



Capital Campaign Case for Support 2025



Current Services

For over 44 years, Agape Table has provided nourishment, support, and comfort to Winnipeg's most vulnerable in the inner city from within leased buildings and church basements.

Agape Table operates its vital food and meal programs every weekday morning, serving as an invaluable resource to Winnipeg's core area and surrounding communities.

Unbiased Delivery of Food Programs to the Most Vulnerable

Agape Table is an oasis of hope for the community's most vulnerable and marginalized in a city where food insecurity continues to be a serious and growing issue.

With its commitment to dignity, respect, and unwavering support, Agape Table sets the standard for excellence in food programs and community care.

High Standard for Generosity

Generosity and commitment are pillars of Agape Table's mission statement, which aims to support the most vulnerable members of society through its breakfast and food bank programs.

Guests who visit Agape Table include seniors, families, students, the unemployed and under-employed, the homeless, new immigrants, people with disabilities, and others struggling to feed themselves and their families.

Agape Table recognizes that the increasing need for food assistance will continue and is committed to do everything possible to meet the challenge of the growing number of people facing hunger and poverty.



“ I believe that people appreciate that they're not seen as numbers to be served, and I have heard them express gratitude by asking if they can volunteer too. ~ Wayne ”

In 2024, despite challenging circumstances and an unprecedented increase in demand, Agape Table remained steadfast in its commitment to providing over 170,000 meals for individuals facing food insecurity in Winnipeg.

A Community Partner in Reducing Food Waste

Agape Table plays a crucial role in preventing food waste within the community by collaborating with local organizations such as food banks, retailers, and distributors to distribute more than two million pounds of excess food and food products annually to those in need. Their efforts have a positive impact on the ecosystem and promote sustainable living.

Volunteer and Community Engagement

Agape Table provides food and support programs to those in need every week through the combined team effort of 150 volunteers and eight staff. A warm smile and a healthy helping of respect and dignity accompany each meal. Agape Table's strong volunteer engagement program attracts people from the surrounding community, businesses, organizations, and former guests. Volunteers contribute 40,000 hours annually.

MISSION

Agape Table enhances the lives of those in need by welcoming everyone to its table without judgment or bias, offering food, fellowship and support.

“The physical building creates barriers and is not accessible to all physical abilities and food delivery. There is no elevator, making moving food to various levels and delivery points difficult. Makeshift slides are used. ~ Dave”



Challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic brought to light the severe limitations of Agape Table's current facility.

- The rented space makes compliance with safe food handling guidelines difficult and onerous. Agape Table struggles with this challenge but remains uncompromising in maintaining the highest food quality and safety measures.
- When Covid-19 pandemic restrictions were imposed, it was necessary to cancel indoor dining adding to the existing challenges.
- The organization could not operate without the dedicated volunteers who come to pack meals daily. Increased health and safety standards, social distancing, and inadequate space for food preparation and safe storage are among the significant challenges in the facility.
- The current lease agreement with The Wave Church limits Agape Table's services and operation hours to five mornings per week. This necessitates packing and unpacking the space twice weekly, taking time away from serving Agape guests and offering programs.
- Agape Table's current facility has significant barriers for people with physical disabilities. The leased space is in the basement of the church with only stairs to enter. The building has no elevator, limiting access to guests, volunteers, staff, and other visitors. Moving food and non-food items to different levels is also very challenging. As a result, makeshift slides are used.
- There is a need for a larger space to accommodate the growing number of people accessing the meal program.
- Limited parking space for volunteers, staff, and visitors and no loading area for delivery vehicles also compound the problem.
- Agape Table needs more space for safe food storage, handling, and meal preparation, including fresh, frozen, and dry storage areas.
- **Since 2019, food bank use has increased nationally by 78.5%. Agape Table has seen numbers increase by over 80%.**
- **In August 2024, Statistics Canada research showed that nearly one-quarter of Canadians (23%) said they were "likely to obtain food or meals from community organizations in the next six months."**



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Building on one of its core values, unconditional love, Agape Table's new home will be an inclusive, warm, dignified, respectful place where all hungry can feel safe and welcome. ~ April

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A New Home for Agape Table

It has always been a desire for Agape Table to have an accessible facility that would allow them to provide daily meal programs and support services to guests in a dignified and respectful way.

On May 25, 2022, Agape Table completed the purchase of a property and building next to The Wave Church on Furby Street to create A New Home for Agape Table. The current lease with the Church expires in June 2025.

Drawing from its foundational principle of unconditional love, Agape Table's new home represents a warm, dignified, and respectful space where all individuals facing hunger can find assistance, comfort, and caring support.

