



35 Waller Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7G4
t. 613-234-1144
f. 613-234-2813

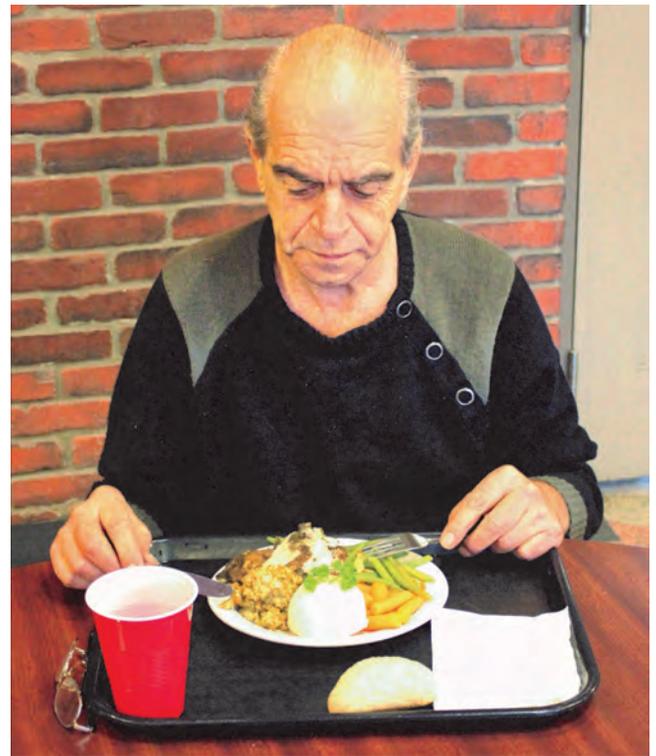
www.ottawamission.com
facebook.com/ottawamission
twitter.com/ottawamission



Christmas 2012

For only **\$2.97** you can provide a warm meal and help bring hope to someone who is homeless and hungry this Christmas.

Please give today.



Your donations provide food, shelter, clothing, and life-changing programs.
Thank you for continuing to help those who need it most.

At this year's Christmas dinner celebration, we expect to serve more than 2,400 meals.

YOUR GIFT OF HOPE MEANS DANNY WILL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Danny is 26 years old and comes from a small community in northern Ontario. He had struggled with an addiction for years, and there was no treatment available for him where he lived. He was sick, in trouble, and had burned bridges with his family and friends. He knew he had to change his life. So, in April 2012 Danny bought a one-way bus ticket to Ottawa, hoping to find the help he needed.

“THANKS TO THE MISSION AND ITS DONORS, I’LL HAVE MY OWN CHRISTMAS MIRACLE THIS YEAR.”

When he arrived he had nothing but the clothes on his back – no money, no food, and no place to stay. Danny walked for hours that day until someone he met along the way suggested that he come to The Ottawa Mission. Today Danny says, “There must have been something guiding me here.”

From the day he walked through our door, Danny worked hard to get his life back on track. He completed several preliminary programs and courses, and recently graduated from the 5-month LifeHouse residential addiction treatment program. Danny now lives in one of The Mission’s transitional houses, and continues to receive counselling. He’s come a long way. But there’s more.

Danny always wanted to be a writer. He has



gone back to school to complete his Grade 12 English, and plans to enrol in a 2-year professional writing course at Algonquin College in the new year.

Danny phones his mother several times a week now, and has a ticket in his pocket for a Christmas visit. As Danny says, “Thanks to The Mission and its donors, I’ll have my own Christmas miracle this year.”



CONNECT WITH US VIA
SOCIAL MEDIA



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to hear more about upcoming events, news, links and relevant stories from The Ottawa Mission community.

www.facebook.com/OttawaMission | www.twitter.com/OttawaMission

Change a life today by making a donation to The Ottawa Mission at www.ottawamission.com

YOUR GIFT OF HOPE IS EASING PAIN AND RESTORING HEALTH

Caring for people who are homeless doesn't stop with providing food and shelter. Many people who come to The Ottawa Mission have medical conditions or mental illnesses that require treatment but they do not have a family doctor. In the past, their only option would have been to find their way to a hospital emergency room where the treatment was often temporary. These days, people who are homeless or on the street can visit The Mission's Primary Health Care Clinic and receive ongoing health care.

