

Building a Strong Future

2024-2025
ANNUAL REPORT

In Dedication

This report is dedicated in loving memory to Elder Valdie Seymour-Mishoomswapik (Grandfather Rock), Treaty 5,
Hollow Water Nation
April 15, 1946 - December 26, 2024

A cherished member of our Indigenous Advisory Circle, Elder Valdie's spirit, wisdom, and generous way of sharing will continue to shape our values, our work, and our relationships with those around us.

We are deeply grateful for all his gifts, kindness and wisdom that he shared with Marymound.

Our Core Values

Rooted in our core values, The Marymount Way is to go above and beyond in striving to always do what is in the best interests of the children and youth we serve. These values also guide us through our relationships with employees, stakeholders and collateral organizations. Marymount will continue to honour the legacy of our founders, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, by following The Marymount Way and bringing these values to life with enthusiasm and passion.

Respect

We believe in the intrinsic value and individual worth of each person. Respect is non-judgmental and is the basis of organizational integrity. We will honor each person's own unique experience, history and connection to family, community, heritage and culture. Respect is about working in a way that is inclusive, transparent, and empowering.

Compassion

We have a deep desire to serve others and will go above and beyond to journey with each child and the physical, emotional and spiritual challenges that they are experiencing. We believe in unconditional acceptance, kindness, reconciliation, and finding the good. Compassion shows itself when we are fully present to the needs of each other and respond in a way that is most helpful and of service.

Courage

We honour the resilience shown everyday by the children, youth and their families; their ability to bravely face adversity to overcome, advance and belong. As an organization we will embrace change, challenge obstacles, take risks and through innovation, strive to be leaders in our field. We will continuously advocate for the children and youth and their families. Our staff shows courage to the children, youth and their families, going above and beyond often in challenging circumstances and by celebrating our successes together.

Spirituality

We believe spirituality is an individual experience that is intertwined with one's personality, culture and life history. Spirituality is a means to connect to one's self, others and a higher power according to each person's beliefs. Attention to spirituality is an integral and foundational part of what we do and value.

Collaboration

We recognize that the desire for health and wholeness for the youth is shared with others. We will actively seek out partnerships that promote healing and growth for all. Through collaboration with the children, youth, and their families, Indigenous communities, funders, colleagues and the community at large, we will work towards a sense of shared responsibility that enhances our collective impact.



With Gratitude to Our Indigenous Advisory Circle Members
Honouring the wisdom, guidance, and cultural leadership you bring to our shared journey.

- Cheryl Alexander
- Debra Courchene
- Sherri Denysuk
- Kendall Joiner
- Albert McLeod
- Walter Mousseau
- Dawn Olivence
- Valdie Seymour

Our Board of Directors

Deep appreciation for your dedication, governance, and unwavering commitment to Marymound's purpose.

- John Lovell - Chair
- Marg Synyshyn - Vice Chair
- Brian Brown
- Cheryl Blahey
- Ibukun Adetero
- John Deitz
- Leslie Schroeder
- Lumena Cabral
- Raymond Préfontaine
- Stephan Carson
- Terry Shaw

Our Leadership Team

Marymound's Leadership Team brings compassion, vision, and dedication to every part of our work. Their guidance supports growth, upholds trauma-informed practices, and ensures our purpose continues to thrive. We're proud to recognize their leadership during a year of transformation and renewed purpose.

- Nancy Parker
- Nadia Dias
- Dawn Isaac
- Steven Lanktree
- Lea-Anne Stagg
- Rhett Turner
- Sonya Warga
- Mardy Yager

Land Acknowledgement

We believe it is important to acknowledge that we are on the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininew and Dakota Oyate Peoples. The land on which we now work and live is land which the First Nations shared through Treaty No 1 in 1871.

We acknowledge the 7 First Nations for their generosity. We also acknowledge that this land is the birthplace of the Métis Nation and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

Marymound acknowledges the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.



Letter from the Executive Director

Our theme this year is Building a Strong Future. Since our founding by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Marymount has continually evolved to meet the changing needs of the community. We are blessed to be located on eight acres of land along the Red River in north Winnipeg, just south of Kildonan Park. This land provides opportunities for holistic healing experiences for youth, including land-based learning. We honour these ancestral lands of the Anishinabe, Ininew, and Dakota Oyate Peoples, and acknowledge that this is the birthplace and homeland of the Red River Métis Nation.



Nancy Parker

Marymount is committed to the ongoing journey of right relations and reconciliation. Having worked for decades in the child welfare space, we recognize that most of the youth we serve are of Indigenous descent. A key focus of our new strategic plan is to expand our services to support children, youth, and families in the general public, rather than offering programs exclusive to youth in care. We anticipate transitioning Child and Family Services (CFS) programming—such as group care homes—to Indigenous organizations, supporting their leadership in service delivery. In response to unmet needs over the years, Marymount has developed a wide range of programs. As times and community needs evolved, so too did our services. Today, Marymount offers a continuum of care for youth in care, including, group home, treatment foster care, independent living programs for youth aging out of care, and two live-in healing units for youth impacted by complex mental health/addictions/trauma.

For all Winnipeg youth and families, we operate three crisis stabilization programs, including the Youth Addictions Stabilization Program. As part of the Winnipeg crisis services system, our YES team supports youth, families, and schools to address chronic non-attendance. We also operate an on-campus therapeutic school across two sites, Marymount School (younger children) and Pathways Program (older youth). Additional programs include a sexual abuse treatment program and maternal health/early childhood services in Thompson. All of our programs are supported by our Clinical and Cultural teams, alongside a youth employment support team.

This past year marked an important transition as Marymount began offering healing services for youth and families in the general public, focused on mental health, trauma, and substance use. This milestone reflects eight years of organizational grounding in the PRESENCE model of trauma-informed, resilient, and responsive care, and extensive training of our clinical team in Dr. Bruce Perry's Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT). To expand on our land-based framework, Marymount is working to integrate treatment modalities that honour both cultural renewal and traditional healing, alongside Western therapeutic approaches. This dual perspective is known as Two-Eyed Seeing—and at Marymount, has been gifted the name Reconciled Healing Model by Elder Dr. Ed Connors. This model fosters a collaborative process that values culture and ceremony in ways that are deeply meaningful to the youth and families we serve. Grounded in the belief that traditional cultural interventions can heal the whole person—spirit, heart, body, and mind—this approach is especially powerful when combined with Western clinical practices. It is our hope that Marymount can help lead the way in delivering care that embraces cultural renewal, and measures success in a meaningful way through the Reconciled Healing Model.