The location at 352/356 Furby Street, is conveniently located adjacent to The Wave Church, which is helpful for the relocation of Agape Table's programs and services. The roughly 18,000 sq ft property redevelopment includes construction of a new 10,500 sq ft building, modification of the existing 5,600 sq ft brick building, a green space, and a designated parking lot.

The existing building currently being used as offices and non-food storage at 356 Furby will be modified for future use.

The newly constructed building will house the dining room, kitchen, food and non-food storage facilities, loading dock area and new washrooms.

Capital Project Personnel

- A Campaign Steering Committee led by Guy Chartier, Board Vice-Chair, is providing oversight to the project with Jim Steep, Executive Director.
- Janet McLeod is the Capital Campaign Director, Jan Currier is responsible for fundraising and communications and together they are working closely with volunteer Kate Brenner, Chair Fund Advisory Committee to secure funding for the project.
- Rob Froese has been hired as project manager to oversee the construction and renovation of the new facility.
- PICO Architecture is designing the facility with final drawings expected in July 2024.
- Bockstael Construction has been awarded the building contract.



AGAPE TABLE'S CAPITAL PROJECT 2022-2025



Project Highlights

Construction began in December 2024 with the estimated grand opening in December 2025.

Street View

For individuals in our community facing food insecurity, finding a place that fosters a supportive and welcoming atmosphere can make all the difference.

The new main foyer of Agape Table will create a private and secure entrance for our guests. Additionally, the north side frontage of the building will be artfully landscaped, providing a natural and peaceful environment for guests to relax and unwind.

Dining Hall

A dignified, welcoming space will have natural daylight in the dining hall from higher windows. These spaces will also use less electricity.

Community Kitchen

The kitchen is the heart of Agape Table's food preparation and distribution. The functionality and hygienic quality of the kitchen facilities, equipment, and tools are important for safely and responsibly upcycling donated commodity food items into nutritious meals. The kitchen will have the capacity to offer onsite kitchen workshops or training seminars to teach guests how to cook nutritious and inexpensive meals.

Loading Area

The loading area is an essential component of Agape Table's operations, serving as the epicentre of the facility's productivity and efficiency. It lays the groundwork for timely and efficient inflow and outflow of donated goods, ensuring safe and organized receiving and distribution of food items from local retailers and suppliers.

This campaign will allow us to reopen to the public and invite our guests indoors for sit-down meals in a safe, secure and welcoming environment.



More Project Highlights

Community Pantry

Agape Table's commitment to helping its community goes far beyond providing meals. In many instances, people face the difficult choice of feeding themselves and their families and finding personal hygiene products, household items, and other amenities for daily living. To alleviate this struggle, Food Hampers are distributed twice weekly to 1,200 unique families per month for a total of 14,400 hampers year. They include essential items from generous donors, supplemented with support from Harvest Manitoba.

Peace Place

Agape Table is committed to creating an inclusive, comfortable, and supportive space that values and respects its guests' welfare. Agape Table serves a diverse community with varying levels of needs. This quiet, safe room is evidence of Agape Table's determination to prioritize the privacy and safety of guests while providing more comprehensive and compassionate care during their time of need.

Cold, Fresh, and Dry Storage Areas

Maintaining the freshness of food is crucial for Agape Table given its large inventory and considerable storage needs in serving more than 150,000 meals per year. The fresh, frozen, and dry storage areas allow the organization to expand its inventory and purchase and store more bulk quantities. By storing perishable items in the cooler, Agape Table increases its capacity to accept donations of such fresh and frozen items while providing a more diverse range of food options for the people it serves. Ultimately, this facility

feature allows Agape Table to deliver nutritious, quality, balanced meals while effectively working to reduce food waste.

Volunteer Room

Agape Table's front-line staff and a weekly team of 200 dedicated volunteers are the very essence of the organization. This remarkable team includes current and past guests, students, residents from diverse local communities, and employees of various Winnipeg-based companies and non-profit organizations. Their non-judgemental and compassionate approach is central to Agape Table's mission of providing guests with high-quality meals, support, and care. This space is conveniently located on the main floor near the kitchen, dining hall, and giveaway section.

Entrances

Upon entering, visitors will walk through a secure vestibule designed to provide added privacy before entering the main dining hall.

Elevator

A large transport capacity elevator will provide accessibility for all. It will be located near the loading and storage areas to facilitate the efficient and safe movement of staff, guests, volunteers, food and non-food items between the main and second floor of the building.

Parking

Increased parking for volunteers, staff and visitors and an accessible space will be provided.

Future development space of the existing building as a resource centre with program expansion opportunities.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDING



\$8 MILLION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



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CAPITAL PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Agape Table gratefully acknowledges the early financial support of **The Winnipeg Foundation** and the **Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg**. Additional funds are being raised from donations and grants from individuals, all levels of government, community organizations, corporations, businesses, and foundations.

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