

Honouring Courage

Creating Heart & Healing Space for Survivors of Violent Crime

It's Simply Horrifying

Every week, a family in Manitoba has their world shattered because they've lost someone they love to criminal violence.

It's hard to imagine something like this happening to your family. It may be too distressing to even think about. But please do.

They are family members just like us - but grief-stricken and traumatized. Parents whose children are gone forever. Children who are parentless. Siblings who have lost the person closest to them. Spouses who are suddenly and terribly alone.

The families you're seeing or reading about in the news are the ones who will be turning to Candace House for help when they go through the grueling, painful court process.

With murder rates rapidly rising in our community, more families need your help to ensure Candace House can give them the caring support they need.

Incredible Courage

It takes incredible courage for families devastated by the violent death of a loved one to navigate the journey through a criminal justice system and court process that were not designed with victims' needs in mind.

They are abruptly pulled out of their lives into a nightmarish world where they face the accused, lawyers and judges - all the while not able to show their grief, anger and anguish in public for fear of being removed from court.

Even during breaks in proceedings, there is no respite. There is no comfort or privacy in the halls of the law courts where, at any time, families can encounter the accused, the accused's supporters, the media or the general public. They can leave the building, but to go where? A busy diner where they can't cry, rest or talk privately? Their car (if they have one)?

Families have been dealing with these circumstances for decades.

"The jury started deliberations and there was no way of knowing whether we would now be waiting hours or days for a verdict. We stumbled back to our car, parked six blocks away, and were completely unsure of what to do next or where to go."

-Nick



Families count on Candace House

for wrap-around support with someone by their side to help them cope with the complexities and stresses of the justice process and find a way forward.

At Candace House, they can put up photos of the loved one they've lost, bring items of comfort, and invite friends to be with them. They can also:

- access experts who can help guide them through the trial process.
- speak with other families in similar situations.
- break down, weep, and get angry – safely.
- share a meal.
- virtually participate in court proceedings.



For more information, please contact:

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It wasn't until Candace House opened four years ago that there was a private and comfortable home-like place for them to go on court days.

Providing a refuge for these families is why Candace House exists.

Only a short walk from the law courts, Candace House is as comfortable as being in your own home, but with all your needs taken care of by others.

It offers a space that families can call their own for a while, where they can be themselves and receive the supports they need during such a difficult time – warmth, understanding, privacy, warm meals, and answers to questions about what's happening in court.

Candace House Must Expand Now to Support More Families

The need to expand Candace House is urgent.

Even with the courts being less active during COVID, Candace House supported more than 600 people connected to the tragic loss of over 60 individuals to violent crime in its first four years. In that time, the murder rate has doubled, and it's continuing to rise.

Candace House currently has enough space to host one or two families at a time, but there are often four or more families seeking help. This expanded need means that right now, people are regularly being turned away when seeking the refuge and supports they need.

*"I can't imagine having any families go through an entire trial without a space...like Candace House."
- Justice system professional*

Victimized families in our community need and deserve better. They need support right now, and you can give them that.

The planned \$1.2 million expansion project will allow Candace House to take over and fit out an adjacent space in the same building, doubling capacity to accommodate families who urgently need refuge and supports.

By contributing to the expansion, you will restore hope to many more devastated families in our community who are seeking refuge, support, comfort and care during a terrible time.

With your help, construction of the new Candace House space can start in the fall of 2022 and be welcoming families in 2023.