Letter from the Board Chair

As I reflect on the past year at Marymount, the phrase "building a stronger future" carries deep meaning for me. It speaks to the incredible work being done every day to create lasting change in the lives of young people, families, and communities. It's not just about what we do now, but how we're laying the groundwork for hope, healing, and resilience in the years to come.

This year has been one of significant movement and momentum. From national conversations around Indigenous child welfare and reconciliation to our local commitment to advancing community-based healing, these events are closely tied to our work at Marymount.



John Lovell

The passing of Bill C-92 and the growing dialogue around devolution have inspired important conversations at the board level, and I'm proud that Marymount is actively planning its role in this future. If I had to choose one word to summarize this past year, it would be transformative. From the start of construction of Prairie Tides Live-In Healing Home, to strengthening our trauma-informed practices, every milestone has been a step forward. I've been involved with Marymount for many years now, and I continue to feel a deep sense of purpose and gratitude for the opportunity to serve this organization. Witnessing the compassion, courage, and commitment of our staff, youth, and leadership team renews my belief in what is possible when people come together for a common cause.

The progress we've seen over the past year has been both inspiring and humbling. Whether it's the expansion of culturally grounded supports, our advocacy work, or our dedication to reconciliation, I believe Marymount continues to lead with integrity and impact. Our collective achievements reflect not only the strategic vision but also the heart and values of this organization. Looking ahead, I'm excited by Marymount's goals. We will work to deepen our presence in community, to walk alongside Indigenous partners in the path of reconciliation, and to continue evolving with courage. We know the road ahead includes challenges: staffing shortages, systemic barriers, and the complex needs of the youth we serve. However, we also know that Marymount is equipped with vision, talent, and resilience and will meet those challenges head-on.

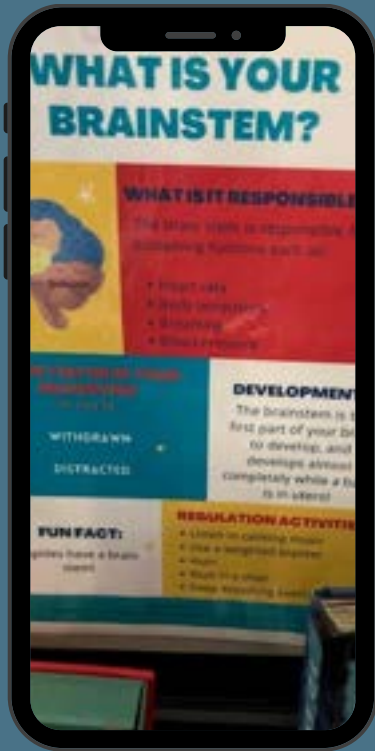
A special thank you to everyone who helped plan and organize the recent conference in Halifax, especially our conference partner, Chisholm Services for Children. We are grateful to Dr. Gabor Maté for taking the time to share his insights and wisdom. While I was not able to attend personally, I've heard from those who did, and it's clear the experience left attendees feeling deeply inspired, informed, and energized for the work ahead.

I want to take a moment to express deep gratitude to the staff. Your work makes this organization what it is. To Nancy Parker, whose leadership has been steady, wise, and compassionate—thank you. Your guidance has left a lasting legacy, and we will miss you deeply. To my fellow Board members and our partners at RCN, thank you for your continued support and shared commitment to this mission. As Chair, I remain honoured to walk alongside all of you, staff, youth, families, community members, and partners as we continue to build a stronger, more just future together.

Marymound School



Marymound School continues to provide specialized educational services to youth in Marymound's Managed Care programs as well as students from the public school system who require individualized support. The school is proud of the progress students have made across academic, social, and emotional domains. Implementation of the Neurologic Curriculum has been instrumental in helping students develop self-regulation skills, resulting in increased classroom engagement and academic success. Over the past three years, there has been a significant rise in the number of students completing their high school education at Marymound School and taking advantage of transitional opportunities into adulthood. As the school increasingly supports older students, staff continue to strengthen partnerships with adult service providers to ensure continuity of care and support beyond graduation. These outcomes reflect Marymound School's commitment to meeting each student where they are and helping them build toward a brighter, more independent future.



Highlights 2024-2025

- 22 staff trained in NeuroLogic
- 63 students registered/attending that benefited from NeuroLogic.
- 4 NeuroLogic days where students present their learning of the NeuroLogic curriculum to all students using various activities



Pathways

Pathways works with high school aged youth up to age 19 from grades 9 to 12. With the help of a teacher, EA, Work Experience Co-ordinator and entire Marymount school team, students build and follow their own pathways to success in academics, employability and work experience, or a mix of both.

Pathways is thriving in its new location within the Sister's Residence, benefiting from its proximity to the Cultural Department and actively participating in various Marymount activities. The supportive environment has strengthened collaboration and enhanced engagement within the community.



Highlights 2024-2025



- 2 students will graduate from Grade 12 at Pathways
- 9 students gained work experience through SWEEP
- 1 Student gained work experience in the community
- 3 students gained work in our Marymount Kitchen.



Clinical Healing Services

Sexual Abuse Treatment Program

This year the sexual abuse treatment program (SATP) continued to work closely with TOBA Centre for Children and Youth. Over the course of the year, TOBA made many referrals to the SATP program, which is one of the very few programs in Manitoba to address both third party and intra-familial sexual abuse. In 2024, 31 youth and their families were served through the program for a total of 424 client contacts. Most of the clients were between the ages of seven and 17, with an almost equal split between children ages 7 to 12 and youth aged 13 to 17.

This reflects the prevalence of sexual abuse across age categories particularly in the preteen and teen-age categories. The program continues to see the benefit of therapeutic services that are not time or session limited as presentation continues to show increasing complexity often requiring intermittent periods of stabilization as well as intersection with many other systems and collaterals. Some positive outcomes that were realized by clients in the program this year were an increase in youth making healthy choices/demonstrating healthy behaviors, an increased awareness of personal safety, and positive lifestyle changes as a result of therapy or supports related to trauma. The SATP program continues to refine its outcome measures and to employ the neurosequential model of therapeutics in planning the therapeutic arc of treatment. The sexual abuse treatment program also reflects the two-eyed seeing approach implemented across the organization by encouraging, recommending and providing access to culturally relevant therapeutic interventions.



