

Aboriginal Non Aboriginal Relations Community (ANARC) 2020 Report

The year 2020, with the challenges of the pandemic, certainly affected our ability to gather as we usually do, especially for our monthly potlucks and sharing circles, as well as attending events and ceremonies. However, members of ANARC tried to be creative in the ways that we kept in contact so relationships could still thrive, with regular telephone calls, one-on-one physically distanced visits, and porch drop offs of groceries and other essential items for our Elders when the need arose.

It was a joy to deliver Easter baskets to the kokums, with the Easter-Bunny-nun and her team of helpers! Summertime allowed us to have our regular gatherings at Candy Park, following Covid guidelines. And when the weather turned cold again we began virtual monthly “potlucks” and sharing time by zoom. It certainly was not the same as gathering in person, and yet there was and still continues to be a sense of joy and family spirit when we can gather regularly, even through video technology!

The highlight was our zoom Christmas party: we “ate together” each in our own homes, then managed to have a Christmas sing-a-long which everyone enjoyed, along with individual home performances! One of the kokums and her grandchildren, all dressed up in their Christmas outfits, proudly singing “Little Drummer Boy” and “Here Comes Santa Claus” in Cree. Another family brought out all their hand drums and the adults, as well as the children, sang and drummed a traditional Round Dance “Merry Christmas” song. The energy was so electric it almost felt like they were physically present in everyone’s home!

Like last year, Christ the King Parish wanted to acknowledge in a special way, the Indigenous grandmothers. So on a blizzard day just before Christmas I had the joy of helping deliver gift baskets with 3 other parishioners to the kokums, who received them with much joy and gratitude!

Despite the many challenges we have faced this year in 2020, the pandemic has not prevented us from striving to continue the relationships built between one another. Whether it’s been during the Christmas season and the joy it brings, the Easter season of hope rising from the Pascal Mystery, or the ordinary times of peaceful presence and in the day to day struggles for justice and reconciliation...the ANARC family remains strong and rooted in love!