

More than a shelter

# Update



35 Waller Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7G4 • Tel. 613-234-1144 Fax 613-234-2813 • www.ottawamission.com Autumn 2007

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” – Matthew 6:21



**We are all made richer when we share what we have with others.**

Every day we prepare and serve more than 1100 meals for hungry men, women and children.

**On Monday October 8, more than 2000 lost, lonely people will come to The Ottawa Mission to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.**

Many of the people we serve have lost everything that they treasured. They have lost their homes, and belongings, and family. They have lost their dignity and their self-esteem.

But with your generous support we can offer food for their bodies and their souls. We can offer a safe

shelter from a harsh world. We can offer compassion, understanding and guidance.

Your gifts help change the lives of the lost and the lonely, the hungry and the homeless who come to The Ottawa Mission.

**Thank you for sharing your treasures – your time and your generous gifts – you are sharing your heart with those who need you.**

**If you would like to volunteer that day, please contact Jill at 613-234-1144 ext. 236.**

[www.ottawamission.com](http://www.ottawamission.com)



Diane Morrison  
Executive Director, The Ottawa Mission

## Journeying together to reach a better place

If you are homeless and need help, your first contact at The Ottawa Mission will be our front desk staff. They will welcome you and ask you what you need. That is the beginning of your journey with us. Whatever your needs are, there will be people here who will help you.

Henry arrived at The Ottawa Mission from the East Coast and needed only short term help to get on his feet. With help from our Employment and Education worker, Henry created a resume and sent it out. By the fourth day, he had received several job offers. Today, Henry has a good home and has brought his family to live with him in Ottawa.

**It took Henry only 20 days to get on his feet.**

Bob needed some serious help. Bob had not been able to get a handle on his addictions – until he met with The Ottawa Mission addictions counsellors. After 25 years of living with addictions, Bob has completed our 6 month treatment program and is getting his life back together.

**It took Bob 6 months to get on his feet.**

Whatever the issue, and no matter how long it takes, The Ottawa Mission is here to give people like Henry and Bob another chance at life.

**Your support helps to change lives for the better – thank you.**

Thank you • **Merci** • **Gracias** (*Spanish*) • **Tesekkur ederim** (*Turkish*)  
**Shukran** (*Arabic*) • **Spas** (*Kurdish*) • **Mateshakeram** (*Iranian*)  
**Shukriyaa** (*Hindi*) • **Arigato** (*Japanese*) • **Kam ouen** (*Vietnamese*)  
**Naiwen Kowa** (*Mohawk*) • **Danke schön** (*German*)

*Diane Morrison*

## You can now donate online

Simply visit The Ottawa Mission's website  
[www.ottawamission.com](http://www.ottawamission.com)

**There is a convenient and secure form so that you can make single or monthly gifts.**

When a donation is given online, your personal information remains confidential. Credit card information is destroyed after use.

## You can help us cut costs

Ottawa's hungry, homeless men, women and children rely on The Ottawa Mission 365 days a year. But some months, it's a real challenge to feed, shelter and care for all of them!

**A regular monthly gift is an easy and effective way of giving.**

It helps The Ottawa Mission by allowing us to effectively plan for a consistent level of funding. You can become a "friend of the friendless" through automatic credit card or chequing/savings account deductions each month.



Please contact Samantha Laprade at 613-234-1144 ext. 302 or by email at [slaprade@ottawamission.com](mailto:slaprade@ottawamission.com)

# A smile from ear to ear!

**On June 1 of this year, The Home Hospice at The Ottawa Mission celebrated the official opening of a walk-in health clinic and a free dental clinic.**

The numbers in the box below tell a story about how important this dental clinic is in the community.

**But the real story of the dental clinic is in the smiles of the people who use our services.**

So many of the people who come to The Ottawa Mission have health problems. One of the most common is pain from teeth that have been neglected for years.

Imagine having to hide your mouth while you speak because you are ashamed of the way you look. Imagine having constant tooth pain, when you have no one who can take care of you.



**Dr. Tom Harle (left) shares a smile with Gary and James in the new dental clinic.**

James and Gary are just two of the residents at The Ottawa Mission who have started getting regular dental care in our clinic. Neither one had been to a dentist in years and they both were very grateful for the wonderful care that they got from our dentist volunteers.

**“There is a complete community of wellness here. Nothing was overlooked.” – Gary, a resident**

Thanks to our generous donors, the patients aren't the only ones who benefit from this unique clinic.

