



Women's Services Director Tessa Mcfadzean outside Good Shepherd's new project at 35 Arkledun Avenue.

'Housing is a human right. This is the way forward'

Affordable and supportive housing is in crisis in Hamilton.

Shepherd, the City of Hamilton and the federal government.

Women make up 53 percent of homeless people in Hamilton yet thousands are turned away from shelters annually due to a chronic shortage of beds.

Arkledun will offer a supportive housing program for cis women, transgender, non-binary and gender diverse people. Some of the units will be emergency shelters to serve as a threshold to stable, permanent housing.

The pandemic has shown that there are significant challenges in this community's response to homelessness. We are serving more women than ever before despite an expanded shelter system that has resulted from COVID-19.

"We are traumatized from being homeless. Housing with supports would help us heal."

– Good Shepherd client

Good Shepherd is helping to address the crisis by converting a former commercial school at 35 Arkledun Avenue in Hamilton to units targeted to those who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. It is a partnership among Good

It is a vital response to the urgent need for housing in the community, says Good Shepherd Centres Chief Operating Officer Katherine Kalinowski.

"Good Shepherd wants to address the crisis of homelessness, but really we want to end it. This is the way forward," she explains. "We believe that housing is a human right. Arkledun will allow

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MONTHLY DONORS: MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON GOOD SHEPHERD



**I SHARE WHAT
I HAVE TO
HELP MAKE
THE WORLD A
BETTER PLACE**

Bridget Whittle loves a good treasure hunt. Her skills as a digital archivist at the McMaster University Library lend themselves well to her hobby of geocaching. It's no surprise that she lists helping people as one of the highlights of her job. Over 10 years ago Bridget worked at Good Shepherd helping out in a variety of roles.

"I started as a summer student and in-between earning my degrees, I worked in Development, the Men's Centre and in the warehouse sorting through food and clothing donations," Bridget said.

Good Shepherd has been a part of Bridget's life since she can remember, her father is a long-time employee and she credits him for inspiring her to give back.

"I grew up with the understanding that it is important to take care of your neighbour," said Bridget, "it has been entrenched in me to treat people like people rather than focus on their problems."

Her experiences with Good Shepherd led to a deep understanding of the impact that steady and predictable income has on its services. She also knew that giving monthly would be convenient for her situation.

"Giving monthly meant that I could afford to give the amount that I really wanted to because it's spread out over the whole year," said Bridget. "I know that a little bit goes a long way when it comes to this organization."



**GOOD SHEPHERD
HAS A SPECIAL
PLACE IN MY HEART**

Will Yeung works as a co-op advisor and job developer for film and television students at Sheridan College in Oakville. His love of films and superheroes is displayed in posters, comic books and memorabilia in his office and acts as a way to instantly connect with his students.

"I have a poster on the wall in my office that reads, 'Heroes make others believe they can do great things. Heroes make heroes', and that's where my philanthropic spirit really comes from," said Will.

Before joining Sheridan College, Will worked in Hamilton as an employment specialist, assisting college students with their community support work. This is where he learned about Good Shepherd and was able to take a tour of the Venture Centre.

"It was a real eye-opening experience for me to see the work that Good Shepherd was doing for the community," said Will, "I made it a priority to start contributing to this important work."

Will decided to become a monthly donor after doing his own research to determine how he could make the most impact.

"I think there's a bit of superhero in me," said Will, "I read all of these great morality tales where they always do the right thing and that's important to me."

Join
**SHEPHERDS
OF CHANGE**



Please join Bridget, Will and other incredible leaders in our community by becoming a *Shepherd of Change* today! By giving monthly, you'll make an even greater impact, walking alongside vulnerable neighbours all year long, and truly transforming lives.

