

Photo: Staff

WELCOME FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

IT'S BEEN A HARD YEAR for everyone. But as hard as it's been for us, imagine what it's been like for prisoners in Manitoba's jails.

Besides the fear of getting Covid-19, there's the mind-numbing isolation. There are no work, school or other programs to break up the day. You can't even look forward to a visit from a loved one. The lack of programs means that you can't even work toward getting parole by complying with your correctional plan.

The John Howard staff, too, has continued to work under the most trying conditions – between lockdowns they were allowed to come in to work briefly, then back to working virtually. Programs are still being delivered and work is getting done, but it's not the same as being able to relate to the clients face-to-face.

The Correctional Service of Canada continues to be extremely understanding in their support of the Community Residential Facility (CRF) that we operate. With this support, coupled with income from grants and donors, I'm pleased to report that our financial picture continues to improve.



Items in a Hygiene Kit prepared by volunteers with federal grant money for distribution from our Reintegration department (see more on pages 7-8).

Another very positive step for us here at the John Howard Society of Manitoba is that Sharon Perrault has agreed to take the position of Executive Director. Thank you, Sharon and congratulations.

All of our Board meetings this year have been via Zoom. I'd like to acknowledge the work of our board members who continue to support the John Howard Society of Manitoba with their presence and their commitment to social justice.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the work of Kate Sjoberg. After eight years of service on our board of directors, including the role of president, Kate has decided to leave the board. We wish her well and thank her for being there through some difficult times.

*Ken Friesen, Chair of the Board
The John Howard Society of Manitoba*