



Mission Possible Newsletter



Summer Edition

The Downtown Mission

2020



Sleeping rough can refer to anyone who is living on the streets, sleeping in parks, or squatting in derelict buildings for temporary shelter. People sleeping rough are some of the most vulnerable in society.

After years of sleeping rough and living on the streets, Beth and AJ have found a place to call home, they are now renting a room in the Downtown core. "It is an older house so it already feels like home," Beth beamed. The location puts Beth and AJ close to many amenities as well as transit routes to help them get where they need to go.

The 27 and 26 year-old Windsor couple have been accessing services from the Downtown Mission since they were in their late teens. "Being Broke'N'Hungry brought us to the Mission...which isn't just the name of a Rock Song," AJ chuckled. The two have accessed a variety of Mission supports such as food, clothing, emotional support and occasionally even shelter.

Your Gifts at Work During a Pandemic

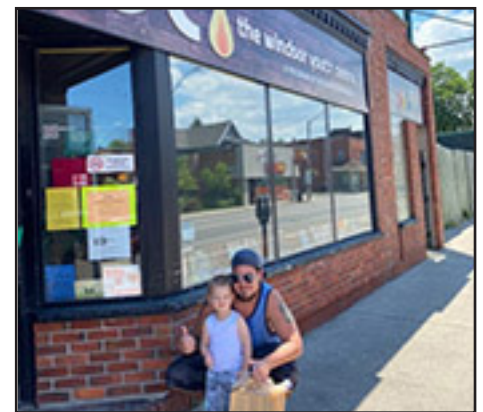
Staff at the Mission strive to meet Guests where they are at. Everyone requires varying levels of support and DTM staff are up to the challenge to serve individuals equitably. Like many other Guests at the Mission, Paula Monteleone, Director of Programs and Services, has noticed that a little kindness and encouragement can go a long way. "What I find extraordinary is that people like Beth and AJ, who have experienced great difficulties, are up to the challenge of making significant positive changes in their lives, they just need a little help."

The Downtown Mission's Youth Services Team has also continued to navigate their way through this uncharted time with limits in the way they can support homeless and at-risk youth. Those who rely on youth services are finding it difficult to find supports available during the restructuring and social distancing required by many of the agencies here in our community, some which only offer assistance virtually which many of our young people cannot access as they don't have internet.

Many young people experiencing homelessness find solace in being able to drop into the Windsor Youth Centre for a home cooked meal and to pick up essential items for themselves and their young families in some cases. Like Kelly, with her son Marcelo or Cody, with his son Logan, young people know when

they stop by the Youth Centre that they will get a meal, essential supplies and help. They know the caring staff will empathize with and support them in any way they can. This is especially helpful to those who are struggling from loneliness, mental health issues and/or life circumstances which have put them a vulnerable position.

While limited numbers of both adults and youth are being served at any given time by the Downtown Mission, due to the generosity of our amazing Community, the Mission continues to safely provide these basic supports to hundreds of Adults, Youth and Young Families in need each day. Thank YOU for continuing to provide hope for so many throughout this Pandemic, thank YOU for ensuring each individual who comes to the Mission can receive the basic supports they need for today and leave with hope in facing tomorrow!



Thank you to our Board of Directors

Michele McGregor, Chair;
Sandor Kapasi, Vice Chair;
Dolph Barsanti, Treasurer;
Rev. Dr. Catherine Collins-Barker, Secretary;
Anna St. Antoine; David Tell; Jeff Slopen;
Kristine McInnis; Melissa Pearce.



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Mission Possible Contributors:

Danielle Barron, Donna Roy, Racquele Smith
Rukshini Ponniah-Goulin,
Rev. Ron Dunn, Ruth Dunn

A Message from Executive Director, Reverend Ron Dunn



Dear Friend,

Over the past few months, we have all had to face many challenges and fears because of the COVID-19 Pandemic we are all trying to get through safely. Staying 6 feet apart, staying home when possible, navigating life as we are able to today - it's all been a change to say the very least!

I do hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy, our Mission Family continues to keep you in our thoughts and prayers! Through these challenging times, we keep in mind, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

Safety precautions and operational changes requested of us had us making some very difficult decisions and operational changes starting in mid-March. Groups were put on hold, restrictions placed and carefully monitored re the numbers of individuals permitted in at a time and we had to do all we could to ensure that we could safely provide the essential services of food, shelter and clothing to those who needed it through these difficult times. As well, 19 of our full-time staff were asked to take a temporary lay-off to help us do our part in keeping people safe at home and to help us stay financially solvent as we endured increased costs and decreased Fundraising events while providing our essential services.

