

THE SHEPHERD

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2020

A MESSAGE FROM BROTHER RICHARD



On the front lines of the health crisis

I am sure you've heard the saying that not all heroes wear capes. That sentiment has never been more on display than during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our community is filled with modest heroes – including at Good Shepherd. Our long-standing reputation for exemplary compassion and care on behalf of our community's most vulnerable people has put us on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis.

Members of our homeless community are at an increased risk of being infected by the virus. Whether it's pre-existing health conditions, their inability to access adequate health care, or the environment in which they live, they can't protect themselves.

You may have seen recent media coverage of Good Shepherd's prominence in delivering vital services in the city. Among them:

- As part of Good Shepherd's mission to help people who are vulnerable due to mental illness, we operate supportive housing centres throughout Hamilton. McGinty House, on Catharine Street North, closed two years ago for renovations, but recently, we re-opened it and have welcomed people who previously were hospitalized so hospitals can free up valuable beds that may be required for COVID-19 patients.
- On April 11, we took the lead as the doors opened to a "surge shelter" at FirstOntario Centre, where up to 50 homeless men have moved in to accommodate physical distancing in area shelters, including The Good Shepherd Centre. We're working with the City of Hamilton and Core Entertainment to make sure the accommodations are comfortable and safe.

The word "courageous" can be used too often, but it's not the case when we talk about the people who are working on the front lines of this fight. Many of Good Shepherd's co-workers and volunteers live with the anxiety and fear associated with working with our clients during the pandemic, yet they share the same belief that our city's vulnerable people should not be left to the elements or unnecessarily exposed to the virus.

As one of our workers told us about dedication to Good Shepherd's mission during the health crisis: "Everyone deserves to have a safe place to ride out this storm."

Recently, we received an email from a member of the community, who thought they would send us a compliment.

Kudos to Good Shepherd – you have always been about the client and remain so in this crisis. You are an organization that can be proud of its efforts.

I want to thank this member of our community for taking the time to write to us. It means so much to us.

Sadly, like so many organizations fighting this pandemic, some of our co-workers have tested positive for COVID-19 and are now in quarantine. We thank them and pray for their quick recovery.

Finally, I want to leave you with one lesson we all should take from the last two months: Remember to look after each other; we are all caring members of our own communities. The sentiment was articulated so well by Len, a volunteer from Burlington, who is working in the Venture Centre Marketplace: "I think that as a society, we've been taking advantage of the simple things in life, and this time has made us all aware of how precious those simple things are to every person."

If you are able to help Good Shepherd continue our valuable work during this critical time, please visit our website at goodshepherdcentres.ca/donate-now, or call us at 905.572.6435.

The Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God pray for you and your families. Stay safe and healthy!

Yours in hospitality,

Bro. Richard, OIH

Chief Executive Officer
Good Shepherd

HOSPITALITY

GOOD SHEPHERD'S HEROES ON THE FRONT

Hospitality is alive at Good Shepherd.

In this time of uncertainty, we can count on Good Shepherd's staff and volunteers – our own heroes – to ensure that our community's vulnerable citizens are treated with care and dignity. As the need increased for special measures to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, our co-workers and volunteers readily took up the mantle in support of the community's most at-risk population.

Hundreds of people are working throughout the city to deliver Good Shepherd's mission of Hospitality. In good times and bad, we welcome all people with compassion, acceptance and a spirit of generosity.

Now, more than ever, our community needs Good Shepherd. Please support our mission. You can donate by calling 905.572.6435 or by visiting goodshepherdcentres.ca/donate-now.

MEET SOME OF OUR HEROES ...

THE VENTURE CENTRE

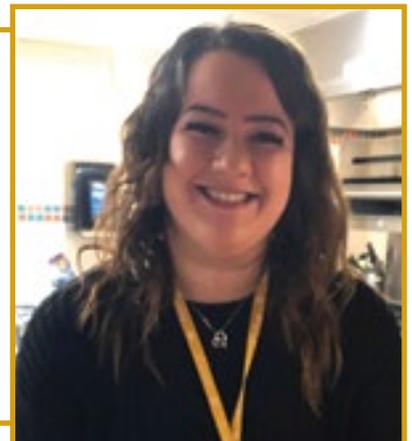
Christine is one of the first people clients see when they come to the Marketplace. Her job is to help clients navigate the food bank system. When the pandemic came to light she was afraid to work. Christine had been diagnosed with breast cancer, had gone through treatment, and was able to beat the disease. She returned to work two weeks before the pandemic was declared, but it didn't take her long to decide Good Shepherd was the place she wanted to be. "We'll get through this. Use this time to check on a friend, help a neighbour, getting in touch with ourselves. Faith over fear, we will get through this – together."



