



Mission Possible Newsletter



Fall Edition

The Downtown Mission

2021

A Final Message from Executive Director Rev. Ron Dunn



Deuteronomy 31:6 - "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

My Dear Mission Family,

Most of you have heard by now no doubt that I have accepted a new role in Halifax as the CEO of Hospice. A role that I am very much looking forward to. The decision to leave our Mission was perhaps one of the most difficult I have ever had to make. However, it is time. Time for healing, a time to move forward. In a final act of love I prayed and realized that someone else will bring the Mission to their new home.

I want to thank each of you for your support, financially, your volunteerism and your prayer. You have sustained us, and allowed us to grow to meet the needs of our community. Think back to 2015, we served only one meal a day, our Guests stayed outside all day only to enter

and sleep on the floor where they ate hours earlier. We heard you when you asked us to do more, to provide next steps, and with the introduction of the Enterprise Program (our work re-entry program) along with Chari-Tees we are now helping people back into the work force. The Phoenix Recovery and Wellness Program, Fitness Centre, Windsor Youth Centre and a half dozen other new programs continue to provide pathways for those living in poverty into a better tomorrow.

We did all this together, our Board, Volunteers and Donors. I would be remiss if I did not remind you one last time, about our amazing Staff. They work tirelessly for our community, for the most part unrecognized for their life-changing and life-saving efforts, to each of you, past and present, I offer you my most heartfelt thanks. It has been a challenging couple of years, and my extreme honour to serve along side of you. We changed lives, saved lives, and provided hope to many otherwise forgotten. The work you do matters, remain strong in the face of adversity, continue to speak for those often unheard.

This is also a time to move forward with the initiatives that matter. We are poised to build in the center of the city with an integrated plan and a new Mission campus. It's time to work

together. It's time to take a breath and regroup united and to go forward together. Please, continue your support of the Mission, those who Jesus commanded that we serve, need you now more than ever, the work of the Mission is vital to hundreds of people each day. Continue to pray, volunteer and donate, but also speak out, become Ambassadors for the work of the Mission. Let people know that you are a prayerful supporter, a champion of those experiencing homelessness and poverty.

It's been my absolute privilege to serve alongside you for the past 10 years! Thank you for your friendship and support, you will forever be in my heart and in my prayers!

Blessings & Gratitude

Rev. Ron Dunn

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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.

Downtown Mission Makes Food Security a Community Priority



Food security and hunger will continue to be an issue in our community as we emerge from the COVID pandemic. Although caseloads are easing, employment for people who were furloughed, or laid off during the pandemic has not returned to pre-COVID levels. In addition, inflation is driving the price of food upwards, which will make it less affordable for individuals and families especially those who have lower income levels.

The Downtown Mission's food programs are responding to our community's needs, as we work closely with food growers, wholesalers, retailers, faith communities and pantries, to ensure that residents of Windsor and Essex County who are struggling have a secure source of

nutritious food.

This past August, The Downtown Mission and Amherstburg Community Services (ACS) entered into a partnership to help feed people in the Amherstburg, Lasalle, McGregor and Harrow communities, who do not have food security. ACS stepped forward to operate a local food bank when Amherstburg Food Bank ceased operation. However, the agency has struggled to maintain adequate volumes of nutritional foods in their pantry. Through this new partnership, the Downtown Mission will supply ACS with fresh vegetables, fruit, packaged goods, and other food essentials for people in the community who use the food bank program. The partners wasted no time in getting started and ACS has been thrilled with the quality and quantity of fresh items they've been receiving since the inception of the partnership this past Summer.

The Downtown Mission has strong relationships with Service Providers across the region and welcomes the opportunity to help hurting people wherever they may reside. In addition to ACS, the Mission also delivers food to Ahwaziam Arab Red Crescent, Positive Pathways, Caring Hearts, Chaldean League of Canada, Craig Greaves Outreach, Good Fellows,

Holy Name of Mary Parish, ICGO Islamic Community, Kiwanis Camp, Launch Pad Recovery, Men United for God, New Song Church, Saint Adda Community Centre, Salvation Army, Street Health, Unemployed Help Centre, and West Side Church of Christ. The DTM also delivers food to several local schools, however those drop offs are temporarily on hold due to COVID protocols of the School Boards.

The Mission is grateful for the support of the FRESH Program by Nature Fresh Farms and various other local partners who make it possible to rescue and distribute fresh produce to so many who are hungry in our region. Through it, The Mission's own Food Bank and Kitchen are kept well-stocked and providing nutritious food to those who are hungry. The Mission is also grateful for the wonderful partnering service organizations who collaborate to ensure there is a secure source of food for their communities. Together, we are feeding those who are hungry in Windsor-Essex, regardless of where they live! It's a natural extension of our food program to feed the hungry, regardless of where they live. But most importantly, the community can rely the Mission's food bank program to deliver on its mandate.

