



# Mission Possible Newsletter



Winter Edition

The Downtown Mission

2020

## Nature Fresh Farms Comes to the Rescue



The Downtown Mission's Rev. Ron Dunn paid a visit to Nature Fresh Farms in Leamington in late October, to express the Mission's appreciation and recognize the company for rescuing the Mission's FRESH Program in 2020. Nature Fresh Farms' sister company, South Essex Fabricating, was also recognized for their support.

The Mission's FRESH Program, is a Food Rescue Service, picking up healthy food from green houses, grocery stores and food wholesalers which would

otherwise go to waste. The food is sorted, packaged and redistributed to over 64 schools and agencies which provide food security to individuals and families in our community.

In late 2019, the FRESH Program was in danger of ending due to a funding shortfall. Nature Fresh Farms saw the need and valuable role this program plays in feeding hungry people in our community, and stepped forward with a major gift to keep the program going. In addition to funding this program, Nature Fresh Farms has donated 67,212 pounds of produce to the Mission as well. Last year, the amount of food rescued through this program totaled 1,580,836 pounds.

In a surprise announcement during the presentation, Peter Quiring, President and CEO of Nature Fresh Farms announced that the company would once again step up and provide the support needed for this vital program to continue in 2021.

"Everybody is looking to somebody else to do the right thing or to help out, be of service. But we shouldn't be looking at everybody else, we should be looking at ourselves. The Mission feeds hundreds of people a day, that's an entire village in a lot of places, and that's pretty significant", said Mr. Quiring.

Nature Fresh Farms is a leading-edge South Essex based agricultural growing operation. The company's services include; logistics, crop work, sales, production, and bio control. The company provides safe, healthy, sustainably-grown food to people across the globe. South Essex Fabricating specializes in fabricating commercial greenhouse parts, equipment and structures, as well as, high-quality metal fabricating, full-service assembly, comprehensive technical solutions as well as project management and construction.



### 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:

Jim Douglas, Rukshini Ponniah-Goulin,  
Rev. Ron Dunn, Ruth Dunn



# Community Partners Help Support Vulnerable Youth During a Pandemic

The Downtown Mission was pleased to receive the support of the United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex and the Government of Canada this Summer to allow for enhanced support being made available to the young people who come to the Windsor Youth Centre despite the pandemic. This much-needed financial support, secured through to the end of March 2021, allows our Youth Services Team to engage one-on-one and safely with youth to help them navigate life through the rapid changes in our community. Over the past few months, this funding has allowed approximately 50 young people who are living precariously or experiencing homelessness in our community, to not feel isolated. It has given them hope for tomorrow and has shown them that the Downtown Mission and our larger community is there for them. In some cases with their young children, during these complicated times when vital services are difficult to access, young people have had a place to go for help and support.

Increasing the positive impacts on our youth is the outreach efforts of our Youth Services Team, made possible through the Solcz Family Foundation. This “lifeline” of compassion and service has enabled our Team to reach hundreds of youth over the past few months, in new and innovative ways, to ensure they don’t reach a state of isolation or hopelessness. During a period of much uncertainty and

fear for so many of us, young people with precarious living situations or experiencing homelessness have had to deal with finding help for the very basic needs of food and shelter. They have been able to find these necessities, compassion and so much more at the Windsor Youth Centre!

With the support of these caring community partners, the Windsor Youth Centre Team has been able to continue to connect with our vulnerable young people to ensure they don’t feel abandoned and are safe through these most challenging of times. Executive Director, Rev. Ron Dunn is proud of the work being done by the Windsor Youth Centre and grateful for the support of these invaluable community partners and our generous community supporters as well. “The youth we serve have been telling us they do not know where to turn to for assistance, who is open, what new programs exist and how to access the available programs they need. For those who are housed, they feel the impact of isolation, for those who are still living on the streets, it is hard to focus priorities and live life when you don’t have a place to call home. Vulnerable young people need some help navigating life right now. It’s a big unknown for us all, but our young people should not feel alone in this! We are grateful for our partners, the Government of Canada and our local United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County as well as the Solcz Family Foundation for their help in ensuring no young person or young family feels alone or hopeless. We are grateful for these valuable partners who stepped up to ensure the Mission’s Youth Services Team could be there for these young people during this very difficult time. With the support of our caring community, we look forward to

supporting these young people through the coming year ahead, to give them the tools they need to move forward in their lives to a place of secure living and mental and emotional well-being”, said Rev. Dunn.

