



Winter 2016

It takes a village to raise a child



A MESSAGE FROM **BROTHER RICHARD**

Many of Good Shepherd's supporters who live in the City of Hamilton likely will have heard about our funding issues regarding the Notre Dame Community Resource Centre (CRC). Without the continuation of funding from our various levels of government, there is a very real chance that the CRC will close in the coming months – and that will be a tragedy.

Good Shepherd serves about 3,000 meals a month to young people at Notre Dame, but the dining room is only the threshold to critical supports offered through the CRC. From basic needs to programs aimed at street diversion, return to school, family reunification or the acquisition of sustainable housing, the CRC helps to guide youth down the road to a brighter future.

We welcome an average of 135 youth through the doors every month. Almost all of them get counselling, safety planning, referrals to community services or advocacy around income, school and housing. Last year, 126 youth went back home as a result of family mediation or were diverted from homelessness through our services.

Today, 43 youth attend high school in our highly successful partnership with the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. Happily, 45 youth graduated from our alternative school with a high school diploma in the last five years.

The Notre Dame CRC doesn't replace a home; we wish that every young person could take advantage of a safe, nurturing family environment. But the work we do is an essential component of our social safety net. It relies on developing relationships with youth who have been let down and left out for much of their lives. Notre Dame has evolved into a hub for youth who are at risk due to

trauma, mental health issues, substance use, sexual exploitation and violence.

Sometimes we don't see the return on investment until months or years later when young people return to thank the staff at Notre Dame who helped them find their way in life. That's when we are

once again reminded of the importance of having Notre Dame's welcoming presence in our community.

For years, Good Shepherd has relied on donations and successful appeals to the City of Hamilton for the funds necessary to ensure that the CRC remains open. Today we are confronted with the reality that there are not enough financial resources to continue our investment in youth. We are faced with the grim

reality of closing the doors of the CRC. At present we have no idea where these youth – our community's children – will go to seek the acceptance, support and essential aid that they rely on.

We know that one-third of homeless adults were homeless teens. It's a cycle of poverty and homelessness that we are morally obligated to break. If we can't find the wherewithal to ensure that homeless youth are cared for now for the sake of a healthy future, we will have failed them – and failed as a society.



Youth learning budgeting skills at the Notre Dame Community Resource Centre.

Bro. Richard OH
Brother Richard MacPhee OH
Executive Director



**CHRISTMAS
WONDERLAND**



**CHRISTMAS
HAMPER**



**YOUTH SERVICES
CHRISTMAS**



**LIGHT UP
THE SQUARE**

Christmas 2015

The Holiday Season can be stressful and heart-breaking for Hamilton residents who live in the shadow of poverty and homelessness. Special events taking place in the weeks leading up to Christmas help to spread the warmth of this Season of Giving for so many people whose circumstances leave them hungry, cold and alone. At this time of year, Good Shepherd's donors, staff and volunteers work especially hard to make the season safe and warm for people in need.

Our programs and services help them emerge from the hardships so they can establish a path to a renewed life in our community. Thank you to everyone who donated cash, food, clothing and time to help make Christmas 2015 a memorable one!

THE VOLUNTEER Outreach

Hajra escaped a life of poverty and violence

Now she helps vulnerable women and children in our community

Hajra's world changed drastically two years ago, when she left behind a life of poverty, violence and abuse.

September 9, 2014, will forever be a day to remember and celebrate for Hajra and her siblings (one older sister, one younger sister and a younger brother). That is the day they left Tanzania in East Africa to begin a new life in Canada. Hajra describes the moment that she and her siblings landed on Canadian soil as the most exciting and happiest day of her life.

Now 23 years old, Hajra is enrolled in the St. Charles Adult and Continuing Education centre in Hamilton and is working hard to complete her education. Her goal is to one day become an economist. She is a very active member of the downtown Hamilton community and is familiar with the prevalent issues of poverty and homelessness in the city.

