

**Celebrate Centre for  
Christian Studies  
Sunday**



**CENTRE FOR  
CHRISTIAN STUDIES**  
*Imagine Church Differently*

### **St. Matthews Maryland Community Ministry, Winnipeg**

Belonging is a core human need. Simple gestures say, “you matter”: a hearty welcome, accompanied by a sandwich, cup of coffee and friendly conversation. St. Matthews Maryland Community Ministry in Winnipeg's westend has been a home-away-from home for some of the city's most vulnerable for over 40 years.

Josh Ward is the Community Minister at St. Matthews Maryland and a graduate of the Centre for Christian Studies. His first connection with St. Matts was through a field placement for social ministry with CCS.

"The greatest gift that the Centre for Christian Studies has given me is preparation to be here -- the ability to be flexible and roll with the punches and keep moving no matter what. CCS helped me expand on ability, confidence and creativity.

"Everything we do here at St. Matthews is about relationship. In a way all these things we do together -- play cards, share a cup of coffee, sit in circle together -- are training for these moments. We're a place where people can belong. On the good days being here feels like a social club. All in the service of building relationship so when hard times come, people know where they belong. Someone in distress, that could be mental health, that could be feeling suicidal, they'll come to us because we've built the relationship."

*Your donations to the Centre for Christian Studies help students like Josh create community for people who would otherwise be lonely and hungry. Thank you!*

NOTE: Find photos to illustrate this story at  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/166074525@N05/albums/72157699197740731>  
(On flickr, search for Centre for Christian Studies under "people.")