Clinical Services



The clinical department continues to incorporate concepts of the neurosequential model into the milieu and planning for youth living in Marymount programs. This model guides direct service teams in the creation and maintenance of a therapeutic environment and orders therapeutic interventions in a developmentally sensitive manner, thus ensuring the recommendation of therapeutic modalities that are useful or appropriate for the client's developmental stage. This also makes it an ideal tool for advocacy in other systems and for future placement. Healing plans are youth driven and premised on what the youth states is a good fit; to this end, Clinicians and Indigenous Cultural Healing Coordinators work closely in providing both Western therapeutic interventions and Indigenous ways of knowing and healing, with the goal of increasing the youths' sense of hope purpose meaning and belonging.

Cultural Healing Services



The past year was one of tremendous growth for Marymount concerning reconciliation. Our Indigenous Advisory circle continued to meet quarterly with the shared vision of guiding our work through a Two-Eyed Seeing lens and shifting our treatment model to a culturally relevant approach that prioritizes healing and youth voice. The circle is comprised of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community members, including the CEO and co-chair of the Winnipeg Indigenous Executive Circle. The circle provides us with ongoing support, guidance, and teachings around meaningful reconciliation and how to continue to build bridges and work in a good way with youth, families, and the larger community. It has been a year full of new learnings as we leaned into the collaborative work between the clinical and cultural healing modalities and committed to co-creating healing plans that were individualized and tailored to youth's journeys. The Cultural Department continues to offer our Indigenous Knowledge training three times a year to Marymount staff and any external community members who wish to partner. This training was made mandatory for all staff and embodies a Two-eyed seeing approach in its delivery model incorporating classroom and experiential teachings.

Ceremonies, including naming ceremonies, pipe ceremonies, full moon ceremonies, grieving ceremonies, and sweat lodge ceremonies happen regularly at Marymount and are open to all staff and youth in all our programs including the school. Each classroom in Marymount school is visited twice weekly by a member of the Cultural department who provides educational cultural curriculum. Classrooms also integrate daily smudging, daily sharing circles and Indigenous language (Anishinabemowin and Cree) as well as arts, drumming, singing and land-based activities into their school experience. This year the Cultural department expanded their service offerings to external community groups. Monthly full moon ceremonies were opened to the larger community and were widely attended. We also began providing weekly cultural services to our community partner Knowles and have received very positive feedback on youth and staff engagement.

Cultural Day 2024

1000 PARTICIPANTS



5 DRUM GROUPS



100 DANCERS

6 EAGLE STAFF



5 HEAD DANCERS

1 HOOP DANCER

In June 2024 Marymound hosted our annual Cultural Day powwow on the Scotia St. campus in the big yard beside the school. We had more than 1000 community members, along with dignitaries and veterans, come out for the day to support our dancers, drum groups, and crafters. Participants were treated to a complimentary BBQ lunch and kids enjoyed the cotton candy, popcorn, freezies, and donuts (courtesy of Tim Hortons). They also enjoyed visits from the Winnipeg Fire Department, Winnipeg Police, Spirit of Hope puppies, along with numerous games and activities. This important event demonstrates our commitment to recognizing National Indigenous History Month and embracing the diversity and vibrancy of Indigenous culture.

Crisis Stabilization, Assessment and Semi-Secure Healing



Scotia CSU

The Scotia Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) continues to serve as a critical resource for children and youth aged 9 to 17 experiencing emotional or behavioural crises, offering a short-term, trauma-informed environment where youth can pause, stabilize, and safely return to their homes or placements. In the past year, the CSU supported 324 unique youth across 481 admissions, with 90% of youth returning to the same placement-highlighting the program's success in preserving stability for both youth and caregivers. Notably, 57% of those served were not in care, and 67% were first-time admissions, reflecting the program's growing reach across the province. With 62% of youth presenting with suicidal ideation and 36% with self-harming behaviours, the unit provided immediate intervention and individualized care, connecting youth to longer-term supports. The high-security, locked-door setting of Scotia CSU is tailored to youth with complex needs, offering cultural healing, sensory regulation, and strong relational care. One-third of youth were repeat clients, demonstrating trust in the program and its effectiveness in helping young people navigate future challenges.

Horace CSU

The Horace Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) provides a safe, open environment for youth aged 9 to 17 who are experiencing mental health challenges, placement breakdowns, or simply need a supportive break. The focus at Horace is on creating a calm, home-like atmosphere that fosters connection, emotional regulation, and healing. Recent enhancements to the unit include the removal of a kitchen window covering to encourage youth independence and interaction with staff, as well as the introduction of updated tablets and entertainment systems to support engagement and comfort during their stay. The team also increased outdoor activities, using nature and movement-such as walks, time in the yard, and visits to the local park-as powerful tools for self-regulation. Craft supplies were refreshed to provide youth with more options for creative expression and quiet focus. The unit's flexible, non-restrictive approach has proven especially beneficial for youth who may struggle in high-security settings. One such youth, who previously had difficulty adjusting to a locked environment, found success and stability at Horace, benefiting from the freedom to self-regulate and returning to placement when ready. Horace CSU continues to be a vital, responsive space where youth can rest, reconnect, and regain the stability they need to move forward.

Ezhi Nanaandawi (The Way to Heal)

Ezhi Nanaandawi (The Way to Heal) is a semi-secure stabilization and assessment unit that provides a safe, supportive space for female, transgender, LGBTQ2+, and nonbinary youth aged 12 to 17, many of whom face complex challenges and have experienced multiple placement breakdowns.

Bear Unit

Over the past year, eleven youth accessed the program, where a trauma-informed, strength-based, and harm reduction approach fosters healing and growth. The team's success in reducing out-time and building meaningful connections has resulted in fewer youth absences and greater engagement. Youth have enjoyed regular outings with staff—such as movie nights, visits to the Humane Society, and Halloween events—highlighting the deep, trusting relationships they've built. The impact of these connections is evident, including one youth who told a judge in court that she wants to do better because her staff genuinely care. Many youth stay in touch after discharge, underscoring the lasting influence of the relational approach. Collaboration within the team and with the cultural and spiritual support staff further strengthens the holistic care provided at Ezhi Nanaandawi, helping youth move toward more stable and independent futures.

