



Mission Possible Newsletter



Summer Edition

The Downtown Mission

2021

Our Youth Services, Growing Together



We are getting our hands dirty, in a good way of course! The Windsor Youth Centre program has been blessed with community donations of compost and seedlings to get our garden growing again this year. A couple of very dedicated volunteers have once again strategically planted our garden and made sure that those youth who are housed are able to grow their own gardens, whether it's in the ground or in containers on their balconies. Our youth are growing up a storm!

Homeless and at-risk youth who access the services at the WYC have the opportunity to get their hands dirty and learn as well, in our teaching garden, located in the WYC's backyard. Working in the garden replaces the isolation of homelessness with the understanding that we all have a capacity to grow. Tending to the garden also tends to one's self by reducing stress and depression

as well as promoting productivity. Youth are encouraged to teach and learn from one another as they are being integrated into the community of gardening which helps to diminish stigma and isolation of homelessness or living in lower-income housing options. For those youth with young families, they are getting their little ones involved in growing their own delicious food as well, which of course leads to a healthier lifestyle of eating fruits and vegetables.

Gardening together exposes these resilient young people to healthy doses of fresh air, sunshine and exercise, while helping them feel a sense of accomplishment and self-confidence as they celebrate their successes of growing their own food.

Raising children and gardening teach us all to practice acceptance, we know that no matter how much we prepare, things don't often come out as planned.

Remembering Kay

The Downtown Mission lost a dear friend recently! Kay Punter passed away in London on April 29th, 2021 at the age of 102 and will be missed by ALL who knew her. Kay was a hard-working, cherished member of Staff in the early years of The Mission. She was well-known and loved for her compassion and energy as she tirelessly raised much-needed funds and food for The Mission. When individuals first met this diminutive woman, you were charmed by her accent and grace, then she moved to the podium to speak, as she often did to share her love of The Mission, and her prose made her seem 10 feet tall!

Kay was passionate about service to those who experienced poverty and she touched many through her talks to schools, churches and community groups. The Mission's Food Bank at 875 Ouellette Ave, which provides food to over 7,000 homes yearly, dedicated a wall to this extraordinary woman whose legacy lives on. If you would like to make a Memorial Gift to The Mission in honour of Kay, please do so at www.downtownmission.com noting "Kay" for the Tribute Name.



Thank you to our Board of Directors

Michele McGregor, Chair; Sandor Kapasi, Vice Chair;
Dolph Barsanti, Treasurer; Rev. Dr. Catherine Collins-Barker, Secretary,
Directors - Abram Banman, Amy Visser, Anna St. Antoine, David Tell,
Keith Rivard, Kenneth Gray Jr., Kris McInnis, Melissa Pearce.

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Contributors:

MaryJo Kovacs, Rev. Ron Dunn, Rukshini Ponniah-Goulin, Ruth Dunn

Ready to Rent

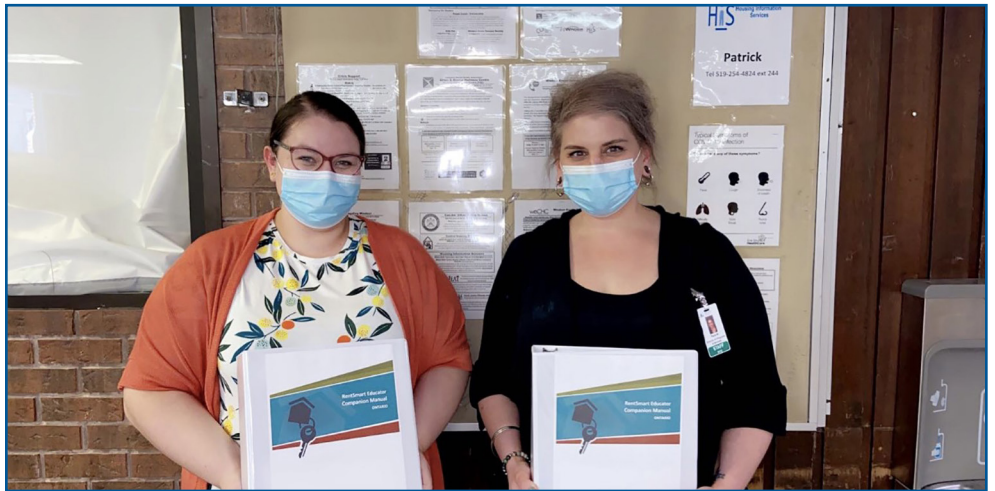
The Downtown Mission received a Mission Support Grant from The United Church of Canada for 2021 which will help make a huge impact in and on the Windsor-Essex community!

While the Downtown Mission is considered a Housing First Agency, this programming boost will allow our Guests to get and maintain successful tenancies and prevent unfortunate evictions. RentSmart is a Program which helps people keep housing through a combined model which provides comprehensive Housing and Life Skills education. Participants receive a Certificate upon Graduation which could be recognized as a Reference on Housing Applications. Finding a place to live does not look the same for everyone. With the tools learned during this Program, Guests will be better equipped to remain housed.

Director and Manager of Programs

and Services at The Downtown Mission, Paula Monteleone and Danielle Barron, look forward to delivering RentSmart to Guests at The Mission. Paula shares, “The thing I am most looking forward to as a RentSmart Educator, is to be able to provide valuable tools to people to overcome challenges and barriers they currently face as they search for housing or in trying to keep their current homes.” Following

COVID-19 pre-cautions, delivery of RentSmart sessions will likely begin in the Fall of 2021. “It will be great to arm folks with knowledge and watch as they use what they have learned to stabilize their lives in securing safe, secure, permanent housing,” said Danielle. The Mission is excited to help more individuals find and keep their homes with the support of this very timely grant from The United Church of Canada!