CHRISTINE
VENTURE CENTRE

THE FAMILY CENTRE

"We expected the numbers of families entering shelter to decline due to evictions being on hold, and at first we noticed a small drop. But families continue to need shelter for many reasons. There are clients we are supporting right now who lost their home in a fire, relationships are breaking down so half the family may become homeless, and some tenants just don't know their rights. They don't know that they can't be evicted right now."



STEPHANIE
FAMILY CENTRE

Adaptability
Responsibility
Availability
Partnerships
Collaboration
From
Quality
En
HOSPITALITY
Creativity
Mission

TY IS ALIVE

FRONT LINES OF THE COVID-19 BATTLE

Collaboration
Online
Energy
Digitality
Mission
Courage
Pandemic
Dignity
COVID-19
Volunteers
Co-workers

THE MARKETPLACE

Julie works in the Marketplace at the Venture Centre on Cannon Street East. Her sense of humour brings laughter to clients, co-workers and volunteers at the Marketplace during this time of increased stress for many people.



JULIE
VENTURE CENTRE MARKETPLACE

SENIORS PROGRAMS

Kerry Ann prepares chili that she made for isolated seniors at Good Shepherd Square. Our seniors program delivered chili and toast with cookies and continue to check on our tenants' wellbeing.



KERRY ANN
SENIORS PROGRAMS

FOOD PROGRAM

Travis (left) helps to distribute the bagged meals to the community from The Good Shepherd Centre. We are preparing meals so that people in need of a meal can maintain physical distancing by not visiting our dining room.



TRAVIS
WELKOM HOUSE

Celebrating our Volunteers

Every year, Good Shepherd celebrates the care and commitment of our wonderful volunteers. We aren't able to be with you because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but you still mean the world to us.

It doesn't matter how much time you've dedicated to volunteering, you have made an immeasurable impact on Good Shepherd – and on the lives of the people who come to us for support. Thank you for your dedication!

Years of Service Awards

– 35 YEARS –

Angie McNulty
Michael Dywelska

– 30 YEARS –

Bernice Jacobs

– 25 YEARS –

Nina Maljar

– 20 YEARS –

Marilyn Dwyer
Joyce Webb
Dunstan MacDonald

Marjorie Mullen
Don Roberts
Monique Lachance

Jessie McDonald
Campbell McDonald
Nan Howe

Duke O'Sullivan
Joe Garcia
Margaret Garcia

– 15 YEARS –

Lisetta Paron
Barry Purvis
Lexie Tynan
Tracy Brown
Kunjamma Scaria
Angela Eng

Manuel Medeiros
Ed Bodi
Chris Cudmore
John Partito
Christel Cudmore
Lourdes Medeiros

Rita Dugas
Lloyd Pottie
John Rockz
Denis Ross
Thomas Schramm
Dorothy Schramm

Fran Boisvert
Helen Laskowski
Kathleen Somers
Diane McInnes
Anita Zytaruk

– 10 YEARS –

Angelo Venditti
Alice Phillips
Melvyn Bury
Kassim Warner
Rita Novak
Brian Dobson
Len Collins

Fred Fischer
Diana O'Donnell
Julie Erdman
Jesse Burke-Gaffney
Dianne Peeling
Anna-Marie Venditti
Megan McPherson

Ben Clozza
Fran Hogan
Alfred Jacques
Cynthia Medeiros
Stephen Novak
Rod Rafuli
Nadia Rafuli

Angus Hogan
Lisa Mantysaari
Marie Watkins
Denise Dove
Jacob Floris
Loretta Floris
Eileen Harvey
Carole Lelievre

Years of Service Awards

- 5 YEARS -

Hubert Coutts
Julia Henry
Dave McPherson
Fernanda Giannotti
Claudio D'Amato
Carmen Bozzo
Wendy Statti
Dini Balych
Penny Fedora-Luison
Bernice Johnson
Zdzislawa Adamowicz
Eileen Michie