Learn more about our Youth Services Programming at [www.downtownmission.com/services](http://www.downtownmission.com/services), email us at [info@downtownmission](mailto:info@downtownmission) or give us a call at 519-973-5573.



*Someday I will give back  
what you have given me.  
Thank YOU.*



# A Few Ways to Help the Downtown Mission

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share  
their food with the poor.  
Proverbs 22:9

## JUBZI.com - Coming Soon!

Hello Mission Friends and Family. I am very excited to announce that we have partnered with JUBZI, a local company that has licensed their software to the Mission. This online ordering system is dedicated to support local food providers, saving them money over other online ordering services. Currently restaurants pay up to 30% of the order in fees, well by using JUBZI.com those fees are eliminated. Instead, the restaurant will donate 5% of your order to the Mission, each and every order! Amazing right? So please consider ordering your next meal online at JUBZI.com. "Support Local... Everyone Eats!"

P.S. If you don't see your favourite restaurant on Jubzi.com, please ask them to consider joining and help increase the exceptional local food delivery options for all to enjoy as well as the services and supports available for those who come to the Mission for help every day.



**Order delicious food from participating local restaurants and have your food delivered to you, keep these businesses going AND help support the Downtown Mission with every order!**



**SAVE THE DATE**

**THE Downtown Mission**

[www.downtownmission.com](http://www.downtownmission.com)

**coldest night OF THE YEAR**  
Feb. 20, 2021  
#cnoy21



**For those who are hungry, homeless and hurting, leave the gift of compassion!**

Give a gift of lasting impact to The Downtown Mission and change the lives of men, women, youth and families in Windsor-Essex for years to come!

Contact a Financial Advisor or Lawyer to help you create a Bequest. Plan your Legacy today and make a difference in the lives of many in a way which is simple, thoughtful and represents your life and values.

Change the life of someone who is hurting, hungry or experiencing homelessness, YOU can make a difference! YOU can provide hope! Visit our website: [www.downtownmission.com](http://www.downtownmission.com) for ways you can donate financially or through food donations. Cheques can also be mailed in.

*"For I was hungry and you fed me..."*



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# Message from our Executive Director



Dear Friend,

To say that this year has been unlike no other would be the understatement of the year if not the decade! I can't believe it's now December 2020, and Windsor-Essex looks the way it currently does.

It's been a year of firsts for most of us, in so many ways. It's also been a year of loss and heartache in some cases, and at the same time, it's been a year of growth and opportunity in others. Through it all, YOU have remained the constant in our Mission, so thank you for standing with us, keeping us in your prayers, sending in your financial donations when possible, and volunteering your time and energy when you were able to. Through it all,

the Downtown Mission would not have been able to be a place of shelter, comfort and hope for so many men, women, youth and families without you, our faithful friends!

2020 brought about many changes, in all of our lives, the Mission was no different. We had to pare down our programming to concentrate our efforts and resources on providing the basic essentials to people who are hungry, homeless and hurting. We had to find ways to provide these essential services in a safe and respectful manner. We also had to find ways to let our hurting neighbours know that they are not alone and that the Downtown Mission continues to be a place where all can go to or reach out in times of stress, loss and hardship. Especially during this COVID Pandemic, where for many, there is no opportunity for others.

This past year and especially the past 6 months, has also placed more financial burdens on the Mission than ever before. Due to the increased need for services we have had to provide for people unable to get the help they need elsewhere. This is compounded by the rising cost of goods and services we have to contend with and the fewer

Fundraising Events and Campaigns in the Community due to COVID restrictions. This has been a challenge that we have had to face and work through to ensure our services for those who turn to us, in their darkest of times, remains a light for them, and continues to give them hope for a better tomorrow.

Thank YOU to all of you, for continuing to allow the Downtown Mission to be a light to our hurting, wary, and lost neighbours through all that we have been faced with this year. I've said it before, but it definitely bears repeating at this time, thank you for being the light that shines in the darkness for so many! (John 1:5)

I hope you and your loved ones are keeping safe and well! I wish you and yours a truly blessed Christmas. Cherish the moments and the memories and I sincerely do hope we'll be able to meet again in person one day soon. Until then, please keep us and those we serve in your prayers as we keep you in ours.

God bless you!

Ron



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](http://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.**  
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