Even the dentist volunteers smile when they come in and they are happy to be here.

One of our dentists recently sent us a note to say what a privilege it has been for him to spend time providing dental treatment at The Ottawa Mission.

Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, during the first **three months** of operation over **400 hours** of work was provided by our dentist volunteers.

Almost **200 patients** were treated without charge.

Just under **\$50,000** worth of dental services were given out.

**That would mean 1600 volunteer hours, 800 patient visits and \$200,000 worth of free treatment to inner city homeless clients in the coming year.**

# A Fresh Start

**“I wasn’t living life. I was living my addiction. Now I’m living life and dealing with my addiction.”**



**Before he came to The Ottawa Mission’s Food Service Training Program, nobody had ever told Keith he was worth anything.**

Keith had been a short-order cook in Alberta for over twenty years. His loyal customers liked his cooking so much that they followed him when he moved from Calgary to Medicine Hat!

**When Keith’s wife and two children were killed in a tragic car accident last year, he thought he had lost everything that mattered to him.**

Keith admits that, over the years, he had been dealing with an alcohol addiction, and now, all alone, he struggled to keep his life together.

He left Alberta and came to Ottawa looking for a new start. He was accepted into the Food Service Training Program at The Ottawa Mission, and he has found housing and hope for the future.

Keith has a grade nine education, but thanks to The Ottawa Mission’s Food Service Training Program, he will be able to attend the Chefs’ Training Course at Algonquin College this fall.

Keith has a dream to run a restaurant for troubled teens. He wants to help people feel better about themselves because no one ever did that for him.

**Home is where the heart is.**

**When Dave got his own place to live, he began to feel like he was worth something.**

Dave was a resident at The Ottawa Mission for several months. He had lost his home, and he was alone with no one to turn to. He was very discouraged and felt that he was a failure.

Our housing worker was able to find a new place for Dave to live, and as he settled in, his confidence and self-esteem grew.

Dave started to attend events in the community, where he met a woman named Judy. They fell in love, and asked Terry, the chaplain at The Ottawa Mission, if he would marry them. Their wedding took place with family and friends in attendance, and they have started a new life together.

**When Dave learned to love himself, he was able to share his love with Judy.**

**Volunteering is an important part of their recovery for the men in our LifeHouse addiction treatment program.**

Mitch has been a resident in LifeHouse since February of this year. As part of his recovery, he has been volunteering at St. Joseph's Parish, helping to serve meals to needy people in the community."

**"Volunteering has really given me the opportunity to give a little back to the community."**

"Being a volunteer has helped to improve my people skills, but it has also showed me the value and the need for social services."

**"Volunteering and giving back a little has helped me work through some personal struggles."**

"Working the door, greeting people and handing out coffee, juice and bag lunches has changed the way

# Wanting to give back



**Mitch is learning how important volunteering is, for his own recovery, and for the community as a whole. He's happy to be able to help others.**

I look at other volunteers and the people using these services. "

"It wasn't long ago that I was someone who really didn't think much of the volunteering thing. Now I'm so grateful for volunteers because without them, it just wouldn't be the same!"

**We are always looking for places where our LifeHouse residents can give back to the community.**

**If you know of any suitable volunteer opportunities for us, please contact Troy Thompson at 613-234-1144 or by email at [mission@ottawamission.com](mailto:mission@ottawamission.com)**

**Don is finding the faith that he thought he had lost.**

Don had always believed in a loving God who had a plan for his life.

As he grew older, he realized that his life was being ruled by his alcohol addiction. He didn't know how that happened, or when he lost his way.

Don started attending The Day Program at The Ottawa Mission to deal with his addiction issues. As he grew healthier, he realized how much he missed the faith that had been so important to him.

**Thanks to the support he is getting at The Ottawa Mission, Don is taking his life back from his addiction and giving it to God.**

# Putting people together

**Our clients and our volunteers get personal, daily benefit from each and every hour they spend together.**

**Alex comes in almost every day to help in the kitchen.** She's thankful for the opportunity to volunteer here because it really makes her feel connected to the community. She especially enjoys helping serve the meals to the hungry and the homeless men, women and children because she gets a chance to say hello to each and every one.

**"The Ottawa Mission has a great way of putting lost and lonely people back together and also of bringing people together."**



**Alex says The Ottawa Mission helps people feel connected.**

**Steve has been volunteering at The Ottawa Mission since his retirement last year.**

He and his wife both look forward to their weekly shift in the kitchen. Steve says he likes working here.