"Every day we see people who need routine wellness care and chronic disease management, or assessment and treatment for conditions ranging from minor injuries to life-threatening illnesses. The one thing they all have in common is their gratitude for the help we are able to provide, and that we are always here for them", says Nurse Practitioner Cynthia Kitson.

The clinic is open seven days a week and is staffed by three Nurse Practitioners, as well as two doctors who each visit once a week. The clinic is staffed through a partnership with Ottawa Inner City Health and the Royal Ottawa Hospital, but relies on donations to cover operating costs.



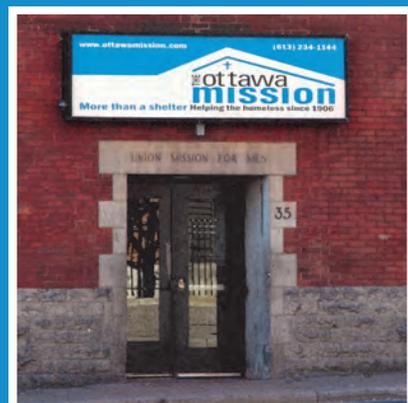
Richard, a long time patient at the clinic with chronic leg pain says, "I'm getting older, so I'm thankful to have a place to go to where people know me and care about my health. They help me manage my pain, and make sure that I take the right medication."

In 2011, there were 5,872 patient visits to the clinic.

YOU ARE INVITED FOR A TOUR

As a generous donor to The Ottawa Mission, we invite you for a tour so you may witness first-hand how lives are being changed every day. The kitchen, learning centre, medical clinic and chapel are some of the highlights of the tour.

Please contact Samantha Laprade at **613-234-1155 ext. 426** or by email at **slaprade@ottawamission.com**



YOUR GIFT OF HOPE TURNS INTO LONG TERM SUCCESS

Al has been sober since 1995 – and he gives a lot of credit for this success to the time he spent at The Ottawa Mission.

The Mission was a somewhat different place when Al arrived 18 years ago. The medical and dental clinics didn't exist, nor did the LifeHouse residential treatment building, the Hospice, or Stepping Stones learning centre. But, according to Al, "Some things about this place will never change. It's an open door here. They always take you in, and if you really want help, they go the extra mile."

When Al came to The Mission he was suffering from mental illness and addiction – the two often go hand in hand. At the shelter he found a place where he could receive the treatment he needed in a caring environment. Over time his mental health improved, and he was able to bring his addiction under control.

"IT'S AN OPEN DOOR HERE. THEY ALWAYS TAKE YOU IN, AND IF YOU REALLY WANT HELP, THEY GO THE EXTRA MILE."

Since leaving The Mission, Al has built quite a life for himself. Always concerned about being clean cut, he invented a device that prolongs the life of



disposable razors that he sells online to customers around the world. He is very knowledgeable about computers, and repairs donated equipment so it can be re-used. He plays the guitar, and spends a lot of time with his aging parents.

As Al says, "I feel I have a privileged life, I really do. I'm so grateful that the doors at The Ottawa Mission were open for me when I needed help. Thank you."

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!

WWW.OTTAWAMMISSION.COM

The Ottawa Mission has a new website and we welcome your feedback! The address is the same - www.ottawamission.com - but the look is different. Our aim is to share more information about The Mission as well as the stories of the people who find help here. The new website will allow us to update pictures and video content easier, so check back often. If you have any comments please call [613-234-1155](tel:613-234-1155) or e-mail foundation@ottawamission.com



To receive this newsletter in electronic form, email us at foundation@ottawamission.com

