



Manitoba Real Estate Association Shelter Foundation awards record number of grants in 2016

A Manitoba Real Estate Association Shelter Foundation grant will help foster a love of reading and build all-important English literacy skills for newcomer adults and children. The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM) is one of 11 grant funding recipients through the MREA Shelter Foundation in 2016, announced today during #REALTORWEEK. This is the largest number of grants awarded in any single year, so far. IRCOM will be developing a beautiful sunny space into a library at their new Isabel Street location.

Another recipient, L'Arche Winnipeg, creates homes and builds community where people with developmental disabilities, and their assistants, can live, work, and share their lives together as family 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A gift from the MREA Shelter Foundation will provide new flooring and carpets in five of the L'Arche homes, making the homes safer and healthier for both residents and their visitors.

"When we can help the less fortunate members of our communities by supplying bed bug covers, by providing a safe and warm place to sleep on a cold winter night, or a refuge for women and children to escape violence, we all win," said MREA Shelter Foundation chair Brian Canart.

The foundation is delighted to announce a total of 11 new grants totalling more than \$42,000 will be given to:

Esther House
Habitat for Humanity
Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba
L'Arche Winnipeg
Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council
New Directions
Nova House
Resource Assistance for Youth
Samaritan House Ministries Inc. (Safe and Warm Shelter)
Siloam Mission
South Central Committee on Family Violence

WinnipegREALTORS® Gimme Shelter fundraising social raises approximately \$40,000 a year for the foundation's annual giving. Brandon Area REALTORS® raised \$9000 at its Shelter Classic Golf Tournament in the summer, and \$14,000 in the two years' prior.

Special events such as Win a Wine Cellar fundraiser occurring this Thursday November 24, at REALTOR® Place, and the *Close a Sale, Open a Door* REALTOR® campaign help to raise continual funds to serve vital community needs.

Since 2008, the foundation has raised nearly \$700,000 for shelter organizations across Manitoba.

For information on your foundation, or to give, visit mreashelterfoundation.com