



ROSSBROOK

SPRING 2017



House Circle

"No child who does not want to be alone, should ever have to be" -Sister Geraldine MacNamara

COLD CITY WARM HEARTS

A celebration of community, friendship and winter fun!

The kids and staff at Rossbrook House and IRCOM (*Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba*) held a winter party at FortWhyte Alive. Close to a hundred elementary school-age children enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities. The goal was, of course, to have fun and also to show newcomers to the area that Winter in Winnipeg can be enjoyable, and we're glad you're here.

Staff and volunteers led the kids in a bonfire and bannock bake,



showed them how to snow shoe, and played Inuit games including the ever-popular blanket toss.

The big hit was the toboggan run. Gleeeful screams could be heard as the kids sled down in groups of 2 or 3. Smiles and laughter were everywhere as the kids tried on snow shoes for the first time or were tossed in the air on the blanket toss or tugged their new friends to glory in the tug-of-war!



FortWhyte Alive opened its doors and hearts and Pizza Pizza generously donated supper for everyone. It was a wonderful event!

"Given some of the sad occurrences in our world right now, we wanted to reach out in solidarity to the newcomers in our community,"

said Executive Director Phil Chiappetta.

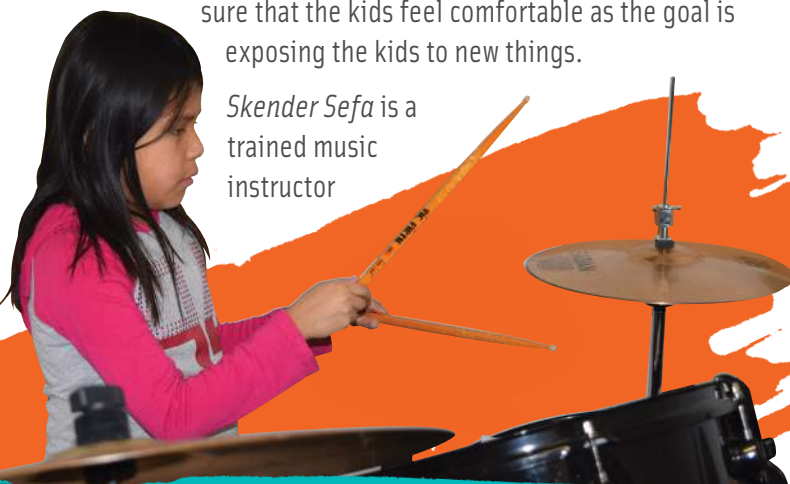
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Music Makes A Difference

Did you know that Rossbrook House has a **Music Program**? The drop-in program began in 2001 as a creative outlet for children and youth ages 6 to 24. Two evenings and a Sunday afternoon each week, kids can get free guitar, piano or drum lessons from professional music instructors. On these days, the building is alive with voices and music. Experienced music teachers, Brendan Kinley and Marc Brownlee, make sure that the kids feel comfortable as the goal is exposing the kids to new things.

Skender Sefa is a trained music instructor



who has been involved with the program for many years. "They drop in, perform in bands and learn to play multiple instruments," Skender said. "Studying music allows the kids to be creative in a positive way and I think that's the most important thing here."

Over the years, the children and youth who have taken part in the music program have had a variety of opportunities from composing their own music to radio performances, and live concert performances to large audiences including at the Rossbrook House 40th anniversary celebration, the United Way Campaign Celebration and a performance with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

The Music Program gives each student the opportunity to learn a variety of instruments. Kayston likes playing guitar and learning new songs. Julie likes playing the drums the best. And Nicole's favorite is the piano.

For videos and more photos, go to rossbrookhouse.ca/programming/the-music-program

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The Name Game



Visitors are noticing the green band around the gym is now covered in artistically designed names. These are the names of the children and youth who frequent Rossbrook House. The creative idea came to Learning Always Co-ordinator, Sheila Chippastance, after a huge donation of craft paper. This decorating addition gives the kids a feeling of ownership. They excitedly point to their own names, showing visitors how important this makes them feel. That, mixed with the frequently updated artwork on the walls, and the photos in the display case gives one a real sense of why Rossbrook is here... for the kids!

May is Leave a Legacy Month

The Rossbrook House Foundation is committed to assisting Rossbrook House develop a source of income that will sustain its services to children and youth long into the future. A large part of building that hope for Rossbrook kids will come from committed supporters who are willing to set aside a gift for Rossbrook House in their wills. By leaving a gift in your will or estate plan, you can continue to contribute for many years to come. Your support will help many young people dare to dream and believe that their dreams can come true.



Winter was a Blast!

There's always a lot going on. In addition to the *Cold City Warm Hearts* event, the children and youth had a very busy Winter with donated tickets to hockey games, the **Winter Games** that includes the ever-popular blanket toss plus medals and a meal, trips to **Sky Zone**, **Disney on Ice**, **Festival Du Voyageur** and **Adrenaline Adventures**, a Valentine's dance and so much more. And of course regular programming like music, cooking class, Learning Always, Girls Night, ball hockey, and van rides. As well, the moms are making star blankets in the Young Mother's program. To see photos and videos, and to not miss a thing, follow us on Facebook and Twitter and check out the website regularly; rossbrookhouse.ca.



ROSSBROOK HOUSE POW WOW

THURSDAY, MAY 18 • 5:30 PM
In the field across from 658 Ross Ave.
Everyone is invited!

For more information about planned giving, please contact Tom Thompson 204.947.4097 • tthompson@rossbrookhouse.ca