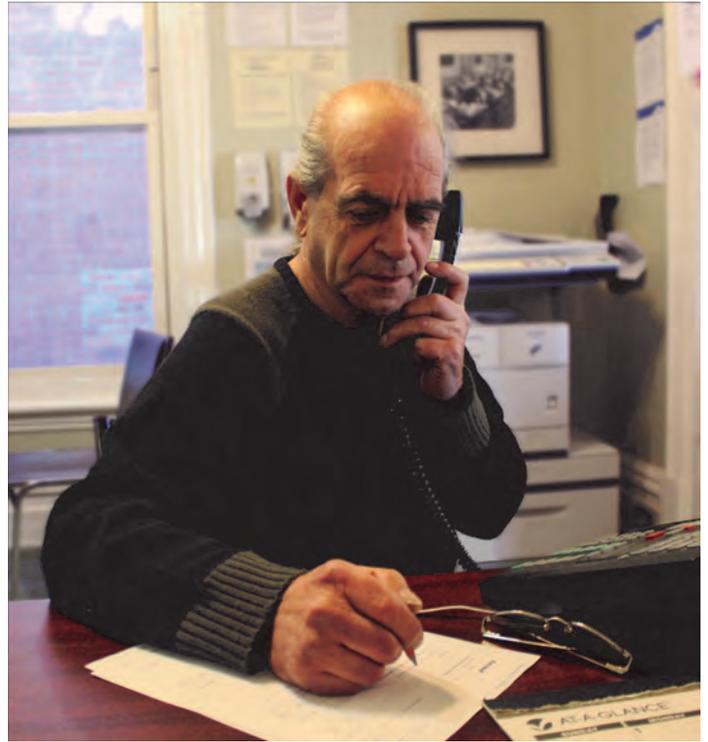
YOUR GIFT OF HOPE MEANS A HELPING HAND IN TIMES OF NEED

Many different types of people walk through the doors of The Ottawa Mission every day. Some need medical help or addiction treatment. Others are facing day to day challenges that they can't overcome on their own, and need food, a place to sleep, and some basic help to get back on their feet. Benoit, who is featured on the cover of this newsletter, is one such person.

BENOIT APPRECIATES ALL OF THE GIFTS OF HOPE HE HAS RECEIVED AT THE MISSION OVER THE YEARS...

Benoit first came to The Ottawa Mission in 1999, out of work, hungry and homeless. He stayed at the shelter for several months, and with help from staff was able to find a job and move out on his own. Even after he left the shelter, he still relied on The Mission for his meals, as do so many people living on limited incomes.

Recently, Benoit hit another rough patch in his life, and he turned once again to The Mission because he knew he would be welcomed and find the help he needed. He is staying at the shelter, working with our staff to find affordable housing, and has meetings set up with potential employers.



Benoit appreciates all of the gifts of hope he has received at The Mission over the years, and that includes having a turkey dinner and good company on holidays like Christmas, a particularly hard time for homeless or lonely people. As he says, "I know I can rely on The Mission if I really need help, and I'm thankful to all those who support this special place."



YOU CAN HELP US GO GREEN AND SAVE MONEY

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter in electronic form, you can call us at **613-234-1155**, email foundation@ottawamission.com or visit our website at www.ottawamission.com

You'll be helping us reduce our printing costs, and having a positive impact on the environment at the same time.

Thank you



FAITH IN FOCUS

MIRACLES! SEEING IS BELIEVING!

"Then the shepherds said to themselves, let us go and see this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." Luke 2:15

If you want to see miracles, sometimes you have to go to where they are happening. When I want to see miracles, I leave my office and wander through The Ottawa Mission. One of the first things you notice is that the hungry are being fed. Every day, we rely on the generosity of others to help us feed so many and every day it happens. It has happened uninterrupted for the 20 years I have been here. How can this not be a miracle?

The next thing you see is the healing. The healing of mind, body and soul as those at the Mission use our services - our medical clinic, our dental clinic, our hospice, our shelter beds, our clothing program, our addiction programs, our faith programs, our school, our job training, our... Lives changed for the better! And all of these things are provided every day, and are made possible solely through the compassion and generosity of our donors. How can this not be a miracle?

And then you see the love of God shared with people like David who needs someone to sit with him while he speaks through his tears about the mistakes he has made in his life. And you see one of our staff or a volunteer always ready to

reach out and share a grace-filled moment with someone in pain. How can this not be a miracle?

If you want to see miracles happen this Christmas, then I invite you to spend some time volunteering at The Mission. You will see miracles all around you and know that God is very present and at work in our lives.

