



Mission Possible

Newsletter



Christmas Edition

The Downtown Mission

2022

A New Start for AJ



November 18th, 2022 was a special day for Andrij S (AJ) at the Mission! It was a day he hadn't thought would be possible for quite some time, but it was one he was very happy to make happen himself after several weeks of hard work and commitment with the help of some very important people in his life.

November 18th was the day that AJ graduated from the Mission's Phoenix Program. Phoenix is a Recovery Program, funded and supported by Ontario Health and Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare. It is a Program which provides participants with Group and Individual Programming for an average of 12 weeks and includes the support of 2 Recovery Counsellors at the Mission along with the help and support of various other Support Groups and Partner Community Organizations.

AJ's friends who were at his Graduation said that he showed them all he was committed to this Program as he worked on the Program even when he was home and away from the Mission and his Counsellors. He proved to be a great example to the

other Participants of the Program because of his commitment to it and passion to help others. This drive and passion made it so that when he spoke, others listened and were able to get motivated along their own recovery journeys! He's definitely someone who gave hope to others, something that many said was something in short supply in their lives until then.

Judy, AJ's CMHA Worker, was also present at his Graduation and happy to see that he'd been consistently showing up for his appointments which helped make this day possible. Judy said, "AJ's a smart and dedicated person who has so many tools now which will help him make it, I'm so proud of him!" AJ said he's so thankful for all the support and all the workers who have continued to work with him, encourage him through the difficult times and never gave up on him. He acknowledges he had gone through some hardships through the years but is thankful to all who have been around him through these past several weeks in the program, helping to remind him to keep going. Some of the hardships he'd encountered in life was not having a place to call his own and one of his Workers remembered dropping him off at random tents from time to time, not knowing if she'd see him again. She's so happy to see him now, not only graduating from Phoenix but with his own place as well.

AJ had tried other Programs in the past and knows now that he couldn't find success before because he was trying to do it on his own. He now

knows that he needed that strong supportive network of caring individuals around him to help him along the way, to help him find that strength and courage he needed to keep going even through the most challenging of times! He realized this time, that he had not only chosen to be sober, but he'd also made the decision to choose "life"! The Phoenix Program welcomed him in and helped him make goals for himself, celebrate every small success and stuck by him until he reached his end goal.

AJ said he learned a lot about himself through this Program as well, including to be patient with himself and kind to himself. At 59 years of age, he realizes now that life is not over for him, but a new life is beginning now. With God's grace and Programs like the Phoenix Program, AJ knows he's not done! He's even thinking about looking into the Mission's Enterprise Program next to help him move further along with his goals for the future. AJ is thankful for God's gift of choice and is thankful that he can lean on God and his Mission Family to get him through whatever comes his way!

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Community Impact Because of YOU 2022 Grantors!

The Downtown Mission is deeply honoured to be a benefactor of several generous grants which enabled us to provide the vital programs and services which we offer to our community this past year.

Nature Fresh Farms, Nature Fresh Farms Sales and South Essex Fabricating were integral in helping ensure the Mission's FRESH Program was able to continue rescuing produce from our community this year and allowed the Mission to share this fresh produce with over 25 other local schools, organizations and food banks to ensure more hungry people had nourishing food for themselves and their families. Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and Context Creative gifts helped our Food Services Programs run, ensuring people who came to the Mission for a meal or Food through our Food Bank were fed. Everyday people must decide whether to postpone an important financial obligation just so they can have food to eat. These Companies and Foundations helped the Mission feed individuals and families as well as strengthen our greater community with their compassion and commitment to nourishing the hearts and souls of Windsor-Essex through their

generous gifts.

The Downtown Mission was pleased to partner and collaborate with several Organizations and Foundations this past year as well to help with our Windsor Youth Centre Program. Pozitive Pathways, The Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation, The Stephanie and Barry Zekelman Foundation and the Home Depot Canada Foundation's Orange Door Program all helped continue the work of the Mission's Youth Services team ensuring no young person ever felt alone or unheard. Thank you for helping to shine the light of hope for the young people at the WYC every day and for helping to build their futures. Their help has ensured the safe space at the Windsor Youth Centre is lifesaving to many vulnerable youth and to others, it helps them feel that they're not alone and that they do matter!

The Vancouver Foundation, WindsorEssex-Community Foundation and Green Shield Canada want to create better conditions for individuals and youth to thrive. Their gifts to the Mission this past year are helping hurting people gain the tools and confidence they need to take positive steps in their relationships with peers, family and society so they

can contribute to the greater good of all that they cherish and hold dear.

The Downtown Mission believes that employment is a key for people to move away from a life of poverty and to one of fulfillment and joy. The City of Windsor's Employment Services, College Boreal and Libro Credit Union helped people in the Mission's Enterprise Program gain the skills and competencies they will need re enter the workforce and achieve their goals of gainful employment as well as self-sufficiency. Their gifts have provided skill development tools and computer literacy for our Enterprise Program graduates that enhances their employability and prospects for contentment.