Search for a New Home

The Downtown Mission, which provides a home for so many who don't have one, is currently unsure of what “Home” will look like for us shortly! The Mission finalized the sale of its current Main Building at 664 Victoria Ave in mid-June, where Day Programming, Administration Offices and Storage has been for the past several years. After 20 years and much growth in Programming and numbers served, we have outgrown the capacity of this beautiful building and are working towards securing a new home, which we hope will house all of our Programs and Services all together so The Mission can be a true “Place of Sanctuary” to all who seek it, having no barriers to the help they are looking for.

The Mission Team is doing their due diligence in narrowing down

the decision of where to move. Two locations are being considered and awaiting Environmental Studies, Approvals/Permits and of course raised Funds to make the purchase/renovations needed. The first location being considered is on McDougall St. which has a solid building for current Day Programming while more can be built as required and funding is secured. This location has the added benefit of attached land, which would allow The Mission to provide Transitional and Affordable Housing in the future to individuals who are ready to move out of Shelter. The second location is a lot attached to our current 875 Ouellette Ave location. It is right in the Downtown Core, making it more accessible to those we serve, but it's a much smaller lot so wouldn't allow The Mission to

move all Programming into it and it is of course on Ouellette, which we were hoping to avoid based on the Community feedback received about our new location.

While we continue our efforts to finalize what will be our new Home, we will continue to provide current services to those who come to The Mission seeking food, shelter and hope, the very basic needs of all humans. All at The Mission are committed to providing these essential services to our Guests and are so thankful for our very generous Community who make it all possible. We ask that you please keep The Downtown Mission and those we serve in your prayers as we search and plan for our new Home, always keeping the needs of our Guests foremost in our minds!



2020 Impact Report

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

Rescued 1,322,449
pounds of food and distributed to
16 local schools and agencies
which provided services
during the pandemic



Served 188,981
hot meals to Individuals,
more than **518** each day



FOOD BANK
Provided 222,450
meals to **26,631** Individuals
(**7,493** Households) through
our Food Bank



Housed 47
individuals

Supported
165 Adults and **21**
Youth through their
Recovery Journeys



73 Guests engaged
in Housing Supports



88 Opioid Overdoses
reversed with
Naloxone by DTM Staff
(2019 - 39)



Provided clothing
and hygiene supplies
to **16,454** Adults
and **1,012** Youth



365 Days
without a Positive
COVID-19 Case

Answered
3,903
Distress Calls



Sheltered
men, women, youth & families
18,703 nights



Provided
12,782 Showers

TAX Prepared
1,446
Tax Returns

Referred 231
Youth to Partner Agencies



Supported
2,933
Youth through
Outreach Efforts



Provided 26,208 hours
of emotional support,
crisis intervention, addiction and
basic needs counselling



Supported 39
Young Families
with Basic Necessities
and Parenting
Education
or Supports



Assisted
87 individuals
to job readiness



Loved
409 Volunteers Provided
14,265 hours of service

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



664 Victoria Ave. / Windsor, ON / N9A 4N2

Phone: 519-973-5573 / Email: info@downtownmission.com / Web: www.downtownmission.com

Charitable Registration #: 119260420RR0001

A Message of Hope from Our Executive Director, Rev. Ron Dunn



God, my Team and I are so thankful to be here today, stronger, wiser, healthier, more confident in our purpose and more efficient for all that we've been through. As 1 Timothy 4:10 says, "That is why we labour and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe." Indeed, it IS why "WE labour and strive" here at The Downtown Mission, because we continue to hope in our God who is greater than all and will get us through to a better tomorrow!

home for those we serve, please check our website often for updates to our progress. We are faithful that soon we will have a solid and permanent plan to build in a new locaion of God's choosing.

I pray God continues to bless you and keep you safe and I hope to see you again soon in person!

Ron

"Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken." Psalm 62:5-6

Dear Friend,

It's been a busy Spring here at The Downtown Mission once more, but this year, it's also been one of great change and uncertainty as we've had to work through and overcome many challenges and unknowns. Thank YOU as always, for your steadfast support of The Mission and those we serve, without YOU, we couldn't exist! So thank YOU for helping to feed, shelter and give hope to so many men, women, youth and families who had nowhere else to turn to during this very trying time in our region's history.

As you've undoubtedly heard, we experienced an Outbreak at The Mission earlier this year which we all thankfully made it through in a few weeks, however we had to change the way we feed, shelter and support those who come to us and we had a myriad of other unexpected challenges come up which made it a difficult start to 2021. By the grace of

We continue to strive for excellence in all we do while always serving with compassion and being the face, arms and feet of Jesus to others who need him most. We labour through the difficulties, knowing those who come to The Mission may have nowhere else to go for comfort and knowing our God wouldn't want any of His children to feel abandoned or alone.

We continue to move forward in faith that our Community will continue to stand with us in the work we do and that God will bless our efforts and those who are with us abundantly, because it's His will! This Summer will be another season of change for all of us here at The Mission, but all of it, is for the greater purpose of doing God's work and helping ALL who need help. Thank YOU again for your support and friendship, this work couldn't be done without YOU! My hope does come only from our God, and is why we continue to stand and strive and not be shaken!!!

God has also shown us a vision of a new



Upcoming Events

Friday, Aug. 20th
DTM's 9th Annual Golf Tournament

Sunday, Aug. 29th
13th Annual On a Mission for the Mission Motorcycle Ride

Saturday, Oct. 2nd
Ride for Refuge (Freestyle)

www.downtownmission.com
events@downtownmission.com

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

- \$19.92 to help 6 people
- \$39.84 to help 12 people
- \$59.76 to help 18 people
- \$79.68 to help 24 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)