Through it all, the Downtown Mission Team has continued to provide safety, Summer Edition 2020 Page 2

sustenance and solace to those who are experiencing hunger, homelessness and hurt in our community! With your help, we continue to serve approximately 450 fresh meals per day from 2 locations, provide food for approximately 250 individuals per week through our Food Bank and a new Food Delivery Program, provide approximately 80 individuals a safe bed to sleep in each night and provide approximately 100 individuals with a safe place to be off the streets during the day.

By the grace of God, we have made it through with no Staff Member, Volunteer or Guest testing positive for COVID-19 thus far! We're all doing our best to continue with many precautions to keep each other and our greater community safe as well. Thank you to all of you who have reached out to see how you and your family or coworkers could help, thank you to all of you who sent in extra financial donations in lieu of the donations you'd typically bring in or the time you'd normally spend volunteering with us, and above all, thank you to all of you for keeping us and those we serve in your thoughts and prayers!

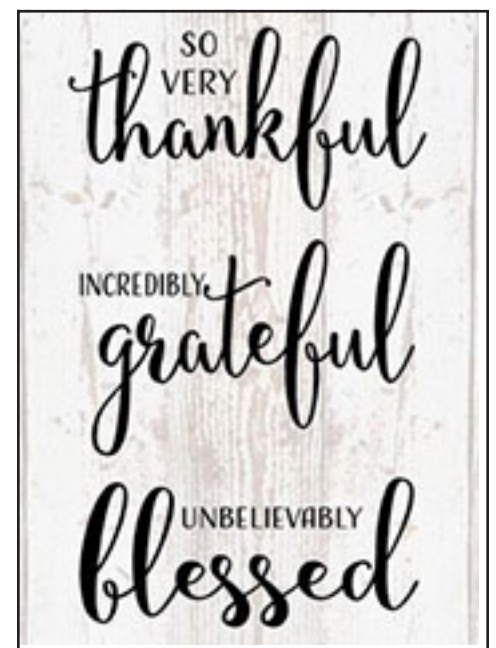
Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we go into the hot Summer months! Please keep our Guests in your thoughts as many have no place else to go, so are keeping safe at the Mission. Please pray for our Donors who faithfully send us monetary gifts to help us keep serving those who need food, shelter and comfort through the most difficult of times! We continue to be encouraged by you and we appreciate all your kind words and generous gifts, thank YOU!!!

Many of you already do so much for those whom we serve, but I humbly ask you to consider two additional ways in which you could help us get through what will be a challenging Summer. As you may gather, most of our donations arrive during the Christmas Season and via special asks like the current Summer of Hope Campaign which you likely received a short time ago. We so appreciate your gifts whenever you send them, but what could help us even more is if you honoured us with a Monthly Pledges. Monthly Pledges help us better budget and plan how to best offer services to

those in need, this would also allow us to need to send out less mail, further saving us money. The second way in which you could help would cost you nothing, but would save us so much in postage and print. Many of you have called to inquire about the cost of mail and as I have always responded, it is a required cost in order to remind our friends to support us through the year and to share Mission news with you. However, if you could be so kind as to send along your email address and remember to open and respond when you can, that would save us money, which we can then put to better use in our kitchen, job skills training programs or emergency shelter. I give you my word that we will never sell or share your email information with anyone, EVER. So again, I thank you for your continued support through these unprecedented times and always.

We hope to see you again soon in person! Until then, please keep safe and stay healthy, you are in our thoughts and prayers! Until we see you again, please remember the text in Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." God is always with us and HE will help us through these difficult times!!!

