

Sophia Korban 2010-2011

I came to The Welcome Home as a 19 year old, with an idealistic hope of serving the poor and maybe changing the world a little. Over the next year and half, God shattered my expectations through a thousand little encounters.

A stranger comforted me when I was having a 'really bad day' and I later found out that he had no home or job. I played hockey with kids at Turtle Island. A tough woman bonded with me as we made origami frogs. Our live in community thrived by praying vespers from the staircase because the chapel was packed. Songs were sung as dishes were washed. Eight year olds gave me dating advice. Families rallied to support each other when the heat was turned off, furniture together, sharing work, and watching Glee. Neighbours welcomed me into their own homes. I prayed was taken, or someone got sick. Shared jokes, struggles, stories, and moments turned into deep connections.

In the Church, we often talk about seeing Christ in the poor. What changed my world was being served by Christ through the poor. God shattered my expectations and surprised me with something much better. I became part of a big, messy, and joyful family. I became good friends with my future husband. I became a more authentic version of myself. And I gained incredible hope for our Church. The Welcome Home is a place where you don't have to be perfect to love and be loved. It's a place to meet Jesus who embraces and heals our brokenness. It's a place to evangelize and be evangelized. It's a place that can transform lives through your support. It's a place that will transform your own life if you join the family.