

2004 REPORT OF CARMEL HOUSE TO THE SASKATCHEWAN MENNONITE BRETHREN CONFERENCE

In 1969, when the Group Home was first operated by Saskatchewan Mennonite Central Committee, the likely question was, "What's a group home?"

Today, the most often asked question is, "Why do you call it Carmel House?" Carmel House was chosen with reference to the biblical Mount Carmel (I Kings 18) which symbolizes a place where the people of God turn their hearts back to the Lord after witnessing a display of His miraculous power.

Everyday life at Carmel house includes miraculous displays of God's power at work, and it is an environment in which Christian standards and God's love are exemplified.

Other questions often asked are:

TO WHOM ARE YOU ACCOUNTABLE?

- Carmel House is governed by a board of directors chosen by the affiliate bodies of Mennonite Central Committee in Saskatchewan.
- It is responsible to the Saskatchewan Department of Community Resources and Employment (DCRE) [formerly the Department of Social Services] and deal with an assigned social worker that handles the case management of the youth.

HOW ARE YOU FUNDED?

- Carmel House is licensed annually through the DCRE and receives funding from it.
- Carmel House is registered as a charitable organization, and thus welcomes donations for special needs.

WHAT KIND OF PROGRAM DO YOU HAVE?

- Carmel House is a home for boys (Ages 12-18) with a capacity for five.
- It is programmed for long-term placements, which average 6 - 24 months.
- All youth are referred through the DCRE, and they usually need placement because of family breakdown and/or delinquent behaviour.

HOW DO YOU STAFF THE HOME?

- The Coordinator is responsible to operate the home under the supervision of the Board.
- The Coordinator is responsible to employ suitable staff to provide supervision and care for 24 hours per day 7 days a week.
- The Home has a mandate to employ only believers.

WHAT IS DAILY LIFE LIKE?

- A regular home atmosphere is imitated as much as possible.
- All the youth attend school and are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities.
- The youth sit down for supper together, have a regular study hour, and have established curfews.
- Loving discipline is practiced as creatively and effectively as possible!

As of spring, 2004, the Coordinator is Marie Speiser and the Chairman of the Board is Don Bowman.