Wolf Unit

This past year, eleven youth accessed the program, where the team focused on fostering healing through a safe, supportive, and relational environment. Creative scheduling helped reduce overtime, while strengthened connections with youth led to a noticeable decline in absences and more time spent meaningfully engaged with staff. Weekly outings—like movie nights, visits to the Humane Society, and Halloween events—demonstrated the deep trust youth develop in the program. Staff witnessed powerful moments of impact, such as a youth affirming in court that she wanted to do better because of the care she received. Marymound's strength-based and harm reduction approaches helped youth recognize their potential, and many continue to stay connected even after discharge. Collaboration between staff and cultural teams, rooted in mutual respect and spirituality, reinforces a consistent, healing approach across the program.

Youth Addictions Stabilization Unit (YASU)



Youth Addiction Stabilization units (YASU) provides stabilization for youth with severe and persistent substance use to physically stabilize and consider harm reduction or other treatment options.

YASU also offers voluntary stabilization and support for youth who recognize they need additional assistance in their substance use recovery and possible treatment options.

Intoxicated Persons Detention Act (IPDA) beds are community police beds for youth who meet the criteria under this act and need a safe place to sober up and are able to be discharged to a responsible adult.

Accomplishments in a program like YASU is witnessing the physical and emotional changes in youth from admission to discharge. The ability to support youth in accessing further treatment options or helping them create harm reduction plans to be able to live a safer life out in the community.

This past year YASU had a total of 330 admissions. 97 warrants were issued under involuntary Youth Addictions Stabilization (Support for Parent) Act and 66 referrals completed for voluntary stabilization. 196 clients utilized the IPDA beds in this past fiscal year. pleted for the Voluntary stabization unit

330 ↙ admissions 97 ↙ warrants 66 ↙ referrals 196 ↙ IPDA beds

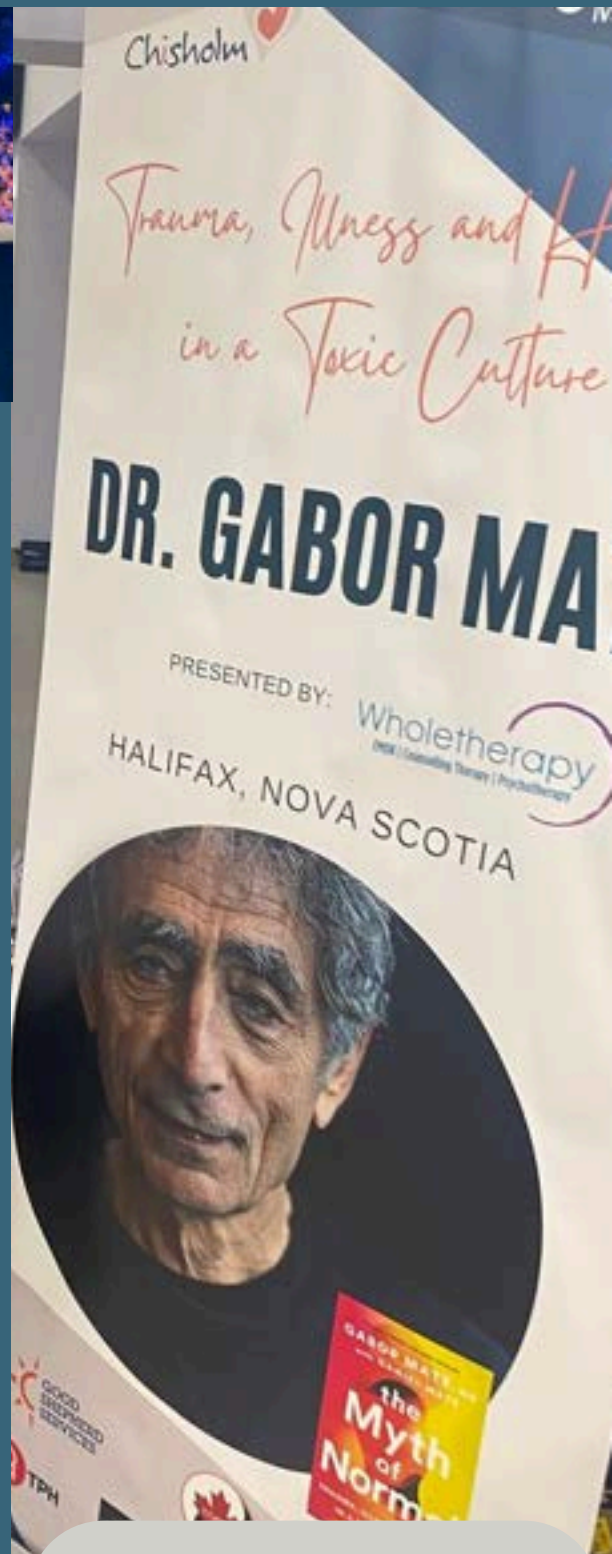
Training and Conferences



over \$100,000 in profit

In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Marymound Training Centre significantly expanded its professional development offerings, training over 1,000 individuals across Manitoba. A broad selection of targeted workshops was delivered to group care staff, including Youth Substance Use, CPR/First Aid, ASIST, NVCi, Neurobiology of Trauma, Indigenous Knowledge, Creating Presence, Lateral Violence, Lateral Kindness and Conflict Resolution, Mental Health First Aid, Healing, Trauma and Loss, FASD, Attachment Building Blocks, and 2SLGBTQ+ awareness. In response to regional needs, the Neurobiology of Trauma workshop was delivered in Brandon and Thompson, extending our reach to more remote communities. On a national level, the Training Centre partnered with Chisholm Services for Children to co-host a major conference in Halifax, featuring renowned speaker Dr. Gabor Maté and his book *The Myth of Normal*. This landmark event brought together professionals from across the country to explore trauma-informed care and mental health. Looking ahead, Marymound remains committed to growing its training initiatives to meet the evolving needs of staff and the broader care community.

over 1000 participants



"This workshop was one of the most brilliantly laid out that I've ever attended in terms of content. The material was presented in such a way that even those who had little information coming in, would also understand."