**"When we came to volunteer, everyone just accepted us, took us right in, and made us feel at home."**

He says the time really flies, as they help prepare and serve the afternoon meals to more than 400 hungry, needy people.

**If you are looking for meaningful volunteer work in our community, please contact our Volunteer Services Coordinator at 613-234-1144 ext 236 or through our web site at [www.ottawamission.com](http://www.ottawamission.com).**

**The Ottawa Mission  
cordially invites you  
to a free**

## **Estate Planning Seminar**

**Monday, September 24  
10 am to 1 pm**

In conjunction with the Canadian Museum of Nature, CNIB, the Canadian War Museum, the National Arts Centre Foundation, the Ottawa Humane Society, the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre Foundation, and Saint Paul University

**Questions & Answers about Estate Planning  
Panel of Experts  
Complimentary Light Lunch  
Behind the Scenes Tour of the Canadian War Museum**

**RSVP by September 17th to Samantha Laprade  
at 613-234-1144 ext. 302 or by email at  
[slaprade@ottawamission.com](mailto:slaprade@ottawamission.com)**

**Free on-site parking available**

# I Am Thankful For You!

“I always give thanks to my God for you...”

1 Cor. 1:4

A donor drove up to our Daly Street entrance and began to unload some boxes of food. David, one of our guests, was standing at the door and right away he offered to help, because the boxes were filled with canned goods and were quite heavy.

**After getting everything into the kitchen, the donor thanked David for his help. David responded by saying, “I am thankful for you!”**



David’s response is one that I hear echoed again and again by many of our guests who are grateful to you – the people who help those in need through your gifts of time and money.

During the Thanksgiving season I felt it important to pass along the expression of gratitude that so many of our guests feel towards you. **If they could, they would say to you personally, “I am thankful for you!”**

I pray that this same feeling of gratitude will fill you with wonder at all the good things we will receive from others and from God this Thanksgiving season.

Rev. Laird Eddy



We want to invite you to come and see for yourself the work that you support with your generous donations.

**Sunday October 21, 2007**

Between 1 pm and 4 pm

Tours and refreshments will be offered.

If you would like to attend, please contact

Pat Martin at

613-234-1144 ext. 311

# 700 stories

On the wall in the chapel at The Ottawa Mission there is a mural made of more than 700 handmade ceramic tiles. Each tile was lovingly and thoughtfully crafted by the residents, the volunteers and the staff at The Ottawa Mission. Each tile tells a story of what faith means to the person who created the tile. But each tile also brings out memories and stories from those who view it.

**These tiles tell the stories of the hungry and the homeless who come to The Ottawa Mission for food and for shelter.**

It tells the stories of the men who are dealing with addictions and mental health issues.

It tells the stories of the lost and the hurting men and women who come to spend their final days in our hospice.

And the tiles tell the stories of all those who give of their time, energy and resources to those who are alone, with nowhere else to turn.



**Each individual who comes to The Ottawa Mission brings a story to share.**

**Without your faithful support, this wall would not be here. These hurting, homeless individuals would have no one to share with them the stories that have brought them to our door.**

**Thank you for your loving support. Thank you for being a part of the story of each individual who will be touched by The Ottawa Mission.**

## **Our Mission Statement**

**The Ottawa Mission reflects Jesus' love in serving the homeless, the hungry and the lost by providing food, shelter, clothing and skills and offers faith and hope for building a wholesome future.**

Publication Mail Agreement No. 40007592  
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
The Ottawa Mission  
35 Waller Street  
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## **Volunteer Board of Directors**

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**Patricia Younger, Past President**

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**Jack Murta, Tim Priddle,**  
**Rob Sheffield, Patrick Slack**

## **Direct Mail Frequency**

Reaching out to a community the size and scope of Ottawa is a challenge that is met most effectively through the power of mail. Every mail campaign that we do helps us to find many new and caring donors.

Periodically we blanket neighbourhoods with unaddressed mail, in order to find new people who want to help the homeless. This may result in you receiving two pieces of mail – one that is addressed to you, and one that is part of our “blanket” mailing. Should you receive one of these unaddressed pieces of mail, we ask that you give it to someone who might share your concern for the homeless. If you would like to adjust your mail frequency, please call 613-234-1155.

The Ottawa Mission does not sell or trade its mailing list.

**Thank you to all our donors and supporters.**  
**We could not do it without you!**