Our Phoenix Program is the only non-residential Recovery Program in our community. It enables individuals to honour their work and family commitments while receiving treatment that will allow them to regain control of their lives and reconnect with family, friends d community. Our program would not be available without the partnership and support of Ontario Health and Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare. Thank you to all our Funders and every day Donors for your ongoing support, and the life-changing opportunities you have helped provide the people in whose lives you are making a positive impact every day!



Another Step Towards Excellence – Imagine Canada Accreditation Achieved!

The Downtown Mission has completed the rigorous steps required in successfully completing our accreditation through Imagine Canada. Every year Canadian charities and not for profits, like the Downtown Mission, play a crucial role in building and enriching lives in every community. Gaining accreditation through Imagine Canada ensures that these charities and not for profits meet the highest standards in their Industry.

As we celebrate our 50th year of service within our community, the timing was ideal to begin our accreditation process at the Downtown Mission. The process required the Mission to develop or review policies and processes that contribute to increased organizational resilience and impact. As good stewards of our resources this accreditation process has confirmed our best practices while illuminating areas we continue to strive to improve.

The Standards Programs is designed to strengthen practices through a common set of standards in 5 key areas - Board Governance, Financial Accountability and Transparency, Fundraising, Staff Management and Volunteer Involvement.

There are over 80 standards which we have met in these five categories. Each of these key areas relate to how the Downtown Mission demonstrates excellence and leadership within our organization. Rukshini Ponniah-Goulin, Executive Director, shared how proud she is of this accomplishment. “The Board of Directors’ support, along with staff contributions in key operational standards, are impressive to say the least. This achievement speaks to the team effort underlying Mission operations and we are truly blessed to have such an incredible team of compassionate and hard-working Staff and Volunteers working together to provide our services to those who



need us every day.”

The measure of an organization’s effectiveness is the impact it makes in the community. As we celebrate 50 years of service, the Downtown Mission’s impact has been essential to our community. With strong leadership and good governance we trust that public confidence and service excellence will be our hallmarks for the next 50 years and we are grateful for the ongoing support of our generous and caring Community who make it all possible!

At this time especially, we'd like to say a special thank you to the Mission's Board of Directors who have been leading the way for us all year long.
Sandor Kapasi (Chair), Rev. Dr. Catherine Collins-Barker (Vice-Chair), Dolph Barsanti (Treasurer), Amy Visser (Secretary), Michele McGregor (Past-Chair), Abram Banman, Anna St. Antoine, Keith Rivard, Ken Grey, Kris McInnis, Burcu Bayraktar and Tanya Kelly.

coldest
*night
OF THE YEAR

it's cold out there
feb. 25, 2023

cnoy.org/windsordowntown

The banner features a photograph of several people sitting around a wooden table, drinking coffee. The background is a warm, brownish-orange color. The text is overlaid on the left side of the banner.

Message from The Executive Director



Dear Friend,

With the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season upon us at the Mission, I take a few moments now to reflect back on this past year and what we've all accomplished together, as our Mission Family!

It's been a year of many changes and new things like moving all our Adult Services to our one building at 875 Ouellette temporarily as we wait to find a more permanent home for us when we're ready. It's been

a year of new opportunities where we've had many new Staff Members and Volunteers join us as we made headway with new and existing Community Partners to better serve the Adults and Youth we serve every day. It's also been a year filled with much hope and love for those who come to the Mission and those who work or volunteer here, we couldn't do the work with do every day without the help of our very supportive and generous community, so we are grateful above all else.

In the Mission's 50th year of service, we have tried many new things in serving those who come to us, ensuring we continue to be here everyday to provide food, shelter and hope to all who need it the most! We remember through it all, the words of Isaiah 40:31 - "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; They will run and not grow weary, They will walk and not

be faint." I personally try to keep this in mind always, and I thank all those around me, our Staff, Volunteers and Donors, who help keep me and all of us at the Mission on track, leaning on our Lord to lead us and guide us always and helping keep us strong as we keep going.

As one of our Chaplaincy Team, Timothy M, shared not too long ago at a special Event we had at the Mission for one of our Programs, "We all deserve love!" This is something we all must remember and we are all a part of making sure this is shared with those who come to the Mission for help each day! Thank YOU for being a part of that and making sure God's love is known to all!!!

Wishing you and yours a beautiful Christmas filled with love, hope and joy!

God bless,
Rukshin

Reminder, get a Donation Tax Receipt for the 2022 Tax Year with any donation mailed in to 875 Ouellette Ave, Windsor/ON, N9A 4J6 with a post-mark of Dec. 31st or earlier or received online by 11:59 pm Dec. 31st, 2022 at www.downtownmission.com/donate. Thank YOU for helping provide food, shelter and hope in our Community every day!

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:

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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)

