

# HeartSong

The Newsletter of Inner City Women's Ministries International Inc.

## OPENING LINES

Moving forward with the Lord has always proved interesting and exciting. Since our last newsletter we have been offered 3 more client homes, accepted 4 new clients into our transitional program and have been introduced to the coffee business! We have also had a photo opportunity. A few of us are missing due to poor weather conditions but as you can see we have joyfully expanded since 2005. Many thanks to Wendall Toews, who not only took the pictures but continues to support ICWMII in so many ways. Hats off also to Rob Swerbus, who sits on the Board as our legal and financial advisor and



**A few smiling faces from ICWM**

who braved an evening with “us women folk”. More male volunteers are welcome to join Rob! We are indeed blessed with so

many volunteers in the front and back lines of this ministry.

Shon McLaren—Froese  
*Executive Director*

## THE POWER OF PRESENCE

ICWMII takes the power of presence very seriously. Our hearts desire is that more heads of households, especially fathers would take their presence in the home more seriously. We believe that if people were more spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically “present” in all their relationships our world would be a better place.

With this in mind, two of our volunteers have sat in the same spot on the same day at the same time at the same inner city soup kitchen for over 3 years. The invitation for persons to come up and talk to us continues to be by

mere presence. Interesting to note is that after our first 16 consecutive afternoons of no one engaging with ICWM volunteers, we skipped a Monday due to other business. Upon our return we were told that many had asked where we were and were concerned for our well being.

Soon after people responded with smiles as we smiled at them. About one year after our “presence” started some people trusted us enough to share their burdens. We shared Jesus Christ.

Late Monday mornings at the Lighthouse Mission (669 Main Street, Winnipeg) continues to be a

meeting point for women who have recently been released from prison, need council or just need a time out. Mondays during the 2 pm soup line our volunteers are there for any who would like someone to chat with or listen. We also pick up “the news on the street” and pray for those who ask. ICWMII enjoys being part of the inner city community and is presently looking for more volunteers.

If you feel you are called and/or are interested in just checking out this section of our ministry please contact Louise at 955-4098 in Winnipeg.

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## HOMES AND MENTORS

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At the last writing of HeartSong our transition homes were catering to more women in ministry. Most of the justice, social service and ministry programs in the greater Winnipeg area know about our services and will refer women on a need basis. We tend to wait on God rather than push to have our beds full. The wait has been worth it as we now have clients in all three homes along with mentors/managers in two of the homes. Assessing client needs and personalities is an important part of ICWMII's work. Matching up the right home location and staff per-

sonality with that of the client's is something we take into account. Client's are responsible for paying for their own rent and food. Staff get a reduced rate in rent for light ministerial/mentor duties. In this way ICWMII tries to make each home self-sufficient. The only thing we have found a bit of a challenge to date is heating/electricity bills (approximately \$200 per month/home). Three persons per home or increased financial support would relieve this financial concern. We will see how God leads us in this area in the next few weeks.

### **Mentors, are you out there?**

Do people find you approachable? Have you enjoyed having a mentor in your life and would like to give something back? Aside from home mentors, ICWMII is seeking at least one other mentor per client, someone whom the client can connect with daily by telephone. Prayer, mentorship and client self evaluations are the backbone of ICWMII's ministry.

If you feel called in this area please leave a message for Shon at 783-3215 in Winnipeg.

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## INTO THE COFFEE BUSINESS

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*Wendall Toews has donated packages of coffee through "Loves Lives Here" (an inner city ministry) for ICWMII to sell. The coffee is from Guatemala and is selling for \$10 per bag with proceeds going to our inner city work, and to buy Bibles for our prison ministry.*



*Please prayerfully consider if you would like to support us in this way. We have heard by good authority that this whole bean coffee is delicious.*

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## PRAISE AND PRAYER

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**Praise for:**

- a good start to 2009.
- our prayer and financial partners
- our volunteers
- a faithful God!



**Prayer for:**

- wisdom in administration and financial decision making
- client and staff focus on God's will.
- all who continually struggle with life issues
- at least 3 more female mentors to join our volunteer team
- more Life Recovery Bibles and workbooks to be donated through Canadian Life Light Ministries Steinbach, MB.

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## LAST WORD

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As we look towards the end of Spring and the beginning of Summer let us remember to put God first. He gives His all and all to us. May we be worthy of His blessings.

Inquiries and donations may be sent to:

**Inner City Women's Ministries International Inc.**  
**Redwood Centre**  
**P.O. Box 3753**  
**Winnipeg, Manitoba**  
**R2W 3S0, Canada**

**Phone: 204-783-3215**  
**E-mail: [lcwm@mts.net](mailto:lcwm@mts.net)**  
**Website: [www.icwmi.org](http://www.icwmi.org)**

All donations over \$10 are eligible for a tax receipt if you live in Canada.

\*ICWMII is a non-profit, volunteer organization operated solely by private donations.