A special thank you this Christmas to all our donors who are moved by God to make these miracles happen. May God's blessing be upon you!

Rev. Laird Eddy

Executive Director, The Ottawa Mission Foundation



NEW MAILING ADDRESS ALERT!

Effective immediately, all donations and related mail inquiries should be directed to the following address:

The Ottawa Mission Foundation
P.O. BOX 7068, Stn. Vanier
Vanier, ON K1L 8E2

Thank you for your cooperation

COLD NOSES... WARM HEARTS

Sometimes all it takes is a small act of kindness to make someone's day. That's why JR and his furry friends make a point of dropping in at The Ottawa Mission on a regular basis – and they've been doing this for more than 10 years!

They visit patients in The Mission's Home Hospice, and then spend some time in the main lobby of the shelter, happily accepting ear scratches and treats in exchange for offering a paw or performing a trick.

This dog visiting program is organized in partnership with the Ottawa Humane Society. The dogs come with their owners and visit nursing homes and shelters across the city.

SOMETIMES ALL IT TAKES IS A SMALL ACT OF KINDNESS TO MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY.

"You can see the difference in our patients in the Hospice when JR and his friends arrive," says The Mission's Manager of Health Services, Marg Smeaton. "There is no doubt that the dogs really brighten their day."

"The dogs enjoy the experience, and so do the owners," says JR's owner Steve Wills. "If we



JR makes a new friend.

are warming the hearts of people we meet for just a little while, then we are doing our job."

We are grateful to JR, his friends, and their owners for taking the time to make a difference.

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.

35 Waller St. Ottawa ON K1N 7G4
mission@ottawamission.com
www.ottawamission.com

Publication Mail Agreement Number **400007592**
Charitable Registration Number **10815 0509 RR0001**

We Offer

- Food, Shelter & Clothing
- Spiritual Support
- Day and Residential Addiction Treatment
- Education & Job Training
- Employment & Housing Services
- Primary Medical & Dental Care
- Hospice

Board of Directors

Jennifer Parr, President
Scott Hannant, Vice President
David Spillenaar, Treasurer
Jack B. Murta, Past President

Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey
Janet Epp Buckingham
Gilles Larochelle
Paul McKechnie
Kathleen Lauder
Tim Priddle
Brenda Rothwell



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK MY FIRST CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION

It was Christmas 1991, and in a homeless shelter a woman staff member was preparing for the holiday. She was trying to find ways to make Christmas festive for the 67 men who lived there. Hughie, Horace, Glen, John, Jimmy and the others were mostly older men and alcoholics. They were often grumpy at this time of year. Christmas brought back many memories — often involving children and families.

There was little money, but a tree (a real tree) had been donated and it was placed in the dining room and decorated. Church groups had knit mittens, hats and scarves and dropped them off weeks before. Some Good Samaritan had donated smokes (a welcome gift at that time). A small nativity set had been purchased, and the woman knew enough to purchase extra figurines of baby Jesus because the men liked to put Jesus in their pocket, for comfort.

A few days before Christmas, a couple of volunteers came in and wrapped the presents — there were always socks and long underwear in the packages. The donated turkeys were thawed, local farmers and merchants had donated vegetables, and homemade desserts appeared for the meal.

On Christmas morning, the woman came in for a couple of hours. She helped serve breakfast and wished everyone a “Merry Christmas”.

The men were looking forward to the Christmas meal and Bill, the regular volunteer, was cheerful and helped to give out presents. Christmas had come to the shelter, bringing with it joy and hope for a better day.

That woman was me and it was my first Christmas at The Ottawa Mission — the beginning of my long journey with the homeless. I would like to thank all of you for the wonderful support and compassion you continue to share with me and with this ministry.

May you have a blessed Christmas! (And who knew that Jesus could live in your pocket?)

Diane Morrison,
Executive Director, The Ottawa Mission



GIVE A GIFT OF HOPE

For only \$2.97 you can provide a warm meal and help bring hope to someone who is homeless and hungry at our Christmas dinner celebration on December 16. Please give today.

To make a donation, visit www.ottawamission.com