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2021



Women make up 53% of homeless people in Hamilton

**1,163 women and children found
sanctuary at Martha House**

**280 homeless & street-involved women
were safe and comfortable at Mary's Place**

**647 vulnerable women utilized
Good Shepherd's Community Services
for Women & Children program**



**8,512 shelter crisis and
helpline calls were received
by local agencies**

**Volunteers worked 12,325
unpaid hours at local Violence
Against Women programs**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
GOOD SHEPHERD WOMEN'S SERVICES
GOODSHEPHERDCENTRES.CA**

WOMEN'S SERVICES CRISIS LINE

905.523.6277

'There are layers behind homelessness'

***New housing project will build a
thriving and healthy community***

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people to have a voice and a stake in ending homelessness."

Ensuring residents' independence and autonomy is the highest priority for Good Shepherd's Women's Services, says Women's Services Director Tessa Mcfadzean.

"The building and the services that are provided within it will build a thriving community in which residents discover healthy connections, belonging, purpose, healing and growth," says Tessa.

In planning this conversion to housing, Arkledun's environment has been designed to reflect the diverse needs of the residents, including dedicated spaces for spiritual practice, as well as outdoor spaces for gardening, social and recreational activities.

Clients and residents of Good Shepherd's existing women's services agree and have contributed their voices to improve them.

"We are traumatized from being homeless," says one client. "Housing with supports would help us heal."

Says another: "People who are homeless are not just homeless. There are layers behind the homelessness; PTSD, mental health, addictions, trauma – we need support with all of it."

Good Shepherd has been a leader in assisting marginalized people in Hamilton and Toronto since 1961. This is another project to help them on their journey to a healthy life.

"What is abundantly clear is the need for deep investments in permanent housing solutions which is what the Arkledun program aims to provide," says Tessa.

A Message from Tessa Mcfadzean

Director, Good Shepherd Women's Services



Access to safe, affordable and accessible housing is a basic human right that should be available to all. and the dangerous reality is that the number of people experiencing homelessness or are precariously housed in our community continues to rise. Last year, the number of women seeking Good Shepherd homelessness supports exceeded 1,400 and another 647 women and children utilized our community supports.

Marginalized people continue to face social barriers that impede their journey to a safe and healthy life in the community. Thankfully, Good Shepherd's generous and compassionate donors have been consistent partners in our efforts provide services to those who need our assistance.

Good Shepherd's newest project at 35 Arkledun Avenue in Hamilton is an innovative response to the persistent housing crisis in our community and will offer a 74-unit housing program. Autonomy of residents is critical to deliver services to meet their individual needs. Arkledun's environment is being carefully designed to reflect the diverse needs of the residents served, including accessible units, kitchenettes, quiet rooms and lounge spaces, as well as dedicated spaces for spiritual practice (prayer, smudging, meditation, etc.). It has an expansive outdoor space for gardening, social and recreational activities.

What is abundantly clear is the need for deep investments in permanent housing solutions which is what Good Shepherd's Arkledun program aims to provide. Partnerships are at the core of this project's success and are necessary to deliver integrated health care and social services. Collaboration with our donors and community partners serve to build a thriving community in which residents discover healthy connections, belonging, purpose, healing and growth.

Good Shepherd looks forward to the time when we open the doors to Arkledun in the coming months as we build a place of safety and refuge, while fighting poverty, homelessness and violence against cis, transgender and non-binary people.

Thank you for all you do for the community's marginalized citizens. We are truly grateful for your support.

Tessa Mcfadzean

A high school diploma can be the key that unlocks opportunities for post-secondary education and employment, leading to brighter futures. Good Shepherd's two alternative learning classrooms help break down barriers to post-secondary education and employment. On June 14, for the first time since 2019, we celebrated with youth and young moms at a graduation and accomplishment ceremony.



Good Shepherd
Faith in people.

General Inquiries

400 King St. West, PO Box 1003, Hamilton ON L8N 3R1
Phone: 905.528.6565 • info@gsch.ca

Donation Inquiries

Phone: 905.572.6435 • Fax: 905.528.6967
donations@gsch.ca • goodshepherdcentres.ca/donate