

Michelle Fedorowich 2003-2006

Dear Welcome Home Community, benefactors, volunteers, and Redemptorist Parishes,

Wow! It's been 25 years already; how time flies! Congratulations on achieving this incredible milestone, and of course for being an amazing pillar within the North Point Douglas community in Winnipeg for over two decades. I was the author of the historical non-fiction book published in May 2004, "The Welcome Home – Looking at Life Through an Open Door", so naturally I am struggling with the length of the 3-paragraph testimony requested of me (I could go on for pages and pages!)

Like so many others who became or are currently involved with this mission project, the experience literally changed my life, and committed me to a path of working with marginalized populations both domestically and internationally. I worked with the Redemptorists once again in Pattaya, Thailand in 2014-2015 at the Father Ray Foundation, and it was this opportunity that solidified my decision to pursue a Bachelor of Social Work at Ryerson University in Toronto. I draw on so many of my encounters both in Winnipeg and in Pattaya in class discussions and written assignments. My current academic path was inspired more than anything else from the relationships that were built with the patrons I came across, the strengths and resilience I witnessed first-hand of so many individuals overcoming incredible life obstacles permanently impacting my life's work.

To those who are past or present volunteers and benefactors: the important work of The Welcome Home cannot continue without your help. Please continue to give generously and as often your resources allow. To those who are past or present live-in community members: your work continues for a lifetime in your responsibility of sharing stories and experiences with others in the form of advocacy work. Connect with your networks to get the word out there about the opportunity of a lifetime to work on the front lines in the North End of Winnipeg. To those who are past or present neighborhood people who are the reason that this mission project continues to exist: thank you for your commitment, dedication, and participation in the work of The Welcome Home to strengthen the impact and good work that has been sustained for 25 years. It has been beautiful to see this community grow and transform into what it is today, and I am truly honored to continue to be a part of it.

Here's to 25 years more!



Photo credit: Victoria Long
Makeup credit: Larissa Palaszczuk.