



AUGUSTINE
CENTRE

The Heart of the Village

A \$4.5 million campaign to sustain and enhance three vital Winnipeg institutions devoted to improving lives.

With your support, Augustine Centre will flourish. Spirits will soar. Families will thrive. Vulnerable members of our community will find comfort, compassion, and connection.

A Case for Support
2022

Introducing Augustine Centre

Greater than the sum of its parts

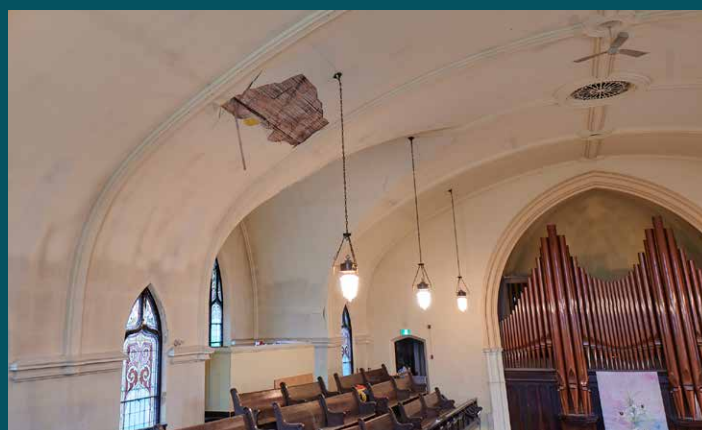
Since 1903, the stunning building at 444 River Avenue in Osborne Village has served as a gathering place, a place of comfort, a place of good will, a place to feed body, mind, and spirit.

Founded as Augustine United Church, the building is now **Augustine Centre**, a non-profit organization comprising **Oak Table**, **S.P.L.A.S.H. Child Care**, and the historic **Augustine United Church**.

This exciting partnership came to be in 2017 after an anchor tenant left the church to move into their own premises, thereby eliminating a vital source of rental revenue for the church. By joining together in common cause as Augustine Centre, Oak Table, S.P.L.A.S.H. Child Care, and Augustine United Church are paving the way to a sustainable and collaborative future.

The Augustine Centre Capital Campaign will allow the partners to complete an exciting \$8.5 million redevelopment of the space to better serve vulnerable Winnipeggers in need of food and fellowship; children and their families in need of suitable daycare space; and the members of Augustine United Church.

Augustine Centre has been shaped to honour the past, to meet the needs of the community today, and be to nimble, successful, and vital for many, many years to come. What benefits one partner will benefit all.



An Act of Community

"Augustine Centre creates the conditions for three important institutions to thrive for the long term. People have come together with a strong vision and in the spirit of cooperation, love, and mutual respect. We truly are greater than the sum of our parts. With your support, Augustine Centre will enhance life in the heart of the Village for many, many years to come."

Jeff Carter

Chair

Augustine Centre Board of Directors

Augustine Centre: The Campaign in Brief

- Augustine Centre is looking to raise \$4.5 million to complete the transformative renovation of the historic building at 444 River Avenue in Osborne Village.
- The total project is valued at \$8.5 million. \$4 million has already been raised and renovations are well underway.
- The facility has been renamed “Augustine Centre” and comprises three founding partners: Oak Table, S.P.L.A.S.H. Child Care, and Augustine United Church.
- Prior to the incorporation of Augustine Centre in 2017, the building was known only as Augustine United Church. The church rented space to Oak Table and to the organization formerly known as Macdonald Youth Services. When Macdonald Youth Services (now known as The Link) moved into its own building, the church lost an important source of revenue.
- The Augustine Centre initiative was designed to secure the future of its three founding partners, and allow them to share spaces and resources for the benefit of the surrounding community.

Highlights of the transformation include the following:

- a welcoming **outdoor plaza and improved access** for people living with disabilities;
- new and upgraded **sprinkler systems, electrical wiring, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems**;
- a **newly refurbished space for Oak Table** including a modern kitchen, laundry facilities, showers, an accessible dignity washroom, computers, and program, healthcare, and donation rooms;
- appropriate space for S.P.L.A.S.H. Child Care to accommodate **92 much needed neighbourhood daycare spots**;
- a renovation of the sanctuary to also serve as a **550-seat performing arts space** with a reinforced stage, a repaired ceiling, and other enhancements; and
- the development of **an additional 1,800 square feet of rentable space** that will produce another revenue stream for Augustine Centre.