-Training Participant-

Year In Review



"We have a lot of kids who continue to reach out after they are discharged. This speaks to the power of our relational approach and connection building." - Julie Zilkie, Program Coordinator

"We often have youth calling us excited with updates, or just seeking some support with certain staff they had built connections with-often stating they wish they could return to Marymount." - Nicole Rudderham, Program Coordinator

"Cultural programming has been an essential part of the youth connections to their roots. One youth received her spirit name, which gave her a sense of belonging and understanding of her purpose moving forward." - Ana Costa, Program Coordinator

"Staff are engaging more with each other and communication is improving. Most staff are now attending meetings and giving feedback. The children are feeling more comfortable engaging and are more open to trusting the newer staff coming through the door." - Kaysi Richard-Murphy, Program Coordinator

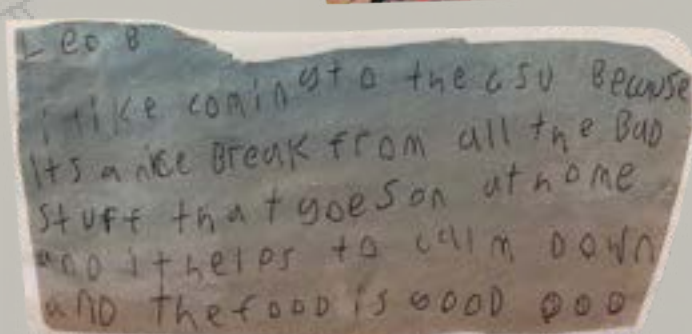
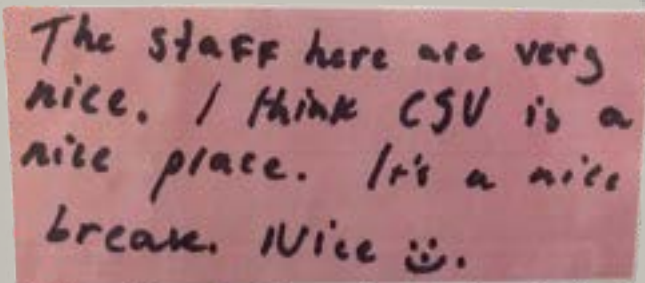
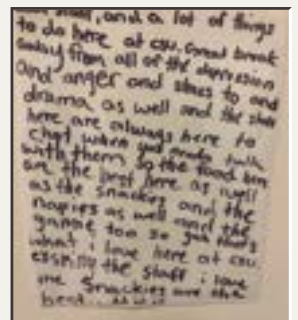
"A youth who struggled had a good stay, using outdoor time to self-regulate, and was able to return to placement feeling ready after discharge planning." - Tera Gravito, Acting Program Coordinator

"Since the new mandate, attendance has been at 100%, including home visits and planned service access."

"All four youth have reached out or visited since discharge, with one youth still connecting weekly by calling or messaging." - Jaime Peterson, Program Coordinator

"Among our success stories, we have supported youth facing opioid challenges and gang involvement in achieving stability, assisted a young mother throughout her pregnancy until she was able to return home, and helped siblings graduate from Community High School." - Tunde Olaiya Program Coordinator

"Each family that comes to our center is treated with respect. We believe that compassion is a value we use when learning about a new family and hearing their needs and wants." - Penny Brenton Program Coordinator



Ethical Reflection

The Marymount Ethics Committee was established to provide a clear, accessible process through which staff and teams can explore and address ethical dilemmas that naturally arise in our work. The long-term vision is for the Committee to evolve into a resource for consultation, education, and leadership in ethical practice across the organization. Key Accomplishments (2024-2025):

- **Regular Meetings:** The Committee met monthly throughout the fiscal year to advance its goals and deepen understanding of ethical challenges at Marymount.
- **Terms of Reference:** The Committee successfully completed and approved its Terms of Reference, establishing a foundation for its purpose, scope, and operations.
- **Ethical Decision-Making Framework:** A major focus this year was the development of a practical, values-aligned ethical decision-making model. Drawing from six established frameworks in the health and social work sectors, the Committee created and adopted the GREAT model:
 - Gather relevant information
 - Refine the issue
 - Evaluate options through values and principles
 - Act on the decision
 - Talk transparently

This framework reflects Marymount's values and day-to-day practice and was designed for ease of use and broad applicability. The Committee also drafted and approved the Guidance for Ethical Discussions, a process document to guide teams through ethical conversations and decision-making. It includes clear pathways for escalating concerns to the Ethics Committee for further consultation, ensuring staff have supportive tools to navigate difficult decisions.

The work of the Ethics Committee both embodies and strengthens Marymount's core values of Respect, Compassion, Courage, Spirituality, and Collaboration. Ethical reflection encourages these values to be lived daily and nurtures a culture where staff feel supported and confident in making principled decisions. In the coming year, the Committee plans to:

- Develop a mechanism for sharing insights and learnings from ethical discussions across the organization.
- Expand ethics education opportunities for both the Committee and all staff.
- Create a clear, meaningful reporting process for Marymount's ethical work-leveraging technology to streamline and enhance this effort without adding unnecessary burden.

Although the Committee does not serve youth directly, its work underpins the integrity and humanity of Marymount's services, helping ensure that all actions are grounded in thoughtful, ethical consideration.



Prairie Tides Community Healing



Prairie Tides Community Healing Services is a transformative initiative dedicated to addressing the unmet mental health and substance use healing needs of children, youth, and families in Manitoba. Rooted in a holistic, culturally informed approach, Prairie Tides provides a safe and supportive environment where youth can heal, grow, and thrive. The purpose-built facility features spaces designed for healing and education, embracing a Two-Eyed Seeing approach that integrates Indigenous wisdom with Western therapeutic practices. With a strong emphasis on cultural programming, land-based healing, and the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics™, a developmentally appropriate therapeutic planning tool, Prairie Tides fosters resilience and well-being.

Community Healing Services

Prairie Tides is a transformative initiative dedicated to addressing complex mental health needs of children, youth and families in Manitoba. Prairie Tides offers community healing services through culturally grounded, trauma-informed therapy and assessment services. With family and community engagement, youth are empowered with individualized healing plans, ensuring a path toward lasting strength and connection.

