

*"So if I live here, I will be safe."*

- That's the dream of a 13-year-old boy standing in St. Matthew's sanctuary learning about the WestEnd Commons.



# WestEnd COMMONS

## **Creating homes that provide sanctuary for our neighbourhood: Safe, affordable housing for 25 families**

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The current worship and office spaces of St. Matthew's Anglican Church are being transformed into 25 homes for families: single parent families, newcomers to Canada, First Nation's families, people with mental health challenges, and others in this inner city neighbourhood. We are building a welcoming, inclusive, multi-generational, secular complex focused on the well-being of children and adults.

Rental space for families is scarce in the city core, so the **WestEnd Commons** is focused on multi-bedroom units for families with children, consisting of a 1,000 square foot atrium, 3 one-bedrooms, 17 two-bedrooms, 3 three-bedrooms, and 2 four-bedrooms.

The atrium will grace the WestEnd Commons with some of the beauty of the original sanctuary space, as well as creating excellent community space at its very heart. Wonderfully, the James Richardson International Airport's playground structure has already been donated for the atrium.



*In an area of the city where decent, affordable housing for families is hard to come by, The WestEnd Commons innovatively meets an urgent need through quality design.*

*The WestEnd Commons is a project of St Matthews Non Profit Housing Inc., a partnership between Grain of Wheat Church-Community and St Matthew's Anglican Church. St Matthews Non Profit Housing Inc. is dedicated to addressing the critical need for housing in our neighborhood.*

## THE WESTEND COMMONS IS MORE THAN JUST HOMES.



### We provide Supports and Services

The Neighbourhood Resource Centre located in the lower level is an integral part of the **WestEnd Commons**.

Many members of the West End of Winnipeg face all the challenges of language barriers, cultural differences, poverty, and safety concerns every single day. A dozen agencies and community groups provide services to people of this neighbourhood, including a food bank, meal programs, drop-ins, access to free computers and a phone, English language courses, a community garden, sewing programs, 12 step programs, artists' circles, meeting places and a commercial kitchen. The **WestEnd Commons** residents will have ready access to these supports and services.

The **WestEnd Commons** development will:

- ◆ ensure a stable foundation for the Neighbourhood Resource Centre. (Currently, it's future is dependent on St. Matthew's church congregation); and
- ◆ provide ready access to services and support for the families living in **The WestEnd Commons** and the community.

### We're committed to Sustainability

The **WestEnd Commons** is committed to the green redevelopment of our neighbourhood. By re-purposing the building, the **WestEnd Commons** will retain, re-use and recycle the structure and furnishings of this iconic church. The foundations of the church were originally laid in 1913 and rebuilt in 1945 after a devastating fire. The energy efficiency of the building will be improved with insulation, new windows, and heating system, as well as energy efficient appliances and furnishings for the apartments. Local employment and training opportunities will be enhanced by recruiting local neighbourhood people to participate in the construction. Through these efforts, the **WestEnd Commons** will be a model in sustainable renovation and community development not just for our neighbourhood, but for our city.

### Faith Matters to Us

The **WestEnd Commons** will be home to five worshipping communities St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Grain of Wheat Church-Community, Shiloh Apostolic, Emmanuel Mission and Lutheran Urban Ministries. St Matthew's congregation is developing a brand new flexible worship space that will be its home for the next hundred years. This faithful presence within the **WestEnd Commons** will contribute energy to build quality community relations within the secular complex and our neighbourhood.

## THE WESTEND COMMONS IS VITAL FOR WINNIPEG.



Everyone dreams of a safe home. The lack of decent, affordable housing affects children and their families across generations and for generations to come. The **WestEnd Commons** provides model affordable housing for families at need. The real story is not the building, but the people who will live in the **WestEnd Commons**. With safe, affordable housing, the cycle of poverty and suffering can be broken. The **WestEnd Commons** will be a place of belonging; a home for children, women and men. It will continue to be a sanctuary for our neighbourhood and a spiritual home for many. The **WestEnd Commons** is about the revitalization of the West End. It creates real hope not just for the families who call the **WestEnd Commons** home, and not just for the participants and agencies of the Neighbourhood Resource Centre, and not just for the people of the West End, but for our city. Good things are possible!



## MAKING THE DREAM LIVE.

### Our Needs

St. Matthews Non-Profit Housing Inc. **needs an additional \$1.75 million** to make the homes of the **WestEnd Commons** a reality. 70% of the \$6 million dollar budget has already been raised thanks to The Winnipeg Foundation, United Way, Assiniboine Credit Union, St. Matthew's congregation, Grain of Wheat Church-Community, as well as all three levels of government. Once built, the **WestEnd Commons** will be self-sufficient. Your participation, personally and with your circle of family and friends, can be all the difference in making the **WestEnd Commons** a reality.

### Your Investment

Your generosity is critical to the success of the **WestEnd Commons**. We thank you for considering a gift to the **WestEnd Commons**. Your gift, whatever the amount, is appreciated and is tax deductible.

**Our Charitable Registration Number is: 812015428RR0001**

In faith and hope for the people of our neighborhood, St Matthew's Anglican Church has committed all it's assets to the creation of the **WestEnd Commons**. Will you commit some of yours?

### Please contact us!

For more information or to make a donation:

phone (204) 774-1846, or visit

[www.westendcommons.ca](http://www.westendcommons.ca)