"I did not experience a good childhood. When I came here I noticed that there are also a lot of people in Hamilton who need help and I saw myself in them," says Hajra. "When I saw the services provided through Good Shepherd, I knew that it would be the place I could fulfill my desire to help others."

Hajra volunteers at Good Shepherd Women's Services where programs provide safety and support for women and their children who are dealing with abuse, violence, mental health, homelessness and poverty. Each month an average of 67 volunteers assist the Women's Services staff in a variety of programs by offering child minding, arts and crafts sessions for children, homework assistance, and food prep. Some volunteers offer special services such as hairstyling, yoga and fitness classes and sewing and knitting lessons for the women.

"We are very fortunate to have dedicated volunteers like Hajra in Women's Services. They offer a special skill set that is so helpful for the staff. We cannot thank our volunteers enough for their ongoing support of our clients," says Marilyn Markow, Good Shepherd's Manager of Volunteers.

While the women attend important appointments or use the



Hajra at Good Shepherd's Martha House, where she watches the children of women staying at the shelter.

community resources that will help them get back on their feet, Hajra is there to watch over their kids and ensure they are safe and secure. Many of the women and children staying at the shelter have had to flee a violent situation at home and volunteers like Hajra provide recreational activities and therapeutic programs to help them get through this often traumatic experience.

"Spending time at Good Shepherd gives me the best experiences, especially when I am playing with the kids," she says.

Hajra has committed to reaching out to her network of friends and family to fundraise for Good Shepherd. At Christmas Hajra collected toys and money to donate to Christmas Wonderland and help spread the joy of the season to vulnerable families.

"I wanted to help make Christmas special because the people at Good Shepherd are a part of my life. They are like my family," says Hajra.

"Being able to spend time out in the community and give back to people in need has led me to find peace of mind in my new life. I keep motivated by a simple desire to help others."

an unforgettable autumn



An Evening with Jann Arden

Celebrating 20 years of compassion at Mary's Place women's shelter.

Almost 900 guests enjoyed the evening.



Jann Arden entertains her fans



11-year-old Isabella Demita sings.



Jann Arden signing her book for fans

Good Shepherd
Faith in people.

Jazz Up the Winter Blues



MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016
6:00 pm • ANCASTER MILL

\$150.00 (ALL INCLUSIVE)

Valet Parking • Live Music
Gourmet Food • Bar Service

For Tickets

905.528.6565 x3309
goodshepherdcentre.ca

Event Partners

Newport Leasing
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Aulward Graphics

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Martha House and the **Jeanne Scott Parent & Child Resource Centre** requires volunteers to provide child minding for infants and toddlers 9 a.m.-noon.

Emmanuel House requires evening and weekend reception volunteers, as well as volunteers to prepare lunch or dinner.

Women's Services requires volunteer yoga instructors to teach yoga to women.

Women's Services, Youth Services and **Family Centre** require volunteer hairstylists once a month.

The Men's Centre requires volunteers for weekend reception and night shelter to assist clients with their laundry and interacting with clients.

The Venture Centre Market Place requires volunteers for tasks related in a grocery store setting to our emergency food services.

To volunteer:

Call Marilyn or Maggie
905.528.6565 x3333 or x3321

WATCH FOR DETAILS
COMING SOON!



APRIL 22 2016

Featuring

Amazing Array of Food from
Hamilton Gourmet Restaurants

Cutting Edge Fashions from the
City's Best Designers

New Venue – The Cotton Factory

Info at goodshepherdcentres.ca

Good Shepherd celebrates our community's generosity

We are inspired by the continuing kindness of the individuals, businesses and organizations whose contributions help the people who need Good Shepherd's support. This year was so heart-warming, as the generosity of our community helps bring comfort, hope and dignity to thousands of people. Here are some of the many who volunteered their time and gave gifts during the Holiday Season ...



