

Welcome to our Special Bulletin

May is shaping up to be an exciting month! Future Hope has a new look, logo and excitingly, we are releasing our first book, *Two Steps Forward...Journeys from Prison to Community*.

You might wonder, how has this all come about? Dorais Charities Inc. has generously supported Future Hope in its transition from a congregation to a lay-led organization with a capacity-building grant. With an air of newness, Future Hope enters its 20th year of successful integration programs with a renewed commitment to the mission created by our founders, Sister Carol Peloquin and Father Dave Creamer.

Sr. Carol is still active with Future Hope. She continues to accompany "our guys" by faithfully participating in our Next Step program and acting as a volunteer Admissions Director for Quixote House. She also is a member of the Future Hope Board and continues to mentor staff, program volunteers, and our capacity building helper-consultants.

Sadly, Fr. Dave Creamer of the Society of Jesus died on April 17, 2021, in Pickering, Ontario. Fr. Dave was born in Saint John, NB. He was 74 years old and in his 52nd year as a Jesuit! Fr. Dave spearheaded our Quixote House project for released prisoners and was its first live-in house manager. Regardless of background or belief, Fr. Dave welcomed everyone. This shaped our house into a caring intentional community of fellowship and peer support.

Although we are heavy-hearted, we are grateful that Fr. Dave was able to live his last years in Ontario, close to his family members and the friends whom he loved so deeply.

Our founding duo, Sr. Carol and Fr. Dave often joked about "becoming partners in crime!" We are pleased that our book initiative got them together again. For those of you who did not know Fr. Dave, the book prologue speaks to his many talents and his commitment to those living on the margins of society. He had a major impact on us all! We are forever blessed for his special presence, his friendship, humor, and love. We know that his kind giving example will continue to guide the Future Hope mission each, and every day.

There have been many changes to our organization these last months and I leave it to our Future Hope Director, Brian Godkin to give you more of an update.

It will be a pleasure to connect with you again in June for our regular newsletter and to introduce a new member! Until then, may the arrival of spring bring hope to you and your loved ones during these unique times.

Kathleen

Next Step Program Coordinator



Director's Message Brian Godkin

Greetings!

A capacity-building mentoring grant from Dorais Charities permitted the Board to hire me, in February 2020, as Future Hope Director. Working in the nonprofit sector is a career change for me. My prior business experience, knowledge of the corrections system, my lived experience of re-entry, and participation in all Future Hope's programs give me a unique perspective of what supports our participants need.

Prior to accepting this position, I served as a client representative on the Board for 3 years. It was and still is a privileged experience to be in the company of such remarkable colleagues. I entered this position with the viewpoint of being a perpetual student, aware that there is much to learn from those who surround me in my new role, including our program participants.

This past year has been transformative for all of us at Future Hope. Dealing with both our organizational transition and the pandemic situation has been challenging. Charitable organizations can no longer do business as usual. The continued need to adapt service delivery has sparked the need for greater collaboration and solidarity between community service providers.

Throughout this period, we have had limited access to in-prison visits. Kathleen was able to maintain a virtual connection with inmates through the WebEx service provided by Stony Mountain correctional facility. Calls and letter writing also became our way of connection in disconnected times. Kathleen continued facilitating Next Step meetings by zoom with our guys in the community. We continue to follow provincial directives to ensure a safe environment.

There has been an increased need for accompaniment and phone connection to deal with anxiety, loneliness, isolation, loss and grief, strained relationships, and financial difficulties. It has been a difficult year for so many and for all. We experience it differently but together.

Kathleen has become a skilled Zoomer and continues to communicate with "our guys". Kathleen, Sr. Peter Mary, our Quixote House Residential Support Worker and I have had more rapport with our current participants and some alumni. Be assured that with the additional help from our program volunteers and board members, we walk alongside and support those who reach out and need us the most.

Traditionally we have worked with federal inmates and parolees. As a follow-up to a request by Manitoba Justice, we are now exploring how we could welcome men in the provincial correctional centers into our programs. We have taken the social media leap and now have an integrated website, see address below in the footer.

Our Committees are busy putting in place strategies to create more awareness about our programs and the need for community engagement. We hope you can join us for a celebratory 20th-anniversary Zoom Book Launch on June 1st. More on this on the next page. Our Fund Development Committee is planning other fundraising events to be held throughout the year.

To meet our dedicated Board members, go to the About Us page, scroll down to Our Board of Directors on our website and visit often to stay tuned for upcoming events.

I hope you have enjoyed this special bulletin. May all the newness of spring, bring renewed vitality to your spirits and lives.

Brian

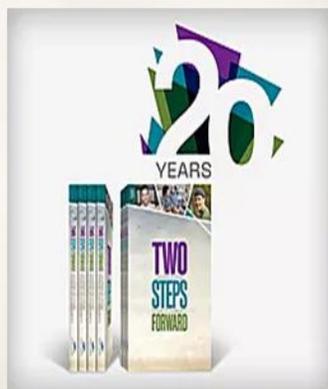
Future Hope Director



For more information on Future Hope Winnipeg programs and how you can help, visit us online at futurehope.ca

Virtual Book Launch

Marking 20th year Anniversary of Future Hope's
delivery of reintegration programs in Winnipeg!



Two Steps Forward ... *Journeys from Prison to Community*

75 real-life stories
of courage, change
and perseverance
that reflect personal journeys
about crime, punishment,
redemption, struggle and hope.

**Offenders come from our communities.
They are our children, our friends, our colleagues, our neighbours!**

Eventually ex-offenders return back into our midst. The journey from prison to community is anything but straightforward – it is indeed often “two steps forward, one step back” but, if handled well, it is still a journey in the right direction.

How can we – communities, families, employers and neighbours – support their journey back into community belonging? What can we do?

This book draws on the wisdom of former offenders and offers insights into these questions.

Tuesday, JUNE 1 @ 7:00 pm - Winnipeg
Open to the public - registration required.