



MEDIA RELEASE

Downtown Mission Appoints Interim Executive Director

October 18th, 2021

For Immediate Release

WINDSOR ON – The Board of The Downtown Mission has selected an Interim Executive Director to lead the organization following the resignation of Reverend Ron Dunn.

The Board of Directors of The Downtown Mission is pleased to announce that Mrs. Rukshini Ponniah-Goulin will become the Interim Executive Director of the Downtown Mission in November 2021. Mrs. Ponniah-Goulin has agreed to take on the role on a transitory basis while the Board of Directors begins its earnest search for a new permanent Executive Director.

Board Chair, Mrs. Michele McGregor states, “We are of course sad to see Ron go, but are so thankful for all he’s done for The Mission, the individuals served by The Mission and our Community in his 10 years of service as Executive Director to our Organization. We wish him only the very best in his new position.

The Board is now happy to appoint Rukshini Ponniah-Goulin as the Interim Executive Director. Rukshini joined The Mission in January 2016 and has been our Director of Development since October 2017. Many in our community have had the privilege of working with her through our various fundraising events and campaigns. She is a joy to be around. The board and our management team look forward to working with Rukshini to ensure operations at the Mission run smoothly during our transition. Under Rukshini’s guidance, the Mission will continue its mandate to provide food for the body, nurture for the spirit, shelter for the homeless, advocacy for the impoverished and opportunity for human growth.”

Prior to joining the Mission’s leadership team Mrs. Ponniah-Goulin, was the Executive Director of the Distress Centre for 9 years and in a management capacity in the Automotive Sector previous to that. She is currently President of the Association of Fundraising Professionals Canada South Chapter, a Board Member of the University of Windsor Alumni Association as well as a Member of the Liberal Arts Program Advisory Committee for St. Clair College.

(more)

*The Downtown Mission exists as a Place of Sanctuary. In response to the mandate of the Gospel, through outreach we provide: **food** for the body, **nurture** for the spirit, **shelter** for the homeless, **advocacy** for the impoverished and **opportunity** for human growth.*

The Downtown Mission is at an exciting time in its history as it embarks on its 50th year of providing service to those in need of help in our community. It will continue to be a low-barrier shelter to anyone who has no place to rest their head and will continue to provide a hot meal for men, women and youth who are hungry as well as, continue to provide hope and opportunity for those who are ready to take that next step in their lives.

Mrs. Ponniah-Goulin shared, "I'm truly honoured to take on this temporary position at this critical time in the Mission's history. It's an organization whose reason for being I wholeheartedly believe in and feel privileged to serve. As we support our Board of Directors in the search for our new permanent Executive Director, I look forward to working with The Mission's incredible team of Staff and Volunteers to provide the much-needed services to all those who come to or reach out to The Mission for help. It will be difficult to do so without Rev. Ron Dunn who we all respect and will miss tremendously. I am confident we will continue to positively impact the lives of the people we help, and the greater community in meaningful ways as we move forward."

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For more information, please contact Mr. Sandor Kapasi, Board Spokesperson at 226-788-0233 or Mrs. Rukshini Ponniah-Goulin, Interim Executive Director at 519-981-7382

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