The renovation will ensure the safety, dignity, and comfort of all guests, staff, and volunteers.



Our Honourary Campaign Chair

“Successful cities are characterized by innovative, collaborative, community-driven initiatives that enhance people’s lives. Augustine Centre is an exciting partnership that will enrich the city and breathe new life into Osborne Village—a community that means a great deal to me. I am proud to support this vital campaign.”

Dr. Lloyd Axworthy PC CC OM

Honourary Chair

Augustine Centre Capital Campaign



A Centre to InSPIRE

In 2020–2021, Osborne Village business owner and landlord Karl Loepp took it upon himself to raise \$300,000 to refurbish the beautiful but aging steeple on top of Augustine Centre, and support the Augustine Centre campaign.

"The building is a beautiful and important landmark for Winnipeggers, but it is far more than bricks and

mortar. Augustine Centre is an impressive community centre whose tenants are passionate about community outreach and improving life in Osborne Village and the city as a whole. I care deeply about preserving and celebrating this remarkable architecture, and about enhancing community well-being. We all have a role to play."

Karl Loepp

Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer
Private Pension Partners



Feeding Body and Spirit

Oak Table

It started with a few cups of coffee served with a smile by church volunteers over 40 years ago. Today, Oak Table serves over 30,000 meals a year and offers a rich slate of programs and services to hundreds of vulnerable Winnipeggers. As a partner in the new Augustine Centre initiative, Oak Table has moved into the bright, modernized lower level of 444 River Avenue with capacity for 75 guests plus volunteers.

Food is the cornerstone of the Oak Table program, with lunch served Monday to Thursday and two breakfast sittings on Friday. During the worst parts of the COVID-19 pandemic, when gathering in large groups was not allowed, Oak Table volunteers served up thousands of bagged lunches for people who would have otherwise not eaten.

While food creates the first point of contact, the staff and volunteers of Oak Table take the time to learn about their guests. What else do they need? What are their challenges? What are their talents?

Through that lens, here are a few ways that Oak Table helps its guests live safer, healthier, more connected lives:

- An Indigenous program staff member helps guests re-connect with their culture, their language, and their traditional ways, including smudging and sharing circles. (It is estimated that about 80% of Oak Table's guests are Indigenous.)

- Musical programming, including karaoke, brings joy and laughter.
- In cooperation with Oak Table, 1JustCity operates Just a Warm Sleep each winter, providing sleeping space, meals, showers, and laundry for up to 30 people.
- For Winnipeg's homeless and most vulnerable citizens, healthy feet are a necessity for transportation and well-being. Recognizing the need, Oak Table offers foot care with registered nurses twice monthly.
- Oak Table supports its guests with concrete responses to public health issues. Through COVID-19, for example, Oak Table ran nine vaccination clinics and worked with local pharmacists, resulting in 571 people receiving their proof-of-vaccination cards.
- Many of Oak Table's guests live with addictions and mental health challenges, many stemming from intergenerational trauma and the impacts of residential schools. Oak Table connects guests with appropriate services and medical care whenever necessary.
- Oak Table's art program helps guests express themselves, find peace and calm, and explore their creativity.

The staff and volunteers of Oak Table see the person, not just the hunger. With compassion and commitment, Oak Table improves lives. And as a founding partner of Augustine Centre, Oak Table will thrive for many years to come.



"There is one guest we see often and before he leaves he always says: 'I'm leaving heaven and the angels that God has put here to help me on my way.' It's a reminder to us that

people don't just come to Oak Table for food; they come for friendly faces and a sense of community. They come here to feel safe and wanted."

Allison and Nigel Wilcox

Oak Table Volunteers

"When I first started coming to Oak Table, I only labelled myself as poor, but here I have learned I am much more than that. Now I call myself an artist."

Barbara L.



It Takes an Osborne Village to Raise a Child

S.P.L.A.S.H. Child Care

S.P.L.A.S.H. Early Learning Centre at Augustine Centre is making a splash in Osborne Village with its innovative, values-based program.

S.P.L.A.S.H. centres are far more than daycare centres; they have a nearly four-decade track record of integrating in exciting and positive ways with the community.

S.P.L.A.S.H. was founded as a school-aged centre in Point Douglas in 1985. In 2009, they opened a second location on McGregor Street in the North End. In both locations, the children and their teachers engage with community groups and neighbours in the spirit of openness, kindness, and inclusion.