NMT Assessments

The Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics™ (NMT™) is a neuroscience-informed, developmentally sensitive approach to clinical problem solving. It is not a therapy, and it does not endorse a single therapeutic method or technique. Rather, it helps the clinical team select and sequence specific therapeutic, educational and enrichment activities which are most likely to help address the client's current challenges.

The NMT™ assessment process looks at both past history and current functioning. The nature and timing of negative and positive developmental experiences is reviewed. By using this 'developmental' lens, in combination with an evaluation of current strengths and challenges, the clinical team is able to create a personalized treatment approach for the individual. The NMT™ Clinical Practice Tools (AKA NMT™ Brain Map or NMT™ Metrics) help create a snapshot into the current functional organization of an individual's brain. This working model helps guide clinical treatment planning and allows ongoing re-evaluation of the treatment process.

Independent Options/Young Parents Program

Marymount's Independent Options Program helps young people (ages 16-21) in child welfare care secure independent housing, education, employment, and health resources, while enhancing their interpersonal skills with one-on-one facilitators.

The Young Parents Program supports young parents and moms-to-be with child-rearing skills, healthy pregnancy support, nutrition, childcare, and risk management. It emphasizes the link between a mother's well-being and her baby's development. Both programs are open to young individuals of any gender in care of a child welfare agency.

The completion of the Equitable Standards review and finalization of our action plan marks a significant milestone in strengthening our support system for youth transitioning out of care. Through a collaborative process that engaged youth voices, frontline workers, and partner agencies, we assessed current practices, identified strengths such as mentorship, advocacy, and holistic assessments, and addressed key gaps in digital access, aftercare, and flexibility in transition planning. Our finalized action plan outlines clear short-, intermediate-, and long-term goals focused on equity, continuity of care, youth-centered planning, and long-term support. This positions us to move forward with a more responsive, inclusive, and sustainable system that better meets the diverse needs of youth entering adulthood.

MARYMOUNT'S EQUITABLE STANDARDS ACTION PLAN

OVERVIEW
Marymount was a key stakeholder in responding to the Call to Action from local communities held in the spring of 2022. The organization provided a formal commitment to join the Equitable Standards for Transitions to Adulthood for Youth in Care Evaluation Model. This initiative was launched to ensure the program is fully aligned with best practices for supporting youth in care as they transition to adulthood.

PILLARS
1. **Equity**
2. **Continuity of Care**
3. **Youth-Centered Planning**
4. **Long-Term Support**
5. **Equity**
6. **Continuity of Care**
7. **Youth-Centered Planning**
8. **Long-Term Support**

COMMITMENT TO YOUNG ADULTS IN OUR PROGRAMS
Marymount's commitment to the Equitable Standards for Transitions to Adulthood for Youth in Care Evaluation Model has resulted in a commitment to supporting young adults and young parents transitioning from care. By leveraging program strengths and addressing areas for improvement, Marymount is well-positioned to drive meaningful, sustainable change for its clients. This report serves as a roadmap for ongoing development and a testament to the organization's dedication to excellence.

GOALS
Short-Term Goals, Intermediate Goals, Long-Term Goals

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
Marymount's Independent Options/Young Parents Programs

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
Equitable Standards for Transitions to Adulthood for Youth in Care Evaluation Model

Abbreviations:
IOP: Independent Options Program
EITF: Equitable Standards for Transitions to Adulthood for Youth in Care Evaluation Model
YPP: Young Parents Program
EITF: Equitable Standards for Transitions to Adulthood for Youth in Care Evaluation Model
PM: Program Manager

"Imagine going for a walk and you sit down to take a break but then people show up to walk with you. - How a participant described the IOP and his ILTF"

Marymound North

Futures is a CAPC program supporting families with children aged 0-6 at risk. The Babies' Best Start initiative aids pregnant mothers and their infants up to one year. This year, virtual programming was developed for parents facing mental health challenges or cultural barriers, alongside an enhanced cooking program to address food insecurities. A pre-kindergarten curriculum assists children and parents in school readiness.



The programs create a safe, non-judgmental environment where parents acquire new skills. Community resources include playgroups, crafts, baking activities, and a summer fun program for families. The community pantry, a critical resource, operates on a "take what you need, give what you can" basis, addressing rising food insecurity among lower to middle-class families. Additionally, the Caring Dads program, lasting 17 weeks, focuses on helping fathers who have perpetrated family violence to change their behaviors.



Each family that comes to our center is treated with respect. We believe that compassion is a value we use when learning about a new family and hearing their needs and wants. It takes courage to come to a new place and ask for help. We continuously look for ways to collaborate with other agencies to find new ways to support our families along their journey.

➤ 300 CAREGIVERS
AND 200
CHILDREN



Community Based Live in Care

Marygrove

Marygrove is a community treatment home for girls aged 8-12, supported by a long-standing, dedicated team that provides trauma-informed, strength-based care through a Two-Eyed Seeing approach.

Over the past fiscal year, five youth at Marygrove made significant progress in emotional well-being, academics, and personal growth while in long-term placements. They consistently attended school and engaged in recreational and cultural activities, benefiting from routines that promote stability. Highlights included camps, cultural ceremonies, and hands-on learning experiences. The program reported fewer incidents and improved safety, aided by collaboration with families and external partners. One youth discovered her spirit name through cultural healing, enhancing her sense of belonging. Former residents remain connected, exemplified by one inviting the team to her high school graduation, showcasing Marygrove's lasting impact.

Sinclair

At our home for boys aged 8-12, the past year has been one of growth, healing, and progress. The youth we support, many of whom are from Indigenous backgrounds, face complex behavioural and mental health challenges

The dedicated team has built trust and supported emotional regulation through trauma-informed care. Communication and engagement have improved, with staff actively participating in meetings and supervision. The boys are becoming comfortable with both new and long-standing staff, engaging in culturally grounded support like smudging and sharing circles. Personalized outings and incentives motivate them, while activities such as swimming and yard work help with self-regulation. Many youth show progress in emotional awareness and adaptability. Looking ahead, the team plans creative summer activities to keep the boys active and connected to the community.

Community Based Live in Care

Dreamcatcher Dreamcatcher Home assists youth aged 12 to 17 in stabilizing through independent living or family reunification plans. It emphasizes a family-centered model, supporting home visits and youth participation in programs. The facility offers a nurturing environment with essential support elements.