GE CAPITAL



ARCELORMITTAL DOFASCO
CORPORATE & COMMUNITY INVESTMENT



ARCELORMITTAL DOFASCO
EMPLOYEE DONATIONS COMMITTEE



CARMEN'S

FRIENDS WITH HEARTS



These Friends have huge Hearts. Friends With Hearts, a group of amazing people led by Jay Perry – the guy with the beard front and centre – has supported Good Shepherd's Sponsor Our Families program at Christmas since 2013. This year Friends with Hearts raised more than \$12,230 to brighten the Holidays for families, youth

and seniors in our community. Says Jay: "This was without running any fancy events and this was another year where every single cent, went to the families in need. We have so many volunteers and they offer up something way more valuable than money – their time. To date, Friends With Hearts Hamilton has raised \$34,748.52."



A MESSAGE FROM
CATHY WELLWOOD

Now that the hustle and bustle of the Holidays are over, it's time to slow down and reflect on the events of the past year. We had a very successful year raising funds that are vital to keeping our programs strong. For Good Shepherd, 2015 was an extraordinary year filled with many highs and lows. One thing that remained true and steady was the kindness and generosity of our donors and volunteers.

The *Spirit of Giving* was very powerful this Christmas and we are so grateful for all the donations that helped spread the joy and warmth of the Holidays to residents of Hamilton living in poverty. It was a remarkable year for Good Shepherd's *Sponsor Our Families* program which saw more than 300 donors donate \$51,000 in money and gifts to support vulnerable families through Christmas.

We welcomed over 2,300 guests to Christmas Wonderland and dinner at the Hamilton Convention Centre and Good Shepherd distributed 3,000 Christmas Hampers to families and individuals in need during the month of December. We are so grateful for the hundreds of volunteers, businesses and community groups whose acts of kindness helped members of our community enjoy the holidays.

I am always amazed by the generous support we receive for our fundraising events through ticket sales, sponsorship and gifts. We are especially grateful for those who were eager to embrace new events that we introduced in 2015, including *Glamour in the Hammer* and *An Evening with Jann Arden*.

Last year, we experienced growth in major gifts that helped us address the growing needs of our community. Thank you to the many individuals, organizations and companies who stepped up in our time of need to fund the necessary maintenance and repairs of our buildings and ensure that our clients are being served in dignified and safe surroundings.

Of course, we couldn't do our important work without the energy and compassion of our dedicated volunteers. This spring we will honour the commitment of our team of over 5,700 volunteers. To date we have nominated 67 exceptional volunteers for the Ontario Volunteer Service Award in recognition of their continuous years of service to Good Shepherd.

I know that 2016 will come with its challenges and we'll have to work harder than ever to ensure our clients can continue to receive the support they require. I extend my heartfelt thanks to those who continue to help us build hope and restore dignity to our neighbours in need.

I look forward to sharing information in the coming months about new and exciting things happening at Good Shepherd. Stay tuned!

Cathy Wellwood
Chief Development Officer

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

The *Shepherd* Newsletter is published three times a year. It is our way of sharing Good Shepherd news and events. You will also receive greetings from the Brothers and Staff of Good Shepherd at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Each Good Shepherd mailing is accompanied by a reply card and a return envelope for your convenience. Although your support is vital, we understand that not everyone can make a donation in response to each mailing.

If you prefer fewer mailings, or none at all, let us know. We also invite you to use the reply envelope enclosed to communicate with us. Please tell us how we're doing and inform us of changes in your mailing information.

Good Shepherd subscribes to the Association of Fundraising Professionals Donor Bill of Rights. We value our donors and take your privacy seriously. We do not share, trade, or sell any donor information that we have collected.

HOW TO REACH US

- goodshepherdcentres.ca
- facebook.com/goodshepherdhamilton
- twitter.com/goodshepherdham
- youtube.com/goodshepherdhamilton

General Inquiries:

10 Delaware Avenue, PO Box 1003
Hamilton ON L8N 3R1
info@goodshepherdcentres.ca
Tel: 905.528.9109

Donation Inquiries:

Tel: 905.572.6435
Fax: 905.528.6967
donations@goodshepherdcentres.ca
goodshepherdcentres.ca/donate.htm