeout Harvest Dinner to the community. We advertised 4 weeks in advance in store as well as on Facebook. We had 190 pre-registered and ended up serving 212 meals. Guests had a takeout meal of ham, meatballs, potatoes, carrots, coleslaw, milk and dessert. Staff did most of the prep and cooking as well as we received help from the Home Ec class and Robyn at Ecole Powerview School. Hometown Sausage donated 30 lbs of hamburger and we purchased the rest of the meal. Our new take-out system worked well; we will do the same this fall. Staff like this event and have fun preparing and serving the take out meal.

**Breakfast with Santa** – Friday Dec 6, 2024. We had a very good turn out this year! Staff and volunteers did a great job, we had Melvin and Annette Vincent as Santa and Mrs Claus, we had 2 volunteers from Access Credit Union and Nicole was our photographer. We had 2 students from Ecole Powerview School to help as elves. 11 staff and 3 clients help out and were able to offer breakfast to 167 guests and gave gifts to 90 kids. They all got their photo with Santa, a book, a toothbrush and either a touque or mitts from our mitt tree. This is our signature event and with the help of our volunteers and staff was a great success.

### **Funding Partnerships**

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 2%    | Child Nutrition council of Manitoba                       |
| 2%    | Breakfast Club of Canada                                  |
| 10%   | Healthy Child Manitoba – Service Purchase Agreement       |
| 37.5% | Manitoba Department of Families-Residence                 |
| 26%   | Department of Families-Helping Hands                      |
| 17.5% | Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP)                  |
| 2%    | Private and Corporate sponsorship and Misc donations      |
| 3%    | Manitoba Families Community Living (Pension and Benefits) |

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### **Trends**

- *We are seeing a more varied representation of people from our community participating in some of our programs and at our annual community events.*
- *The majority of involvement in our programs continues to be mothers and children.*
- *Visitors that access services at Wings of Power: (CAP site, thrift store, phone and faxing, individual support, etc.):*
  - *A high percentage of our program participants and shoppers are from low income families.*
  - *Over 90% identify themselves as Métis or Aboriginal.*
  - *We serve the homeless community by offering free clothing to those who need it.*
  - *We see many visitors with signs of mental health issues and drug dependency issues.*

### **Staff**

|                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Executive Director        | Guy Borlase                    |
| Reception                 | Jess Arsenault / Kim Cyr Pakoo |
| CPNP                      | Janice Gaffray (Manager)       |
|                           | Teresa Cowan                   |
| Little Wings Pre School   | Maggie Fontaine (Director)     |
|                           | Amber Simard                   |
| Community Programs Worker | Vacant                         |
| Helping Hands             | Jordan Kemball                 |
|                           | Tanya Vincent                  |
|                           | Krista Ketola                  |
|                           | Selena Hueston                 |
| Residential Home          | Ray Bouvier (Manager)          |
|                           | Diane Sauer                    |
|                           | Janet Favel                    |
|                           | Anita Vincent                  |

### **Board Structure**

*The Board of Directors of Wings of Power meets on a monthly basis to review the budget, current programs and to plan for the future of Wings of Power. Board members are leaders in the community, committed to helping Wings of Power be successful in the community and reaching as many families and participants as possible. The board has representation from many different sectors of the community. The diversity of the board helps to ensure the many different views from the community are represented.*



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### **Board of Directors**

**Chair:** Tom Paukovic

**Vice Chair:** Trevor Reid

**Treasurer:** Paul Magnan

**Secretary:** Michelle Berthelette

**Board Member:** Melinda Pluchinski

**Board Member:** Judy Leroye

### **Local and Regional Representation and Networking**

*I represent Wings of Power on several regional boards and committees. Among these are the North Eastman Bright Beginnings Parent-Child Coalition (Board Chair), North Eastman FASD Coalition, Bluewater Interagency the Pine Falls District Health Care Foundation and sit on the Board of Directors for the new Pine Falls area food bank.*

### **Partnerships**

*Wings of Power believes in community capacity building through partnering with organizations, agencies, and businesses in our community and region. Some of the partnerships that have been successfully developed and maintained are with:*

*Bright Beginnings Parent Child Coalition  
Chevrefils Greenhouse  
Pine Falls Fine Foods  
Manitoba Department of Families  
Community Living and Disability Services  
Healthy Child Manitoba  
Chicken Chef  
Edgewater Recreation Commission  
Manitoba Metis Federation  
Pine Falls Health Complex  
Pine Falls Personal Care Home  
Midway Foods  
Interlake Eastern Regional Health Authority  
Pine Falls Golf Club  
Papertown Motor Inn  
Pine Falls Service Centre & Subway  
École Powerview School  
RCMP – Powerview  
Sagkeeng Personal Care Home  
Access Credit Union  
Visions & Voices  
Town of Powerview-Pine Falls  
Municipality of Alexander*

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*Pine Falls Arena  
Pine Falls Curling Club  
Powerview Catholic Church  
Pine Falls Gym Co-op  
Powerview Auto Supplies  
Manitoba Egg Producers  
Breakfast Club of Canada  
Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba  
Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program  
Pine Falls and area food bank*

### **Statistics**

We had a successful business year.

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Thrift Store shoppers     | 2640       |
| Drop in CAP adult         | 85         |
| Drop in Cap youth         | 20         |
| Drop in support           | 60         |
| Fax/Copies                | 150        |
| Major Events              | 2          |
| Programs                  | 25         |
| Little Wings Pre School   | 13         |
| Bags of Donations         | 1972       |
| Volunteers                | 8          |
| Prenatal/Postnatal        | 22         |
| Canada Day BBQ            | rained out |
| Fall Harvest Dinner       | 212        |
| Breakfast with Santa      | 167        |
| Little Giggles Pine Falls | 6          |

### **Summary**

*Wings of Power is a Community Family Resource Center where individuals and families find support. We have a very important role to play in our community. The dynamics of our community are ever changing, bringing with it many challenges. We as an organization need to meet these challenges and continue to provide the supports needed in our community.*

*Guy Borlase  
Executive Director  
Wings of Power*

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