

# What's it Mean to You?

*“This school is God's project.”*

Judy Gimbel, Gimbel Eye Centre  
Calgary, Alberta



Judy and Howard Gimbel have been partners for a long time—with each other, and with God. The Gimbels know that God has to be part of the equation for good things to happen: Howard combines the most promising techniques with his faith, offering to pray with the patient before surgery. Judy and Howard know they are ordinary people with unusual opportunity to serve.

Howard and Judy love young people in a very special way. When they saw Total Praise, the sign language group from Mamawi Atosketan Native School, perform at Alberta Camp Meeting, Judy knew that God was definitely part of the equation at Canada's only mission school.

“The Holy Spirit was in that room,” Judy says with conviction. “This school is God's project. It's God's gift to Alberta.”

Later, when Judy talked with her grandson about his work as a bush pilot, that conviction came into sharp focus. The hardest thing he does, the young man told his grandmother, is to fly teenage suicide victims out of the aboriginal communities. When they envision their future, it's too dark to endure. “They have no hope,” he said.

Judy knew then that she and Howard would support Mamawi Atosketan's Bridge Campaign to build a high school—a beacon of hope and safety at a time when many youth of Maskwacis begin to spiral down. The difference is dramatic: On what's reputed to be the toughest reserve in Canada where suicide is rife, not one attending student at MANS has taken their own life.

The Gimbels want more Maskwacis youth to see themselves and their life through Heaven's eyes. They are fanning the flame of hope.

“Giving a child a chance to be a servant of God and bless others is fantastic,” says Judy. A little light, they know, can make all the difference.



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NATIVE SCHOOL

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