Harm reduction and cultural healing initiatives focus on:

Educational and life skills assistance, Relationship building and trauma-informed care, Advocacy for youth success

The team demonstrates resilience in youth care, achieving success in addressing challenges like opioids and gangs, supporting young mothers, and aiding educational transitions. Continuous support fosters youth engagement and beneficial reunification plans, with Dreamcatcher Home committed to a loving, respectful, family-oriented care model.

Matheson

Matheson home focused on enhancing areas of the home and property that needed some care and attention. Our goal was to create a visually stimulating and welcoming spaces that would encourage youth to spend more time outside their rooms and engage in a positive environment.

We began transforming our backyard from a plain space into a vibrant area with flowers, a swing, and a hammock—now a favorite hangout for youth.

Looking ahead, our basement renovation is underway. In next year's report, we'll highlight how youth and cultural programs contributed, adding artwork and cultural elements. Staff, the SWEEP program, and youth also helped refresh the space with calming colors and a well-stocked arts and crafts bookshelf.

Treatment Foster Care

Treatment Foster Care (TFC) and Gateway Adult Program (GAP) provides children, youth and adults with a therapeutic home environment to grow, develop, and experience "belonging". Individuals, couples and families in the community carry out the care giving. The treatment foster parent/home share parents role is to nurture, support and care for the children, youth and adults who are unable to reside with their natural families. The treatment foster parents/home share parents work diligently with the children, youth and adults to keep them connected with their family and community. With respect to our GAP adults, the goal is for them to remain in our program after they reach the age of majority.

Program Highlights

Education and Achievements

- 6 youth proudly graduated from high school.
- 1 young adult completed community college.
- Another is currently pursuing a mechanic license through post-secondary education.
- 1 young adult attended the university of Manitoba.

Staffing and Support

- A new Clinical Case Manager was hired in Thompson in November 2024 after a one-year vacancy. During the vacancy, Clinical Case Managers from Winnipeg supported families remotely and also traveled to Thompson for in-person meetings.
- Winnipeg now has 6 Clinical Case Managers and 1.5 Administrative Assistants who support both Winnipeg and Thompson operations.

Program Participation

- The program supports a total of 82 participants, including:
 - 16 adults in the GAP (Guided Assessment Program)
 - 55 youth in Winnipeg
 - 11 youth in Thompson

Foster and GAP Homes

- We currently have 43 homes across Manitoba, including:
 - 28 Treatment Foster Care (TFC) homes in Winnipeg
 - 1 mixed-license home with both TFC youth and GAP participants
 - 10 GAP homes
 - 4 TFC homes in Thompson
- 3 new home studies are currently underway.

Memorable Experiences

- 5 youth attended Dreams Take Flight, spending a magical day at Disneyland.
- 4 youth spent their summer in Newfoundland with foster families.
- 2 youth traveled to Mexico with their foster parents.
- 1 youth attended a concert in British Columbia as a graduation gift from her foster parents.
- 1 youth participated in a school trip to Paris and London.

Family and Transitions

- 2 children were successfully reunified with their primary families.
- Admissions and discharges for the fiscal year:
 - Winnipeg: 11 admissions, 11 discharges
 - Thompson: 3 admissions, 2 discharges

SWEEP

SWEEP (Student Work Experience and Education Program) continues to provide Marymount youth with meaningful, paid work opportunities that build practical skills, confidence, and community connection. In the summer of 2024, SWEEP relaunched its hot dog cart after a two-year hiatus, offering youth a unique chance to engage with the public and gain valuable customer service experience.



That same summer, Marymount opened a community dog park in the big yard, another initiative that created additional jobs for youth while strengthening ties with the surrounding neighborhood. SWEEP also supports internal departments such as kitchen and maintenance, fostering collaboration across the organization. A standout success story includes a long-time student whose experience working in the Marymount kitchen led to a passion for culinary arts—he was accepted into the Culinary Arts program at Red River College in fall 2024, crediting his time with SWEEP as a turning point in discovering his career path. SWEEP exemplifies the values of courage and collaboration, consistently empowering youth and enhancing the broader Marymount community.

marymount.edu | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024

LOCAL NEWS

FP COMMUNITY REVIEW WEST 3

Marymount introduces weekly dog park for area residents and their furry friends

EMMA MONEYBUN
STAFF REPORTER

MARGARET PARK SEVEN OAKS

Every Friday, the enclosed field at Marymount School complex comes alive with the pitter-patter of dog paws.

Pooches of all sizes and pedigree race across the field — a golden retriever in one corner, a giant Giant Pyrenees in another. A Jack Russell tears after a spaniel, all while a scruffy mixed-breed barks at them from its perch atop one of the picnic tables. It's collective canine chaos.

This has become the norm for the area, as Marymount has recently decided to make the space a public, off-leash dog park once a week, on Fridays when the kids aren't in school.

From 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., people and their pooches from the surrounding neighbourhood — and beyond — are welcome to take advantage of the fence and mingle with other community members.

The dog park was originally meant to be a limited, summer opportunity, said Travis Liewicki, a co-ordinator at Marymount who came up with the idea earlier this year. But it stuck.

Now, it's become a semi-permanent edition to the space, currently open every Friday

over the course of the regular school year (September to June).

"It seems like every week there's some more dogs that come," Liewicki said. "So the word is spreading. People are enjoying it again. Everyone wants that nice, safe place for their dog to come. There's not a lot of dog parks in this area... so it's just a place for people to visit, and it's been really good, really positive."

"There's only a few that are fenced in," he added. "Most are just kind of open, and I know my dog doesn't want to come back if she's let off the leash."

"It's just growing, growing, growing," said Lori Mann, who regularly uses the space alongside fellow resident Lynn Norquay and their dogs, Suki and Abby. "We keep telling people. Every time we walk, we tell people about it."

"We're meeting new people all the time, too, and that's a nice thing, because there's a lot of people," Mann said. "We have our little group of a few that we know, and then [we're now becoming] friends with more and more people. You know, dogs have a tendency to make a social impact."

"The dogs need it, too," Norquay said. "They're social animals; they need this stimulation. Just going for walks isn't all they need. They need the interaction with the other dogs. The whole thing is wonderful."