On a Mission for the Mission 2021

200 or more individuals from our local Bike Community and beyond, came together for a beautiful ride through Essex County on Sunday, Aug. 29th for the 13th Annual "On a Mission for the Mission" Ride. Together they rode (bikes and cars) in solidarity and friendship, to bring awareness to and show compassion for the many who are hurting and hungry here in Windsor-Essex. This caring group of Community Members led by the incredible Crew44 group (formerly the Sober Sons) raised a whopping \$21,247.00 to help the Downtown Mission provide food to those who are hungry in our community. The money raised will help the Mission's Food Services Programs and will help hundreds of individuals each day know they are not alone and can find a meal and compassion in our community any day!

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Happy 10th Birthday to the WYC!



In 2011, if you were a young person in Windsor, who was having difficulty finding your place in society, at odds with your parents and authority figures, experimenting with illegal substances or alcohol, questioning your gender or sexuality, or maybe in conflict with the law, where would you turn for help? For the most part, couch surfing or worse, living on the streets was the only alternative for many.

That same year, with help from The United Church of Canada and the vision of a dedicated youth advocates, The Windsor Youth Centre opened as a Drop-In Centre for youth-at-risk. The WYC would be a welcoming place where basic needs could be met, and support was offered to young people, who had very limited options

for a fulfilling future.

In 2018, The Downtown Mission and The Windsor Youth Centre recognized the opportunity to grow together to better help vulnerable youth and The WYC became a program of The Downtown Mission. The WYC is now more than a place to take refuge from inclement weather or get a home cooked meal. From parenting groups to relapse support, from advocacy, academic assistance, social service navigation and even gardening, The WYC is meeting emerging needs of our community by fostering positive change and growth in youth.

Jennie B, a young person who has used Programs of The WYC shared her story, “When I first started going to the WYC I was addicted to drugs. I was welcomed in and got to speak to some of the most wonderful people. When I became pregnant, the WYC was there for me, helping me apply to housing services and getting my new place set up. The WYC’s UP2U Program really gave me a place to be myself and talk about my problems becoming a mother and struggling to stay sober. I also joined the GenWYC Program for expectant and young families. When I started looking into college, I had no way to pay for the applications but The Equipped for

Student Success Program helped me through the registration process. I knew from that day forward, I was going to become more than the struggling addict who walked in the door of the Windsor Youth Centre three years prior. I am proud to say the Windsor Youth Centre Program guided me through what I thought was going to be the hardest parts of my life. Today, I am a strong single mother of a 7-yearold daughter, and I am working on becoming a caring personal support worker.

Looking back on the past ten years it seems like the more we learn, the more we still need to do! The WYC Team is committed to understanding the complex issues facing youth and will continue to work diligently with our community partners towards ultimately resolving two of this community’s biggest indignities, youth abandonment and homelessness. “So many wonderful things have happened to so many young people in the past ten years, and together with the community’s help we can do more,” said Donna Roy, Program Manager. The Mission is so grateful for the support of The WYC over the past ten years and we look forward to continue serving our community’s young people in the years ahead!



SAVE THE DATE

INVENTORY CLEAROUT

THURSDAY, OCT. 28TH - SATURDAY, OCT. 30TH.

LOCATION: 1540 MCDUGALL - TIME 10AM TO 8PM

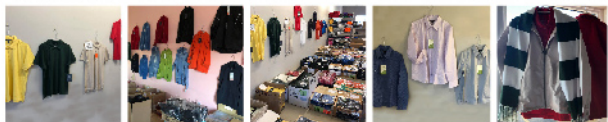
THOUSANDS OF ARTICLES OF CLOTHING.

BALL CAPS, POLOS, JACKETS, AND MUCH MORE ALL AT DRASTICALLY REDUCED PRICING.

ALL CLOTHING STILL WITH THE TAGS ON THEM.


POLOS STARTING FROM \$10, WIND BREAKERS FROM \$15, WINTER COATS FROM \$20.

A GREAT CHANCE TO BUY THAT WINTER WEAR.



5th Annual Bench Talks and Sleep Out



 Windsor Youth Centre's
10th
Birthday Celebration

Facebook Live Event

Nov. 4th at 6 pm



Check www.downtownmission.com/events or Windsor Downtown Mission - DTM for updates.

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
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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)

