

HOMELESS SHELTER CELEBRATED – David Kuxhaus – Winnipeg Free Press – June 30,2007

65-bed facility now being served

Hannah Taylor's broken heart was happy on Friday.

A tireless advocate for the homeless, the 11-year-old was beaming at the grand opening of a new emergency shelter called Hannah's Place.

The 65-bed shelter is located at the Siloam Mission on Princess Avenue.

The mission named the shelter after Taylor because of her work with The Ladybug Foundation, which she helped start after seeing a man eating garbage from a bin.

"It's important that people have a home," said Taylor, recalling Friday how the sight of the unfortunate man made her heart feel broken.

The foundation has since raised over \$1 million to fight homelessness.

The new shelter will accommodate both men and women, providing them with a warm bed and a hot shower.

"I believe...everyone should have a place to stay. Hannah's Place emergency shelter will help others have a place to stay. I'm so excited."

John Mohan, CEO of Siloam Mission, said there are 1,700 people living in Winnipeg with no fixed address. Hannah's Place has been open since May and during that month provided shelter to 274 people.

"This is the culmination of a three-year vision," Mohan said yesterday.

The 11,000-square-foot shelter cost \$910,000. The federal government contributed \$744,000 with the remainder coming from the Winnipeg Foundation, the Thomas Sill Foundation, the Ladybug Foundation and private donors. The province is providing \$360,000 this year to support the operation of the facility.

The facility features a common lounge area, individual shower stalls and private change rooms.