One example of a dog benefiting from the park is Blackie, a foster dog who has opened



Photo by Emma Houshous

The Marymount dog park (442 Scotia St.) is open every Friday from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The enclosed space was originally available only during the summer, but became such a hit with the local community that the school decided to keep it open for good.

up considerably since she first began visiting the park on a regular basis. The mixed-breed went from meek to social and energetic, according to her foster parent, Kathy Coyne.

Coyne couldn't believe the difference at first, she said.

"It's always great to find opportunities for taking them out to places that we know they're going to be safe and not run away," Liewicki said. "Having a nice big fence in the yard is a real benefit to working here."

Liewicki is a the co-ordinator of Marymount's SWEEP program, which was put in

place to mentor youth and provide them opportunities for paid employment. A summer hotdog cart, which was part of the summer dog park, is run by the kids themselves.

SWEEP gives them a place where they can make mistakes before they go out on their own, Liewicki explained, while giving them connections to the workforce they otherwise may not experience.

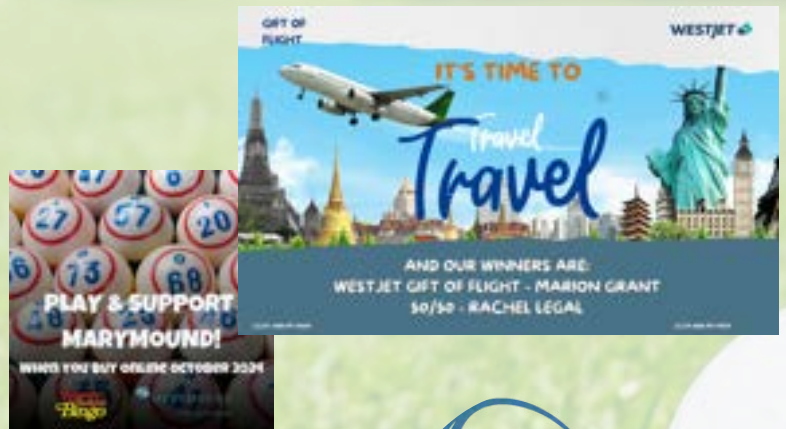
Marymount dog park is located at 442 Scotia St. For more information, visit @marymountsbpg on Instagram, Marymount on Facebook, or marymount.com

Fund Development

Marymound's Fund Development team is proud to report a year marked by dedication, innovation, and community generosity. Through strategic fundraising efforts and strong donor relationships, we have continued to support vital programs and services for Manitoba's youth.

Grants and Philanthropic Support

This year, Marymound secured approximately \$100,000 in grant funding, sustaining essential programs and enabling investments in therapeutic equipment and staff development. These funds have been instrumental in enhancing our trauma-informed care and culturally responsive services.



Prairie Tides Capital Campaign

Prairie Tides Community Healing Capital Campaign

A major milestone was reached with the groundbreaking of the Prairie Tides Live-In Healing Home on December 15, 2024. This purpose-built facility will provide culturally grounded, trauma-informed residential care for youth facing complex challenges. Despite raising approximately \$2.5 million, additional funding is needed to complete the project.

The sod-turning and land dedication ceremony on March 21, 2025, marked a significant step forward in this transformative initiative.

Monetary and in-kind donations continue to enrich the lives of the youth we serve. From event tickets to sports games, these contributions provide joy and a sense of belonging. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all donors and volunteers whose support is vital to our mission.

As we look ahead, Marymound remains committed to fostering healing, resilience, and hope for Manitoba's youth through continued community collaboration and support.



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

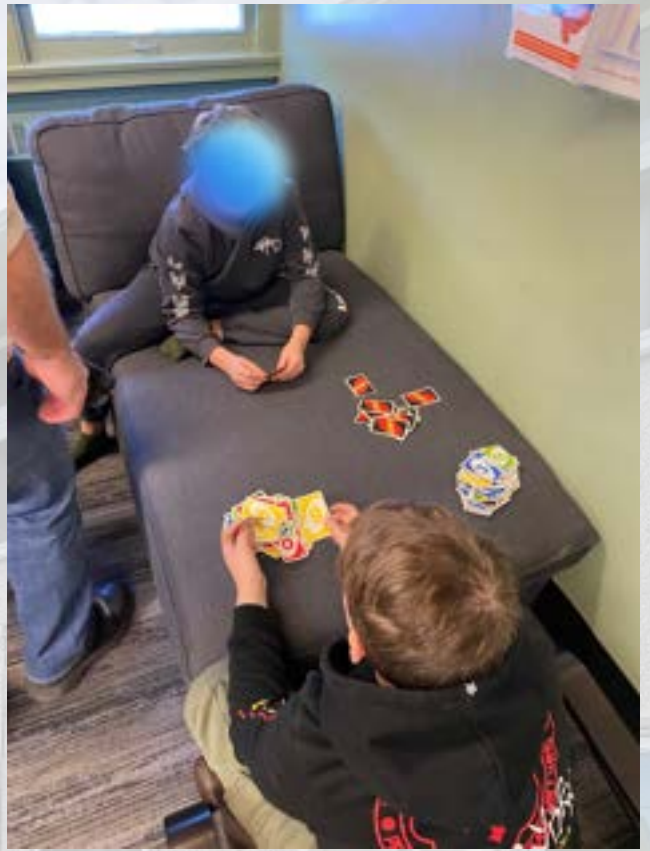


We believe that diversity is our strength, and we are committed to fostering an inclusive workplace. The Marymound DEI Committee plays a crucial role in shaping our organization's culture and policies, advocating for positive change, and creating an environment where everyone feels valued and heard. We are actively seeking enthusiastic volunteers who are passionate about promoting diversity and inclusion.

Pride Week 2024 at Marymound was a vibrant celebration of inclusion and community, reflecting our ongoing commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The week featured a range of activities that brought staff, students, and residents together in meaningful ways. Many homes took part in decorating for the event, showcasing creativity and spirit, while our Principal supported the festivities by driving the Pride truck. Highlights included the successful Pride Café, complete with cake, snacks, music, a photo booth, flag-making station, and resource tables. The "Show Us Your Pride" contest added a fun and engaging element, with Marygrove and Michelle's classroom taking home the top honors.



Highlights





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