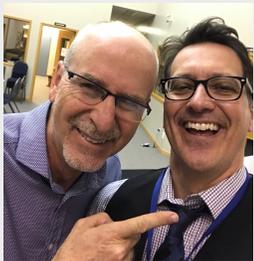




Fundraising Banquet A Hit!

What a night with Phil Callaway. I've not laughed that hard in a long time. The event was a great success raising **\$26,885**.

As the person in charge of fundraising I



must share a highlight, and that was when Phil said, "I want you to reach over and grab the wallet of the person sitting next to you and give like you've always wanted to give!"

Too funny.

If you made it to that evening I'm sure you had a good time. If not and you get a chance to see Phil, I highly recommend it. - Mark

An Encounter with God

- Paul Penner

Ed Gerbrandt has been involved with PCC for many years as the Chairperson of the Board. Ed was a lifelong friend. He passed away on April 22, 2019 after fighting cancer for 4 years.

I'd like to share a story Ed shared with me while in the hospital. "Have I ever told you about the time I met God?" "No", I said with interest to hear more. Several years before while Ed was working as a contractor, his business had slowed to a stall. Everybody else had work, so it seemed, but he had been running on empty for several months. Things were desperate. Ed decided to plead his case with God. He set out and started driving, he didn't know where, but his plan was to find a suitable place to cry out to God.

The unintended destination his gas tank allowed for was La Rivière. Ed turned off the road where the passion play is hosted. He thought he'd go for a walk and pour out his complaints. There was a trail off the parking area. He took to it to follow where ever it would go. "Where are you? I need your help. I want you to look after me. Your Word says we are to cast our cares on You, for You care for us. He was looking to God and yet he was in this 'desert experience' with no work in coming in. The trail led to a clearing, with a picnic table in a grassy area off the trail. There was some bush on each side and at the end of the meadow was a field with equipment working it. He sat at the picnic table and poured out his heart to God.

...cont'd next page

pay it FORWARD IN MAY

If you have always wanted to participate but were not sure where to give, we think we're a pretty good choice for your pay-it-forward donation.

Let me explain.

As you will read in the Annual Sponsor -A- Month article, the affordability scale we use leaves a gap between what people can pay and what we need to operate. Your pay - it - forward donation can top up someone's fee so the full cost of their appointment can be met.

Every \$50 pay - it - forward donation sponsors an appointment bringing in what we need. From here the math is simple, \$100 pays it forward for two people/sessions, \$150 pays it forward for three people/sessions, etc. (I love round numbers).

www.PembinaCounsellingCentre.ca

Annual Sponsor -A- Month Team ~ Mark Sawatzky

Let me begin by thanking all of you who have donated this year, last year or in the past. Your contributions make it possible for us to meet the growing need for our services. Last year we served people with over 3,500 appointments and we do not see it slowing down.

With growth comes challenge for us, as the affordability fee scale we use does not bring in the funds we need to pay for operations. To address this challenge I felt led to develop an “Annual Sponsor A Month” campaign. Let me share with you my thoughts on that. Some months (spring to summer in particular) are more challenging than others for us, as donations often drop during these times as people are out enjoying the good weather. Unfortunately, our bills don’t take the summer off and so we need to find a way to even out giving and this is where the “Sponsor A Month” idea came from.

The idea is to match people/organizations to a month until the funds needed are met. Coordinating people’s giving helps take the stress out of operations. Last year, many months we had to find emergency donors because our policies prevent us from going into debt to pay bills.

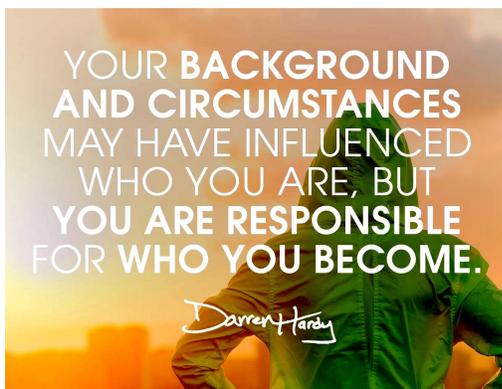


Smoothing out donations is phase one of this program. Phase two is to get those who are part of the “Annual Sponsor-A-Month” team to make their donation an annual commitment. Why this is important is that it takes the uncertainty out of delivering our service, and this is critical to allow maximum energy and focus to be on providing care.

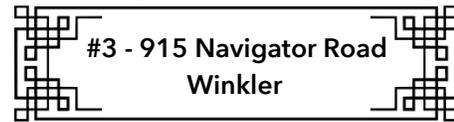
If you feel lead to become a “Sponsor A Month” team member, get in touch with our office, let us know the amount you can commit on an annual basis and we’ll match you with a month.



Have a great spring and fantastic summer.



On Apr 30th we were officially in our new space in Winkler, just north of the highway.



Many people have volunteered and donated to this expansion project and we appreciate all the incredible help in making this happen.



Our Front Door



An Encounter With God ...cont'd from front page

In this context of crying out, a scene caught his attention. There were three men dancing in the grassy meadow near the picnic table. They were thoroughly enjoying each other’s company jumping up and down in evident merriment. A knowing overcame Ed. Like the three men who had come down to visit Abraham, he was witnessing the trinity enjoying each other. At that point Ed said; I was overwhelmed with guilt and shame. A response emanated from the three, “we’ve taken care of it”.

Their laughter and gaiety continued. As I was listening to Ed’s story... I was eager to know if he felt energized and alive, because Ephesians 3 says that fullness of life comes from experiencing the love of Christ. Ed said with his trademark laugh, I felt like running and jumping and shouting for joy. That’s how I picture Ed right now. Running and jumping for joy together with God and others. Ed left us with a legacy of faith.

Zephaniah 3:17

**“He will take delight in you with gladness.
With his love, he will calm all your fears.
He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”**