



KNOWLES CENTRE INC.

Helping Youth Find Their Path: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

MEDIA RELEASE

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KNOWLES CENTRE SEEKING FORMER CLIENTS, STAFF AND BOARD All Welcome Back for 100th Anniversary Celebrations

(WINNIPEG) -- Knowles Centre is searching for former clients, staff, board members and volunteers to be part of its 100th anniversary celebrations.

“Thousands of young people and their families have benefited from the services at Knowles Centre in the past 100 years,” said Michael Burdz, Chief Executive Officer. “This is a time to celebrate their successes in life as well as to commemorate Knowles Centre’s commitment to the community.”

As part of the celebrations, Knowles Centre will host a picnic and gala dinner; inter a time capsule; unveil a mural depicting its history; and hold services to honor founder Wilfred Knowles and long-serving superintendent Charles Hawkins.

Anyone interested in taking part in the Centennial Celebrations or sharing their story or experience is invited to contact Knowles Centre at (204) 339-1951 or info@knowlescentre.ca.

Knowles Centre began in 1907 when Wilfred Knowles, a clerk with the CPR, met a young orphan named Joe shivering on a Winnipeg street corner. Learning that Joe was homeless, Knowles invited him to stay at his boarding house on Hargrave Street. Overwhelmed by the number of boys seeking help, Knowles quit his job later that year to officially open the Knowles Home for Boys. The inaugural board incorporated the Knowles Home for Boys in 1910 and purchased acreage for a new facility in North Kildonan.

Over the years, the agency continued to take in homeless boys, those displaced by the Depression and World Wars, as well as those whose need for specialized care exceeded their families’ abilities. The centre became the Knowles School for Boys in 1924 and again was renamed Knowles Centre in 1979.

Today, Knowles Centre serves both boys and girls aged 4 to 17 with behavioral and emotional difficulties from Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. It operates on-site and community treatment homes, a day treatment program, a sexual abuse treatment program, and a treatment foster care program.

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