George Bokma
Luanne Bokma
Shari Guinta
Phil Canning
Nicholas Campbell
Claudia Brown
Clara DeJong
Anita Jupp
Donna Tutton-Goodrow
Naomi Coutts
Lino Giannotti
Lois Purvis

Theresa Lacharity
Joe Benedetti
Trudy Koopman-Doek
Amy Coates
Becca King
Jocelyne Larocque
Judith Pyke
Josephine Gorman
Huguette Gallante
Desiree Matheson
Lynne Tiernay
Mary D'Angelo

Reg Michie
Gerry Culliton
Isobel Culliton
Linda Kraemer
Bridget Vessey
Donald Chung
Dena Castro
Sylvain Loiselle
Barbara Sherwood
Julia Henry
Bev Dejager
Jean Mills
Debbie Laidman

Some of our Volunteer Heroes

VI, SCOTT & FRANK

Vi and Scott have been volunteering with Good Shepherd since 1987, even before there was an official volunteering program. They started with St. Raphael's Roman Catholic Parish, of which they have been members for more than 54 years.

Over the years they have volunteered in many different positions at Good Shepherd. Whether it is serving food with her church group once per month, sorting food, helping out at Christmas Wonderland or our Christmas Marketplace, they have gone where we needed them most.

Many of us give in one form: time, money, or organizing a community event. Vi and her team are different. They collect goods from her friends and neighbours, make her garage a sorting facility, consider which program would benefit the most from the donations and then send them to those specific centres.

She couldn't have done this without her team: son Scott and her friend Frank. The trio is most effective together; the cohesion of the team is what makes their volunteer experience so enjoyable.



Vi is a true champion of Good Shepherd. No matter where she goes she wants the world to know that there are a lot of people in need and they can help them by giving through Good Shepherd.



TYLER

Tyler is owner of The Doors Pub: Taco Joint and Metal Bar in downtown Hamilton. His business was shut down in March and he began volunteering at the Venture Centre on Thursdays and Fridays to help stock shelves, clean, and do whatever is needed. He realizes the severity of the pandemic and feels young people are carrying the load in the workforce with essential services due to the nature of the jobs (fast-food, grocery store). He wants to do his part in helping out the community.

A MESSAGE FROM

CATHY WELLWOOD



Our needs are more real and urgent now

These last two months have been both scary and uncertain. Much of our world has ground to a halt. As businesses, non-profit organizations and churches closed their doors, society changed drastically and in a way that none of us has ever experienced.

Sadly, the effects of poverty and homelessness in our community continue, which means Good Shepherd's services have become even more essential. As a result, we have been asking our supporters for financial gifts to help us continue our programs, and to buy food for our Venture Centre Marketplace, direct food donations for our meal and emergency food programs, and medical supplies for our frontline workers.

We don't know when this pandemic will subside, so I am asking you to continue thinking about Good Shepherd and the people we serve. Our clients are especially vulnerable during this time, as stress and worry increase because of containment measures that isolate us all. You have been truly generous as the pandemic stretched through Easter and into spring, but we still need you to be our partners at this time. The need is real and urgent.

Our dilemma is compounded by the fact that special events, which are so popular and fund a wide variety of our services, have had to be postponed or cancelled. We are heartbroken that Glamour in the Hammer and our annual Volunteer Appreciation Evening will not happen this year. We have also pushed our Emmanuel House Hospice fundraising dinner to September 3 in anticipation of the relaxing of restrictions for gathering.

I'm excited to see you all at Harvest Dinner on October 15 where we can celebrate together and give thanks that we got through the most challenging time in our lives. We'll make sure you are kept up to date on these events.

Until we see each other again, please stay safe and healthy.

God bless,

Cathy Wellwood
Chief Development Officer

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY'S MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE DURING THE PANDEMIC.

CALL US AT 905.572.6435 OR VISIT [GOODSHEPHERDCENTRES.CA/DONATE-NOW](https://goodshepherdcentres.ca/donate-now)

GOOD SHEPHERD'S COMMITMENT TO YOU



Hospitaller Order of
Saint John of God
Province of the Good Shepherd in North America

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.

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