God bless you and keep you!
Ron





Because of YOU, The Downtown Mission provided the following to our neighbours in 2019

Rescued 1,580,836 pounds of food and distributed it to over 64 local schools and agencies



Served 153,979 hot meals to Individuals, more than **420** each day



Sheltered men, women, youth & families

28,417 nights



Provided 516,120 meals to **16,454** Individuals (8,537 Households) through our **Food Bank**



Housed 49 individuals



Provided clothing and hygiene supplies to **16,454** Adults and **3,239** Youth

Answered

3,249 Distress Calls



Responded to 5,162 Distress Texts/Chats

Supported 141 Adults and **278** Youth through their **Recovery Journeys**



Provided 372 Haircuts



Provided 11,634 Showers

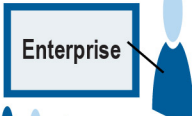


Filed 2,514 Tax Returns



Provided Physical Wellness **Education and Training** to **1,150** Individuals

Supported 55 Young Families with Basic Necessities and Parenting **Education or Supports**



Assisted 90 individuals to job readiness

Referred 635 Adults and **106** Youth to Partner Agencies



Supported 1,267 Youth through **Outreach Efforts**



Provided 22,440 hours of emotional support, crisis Intervention, addiction and basic needs counselling



Provided \$208,603 in Dental Care to **1,273** Adults and **132** Children



Loved 1,110 Volunteers Provided **26,018** hours of service

Lifted Up Thousands providing case management, education, work opportunities, medical supports, rehabilitation and housing



THANK YOU

Providing Hope During a Pandemic

The Mission has continued to serve our guests three daily meals, provide safe shelter and provide clothing and essentials to all who have needed these basic services throughout this Pandemic. Thanks to some funding from the Federal Government passed on to us by the City of Windsor, individuals experiencing homelessness have also been able to remain safely indoors watching movies or listening to special speakers in our Chapel space during the day. This has allowed us to once again serve those experiencing homelessness 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

While many of us have been staying home to keep safe during COVID-19, our staff at the Downtown Mission have been working on the frontlines to keep our Guests safe – men, women, youth and families who don't have a home to isolate in. Without these Frontline

Heroes, our Guests would feel even more alone during these challenging times and would also lack the life-saving supports they need to make it through this crisis. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support to end homelessness, especially during this pandemic, one life at a time, you are making a difference!

Thank you as well to ALL our Volunteers who continue to come to the Mission to help prep, serve and/or deliver food to those who are hungry; our Volunteers who continue to answer Distress Centre Phone Calls from home to make sure everyone who reaches out for support has someone to talk to when they need support; our Board Members who continue to make tough decisions to ensure the overall well-being of the Mission and those we serve. Lastly, THANK YOU to all of our Volunteers who are at home keeping safe,

rooting us on from the sidelines. Your hard work laid the foundation for the life-saving work we continue to do now.

Without our extraordinary Team, we wouldn't be able to serve our Guests, who are among the most vulnerable to COVID-19. They're a humble group, but it's time to give these Frontline Workers some much deserved recognition. Check out some of our DTM Heroes below and make sure to see more of them on our Facebook Page "Windsor Downtown Mission – DTM", where we will be featuring different members of our hard-working Team in the coming weeks.

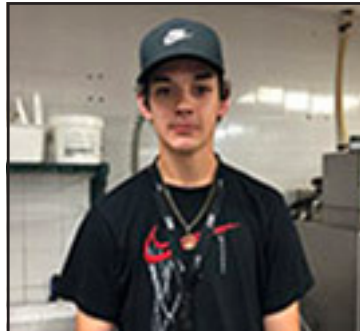
COVID-19 can't cancel love and compassion! Our DTM Heroes are here every day to make sure all who need food, shelter, clothing and comfort find it at The Downtown Mission, their Sanctuary during this turbulent storm.



Bree: Service Support Worker



Racquele: Manager of Volunteerism and Education



Morgan: Cook



Donna: Manager of Youth Services

I want to help provide meals and other vital services to the Windsor and Essex County area's homeless.

- \$18.66 to help 6 people
- \$40.43 to help 13 people
- \$62.20 to help 20 people
- \$83.97 to help 27 people

\$..... to feed and care for as many people as possible

Please charge my gift on my credit card (SEE RIGHT)

Please make cheques payable to:
Windsor Downtown Mission

YES

I want to help a hungry, homeless or hurting neighbour today

I would like to make a donation of \$ _____ One time donation Monthly donation

Please charge my gift on my credit card: Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiry Date: _____ / _____ CVV: _____

I support the work of the Windsor Downtown Mission and enclose my donation of \$ _____

Name: _____

Street: _____ Apt#: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Visit www.downtownmission.com for more information or to make a secure online donation (Registered Charity #119260420RR0001)
The Downtown Mission issues charitable donation receipts for all monetary donations.

THE UNITED CHURCH DOWNTOWN MISSION OF WINDSOR INC.
664 Victoria Avenue, Windsor, ON. N9A 4N2 (519-973-5573)