S.P.L.A.S.H. Early Learning Centre delivers a curriculum that features nature-based experiences, gardening, and an urban Forest School program. S.P.L.A.S.H. incorporates random acts of kindness, and the program is deeply influenced by Indigenous teachings and open to children and families of all backgrounds.

Believing that “you can’t be what you can’t see”, the leadership of S.P.L.A.S.H. has designed their new space at Augustine Centre around the Seven Sacred Teachings of Indigenous culture and the animals that symbolize each teaching. The children of S.P.L.A.S.H. are taught to practise and value: love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility, and truth.

S.P.L.A.S.H. opened in Augustine Centre in early 2022 with 92 badly needed daycare spaces for Osborne Village. The families come from many different cultural backgrounds and different socio-economic backgrounds. The centre is full and there is already a waiting list.

As a founding partner of Augustine Centre, S.P.L.A.S.H. will have access to the redeveloped stage in the auditorium/sanctuary and other spaces in the building. Expect the children and educators of S.P.L.A.S.H. to become connected to the neighbourhood just as they have in Point Douglas and the North End.

Having a new early childhood centre in the Village is life-changing for parents, and nearby businesses will benefit from the increased traffic. For children, the experience will influence a future of kindness, compassion, and inclusion.



“My daughter is only two-years-old, but she is already thriving in S.P.L.A.S.H.’s creative and inclusive environment. I really like the centre’s focus on outdoor programming and building relationships in the community. My daughter is learning respect and kindness, the staff are phenomenal, and the program aligns beautifully with my family’s values. Augustine Centre and S.P.L.A.S.H. are making a real difference for families with young children in the neighbourhood.”

Julia Peristerakis

Parent of a S.P.L.A.S.H. Child Care student



Walking the Talk

Augustine United Church

From 1887, when the members of Augustine United Church first started to gather together in worship, the congregation has been deeply committed to social justice and improving lives in Winnipeg. It has always been a congregation defined by its open hearts, open arms, and open doors.

When Augustine United opened the doors of its iconic building in 1903—a building now known as Augustine Centre—it became a place where congregants and other members of the community could come for companionship and support; a place where the displaced, transient, and marginalized could find solace without judgment.

A few important examples of the congregation's hospitality and its commitment to walking the talk:

- During the great flood of 1950, Augustine United welcomed 68 people to stay at the church after they were forced from their homes by the rising waters.
- In the 1960s, when many young adults were hitchhiking across Canada, Augustine United opened its doors to offer dinners and a place to connect with others.
- In the 1970s, the church opened its doors to people from the neighbourhood who needed a cup of coffee and a friendly face. This act of hospitality led to the establishment of Oak Table as an independent organization in 1981.
- In 1995, Augustine United Church became the first affirming church in Canada, welcoming gay and gender-diverse people as equal and celebrated participants in congregational life.

It is no secret that many faith groups, including the United Church of Canada, are in a time of great challenge. Officials at Augustine United estimate that up to 60 United Churches across Canada close their doors every year. At Augustine United, this challenge has been seen as an opportunity to re-imagine itself not as landlord, but as a partner in a robust and dynamic community centre. As a founding partner in Augustine Centre, Augustine United Church will continue to promote justice and kindness, changing lives for the better along the way.




"We've been part of the church for 60 years and it has always been a congregation that has asked the big questions in life, that has welcomed people who have been unjustly marginalized, and that has looked beyond its own walls with a desire

to make the community a better place. The development of Augustine Centre reflects the values that have always defined our church."

Helen and Keith Black

Members, Augustine United Church

A photograph of the Augustine Centre, a Gothic Revival style church. The building is constructed of light-colored stone and features a prominent tall, narrow bell tower on the left with a blue roof. The main facade has a large, ornate arched window with white tracery. To the right, there is a smaller section with a blue roof and a small spire. The sky is clear and blue.

**For more information
or to arrange a tour of
Augustine Centre,
please contact:**

Lawrence Prout
Global Philanthropic
Phone: (204) 471-0600
Email: l.p@globalphilanthropic.ca

or

Tony Mariani
Global Philanthropic
Phone: (204) 333-2332
E-mail: t.ma@globalphilanthropic.ca

Augustine Centre

444 River Avenue, Winnipeg Manitoba, R3L 0C7, www.augustinecentre.com

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Augustine Centre is located on Treaty 1 Territory, the traditional and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Dakota, and Oji-Cree peoples, and the homeland of the Red River Métis.