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the warmth of your kindness
IS CHANGING LIVES

Winter 2013

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

Please give today.



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

Please turn to page 4 for a special message from retiring Executive Director Diane Morrison

THE WARMTH OF YOUR KINDNESS HAS REUNITED STEVEN'S FAMILY

By the time Steven arrived at The Ottawa Mission in June 2011, addiction had taken control of his life. He had lost contact with his parents and children, and his career in the military was over. He was very sick and he needed help.

After regaining some of his strength, Steven entered our LifeHouse residential addiction treatment program, and after months of hard work he completed the program – healthy and sober for the first time in years. He reconnected with his parents, and sat proudly between them at his LifeHouse graduation ceremony.

“I HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND BY THOSE WHO GIVE TO THE MISSION.”

Steven moved on to a transitional community house where he still lives, and he began to think about the next steps towards getting his life back on track. He was accepted into The Mission's Food Services Training Program where he has worked for the past five months learning theory and skills that could easily lead to employment in any restaurant. But Steven hoped for more than that. With the encouragement and support of The Mission's Chef, Ric Watson, Steven has applied for a two-year college culinary course. Soon he will have a new career to go with his new life.



During his recovery, Steven spoke with his daughter often. After one conversation he asked her what she wanted from him and her answer was simple – she wanted her father back. As Steven now says, “I have been blessed by the grace of God and by those who give to The Mission. Because of this, my children have their father back, and I have my children back. And I'm thrilled to be getting to know my 4-year old granddaughter. Thank you.”



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WHEN SHELTER IS NOT ENOUGH

The Ottawa Mission, in partnership with other local shelters and the City of Ottawa's Housing Branch, has begun working in earnest on solutions to end chronic homelessness in our community. People who fit this definition are spending years in shelters – shelters meant for emergency, short-term stays.

One group of people that requires particular attention are those suffering with mental illness. For them, life is a constant struggle. Living in cramped dorm rooms month after month—even eating with people they don't know in a crowded dining room can be frightening, but they have no alternative.

Right now, there are 245 people living in shelters across the city who are chronically homeless. The average length of stay for this group is 6.1 years. Of these, many suffer from mental illness. Over 50 chronically homeless people are at The Mission. Adam is one of them. He is a gentle man who has multiple mental and life-skill issues which prevent him from living on his own. He's been staying at The Mission for 15 years.

Many people like Adam would fit into a housing situation that offers a private room, but that also includes common areas for skills development and group activities, and on-site



staff. With proper support, some might eventually move on to living independently and perhaps, with training, find employment. The first step is moving out of the shelter.

With your support, The Mission will continue to provide food, shelter and life-changing programs to those in need in our community, and at the same time we will continue to work with the City and our partners to do whatever we can to find a solution for all of the “Adams” in our care.

GIVE A GIFT OF WINTER WARMTH

The cold winter months bring with them an increased need for clothing items among the homeless. You can help meet this need by donating items from the following list:

- New or gently used men's winter coats
- New men's long underwear
- New or gently used towels
- New men's undershirts
- New winter hats, gloves
- New or gently used men's running shoes/winter boots

Men's clothing donations can be dropped off 24/7 at The Ottawa Mission, 35 Waller Street.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK DEAR FRIENDS, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

This is a letter of thanks for your generous gifts to people in our community who are hungry, homeless and hurting. Your donations, your time and your prayers bring hope to many, many people. When I think of the conditions at The Ottawa Mission when I arrived here 21 years ago and look at it now, I am amazed and humbled. All of the positive changes that have taken place could not have happened without your support.

A hospice was just a thought that I had, inspired by a man named Tim who was very sick and wanted to die among friends at The Mission. It took a community of caring individuals and over 3 years to make the hospice a reality, and over 200 people have spent their last days in loving care instead of on the streets. Thank you for bringing dignity to the dying.

Dental services were brought to The Mission by Dr. Tom Harle, and now people do not have to live in embarrassment because of missing or decayed teeth. Thank you to Dr. Harle and all the volunteer dental professionals who bring dignity to people living in shelters or on the street.

A medical clinic took two years to negotiate in partnership with Ottawa Inner City Health – now people in need can receive medical services, and their health is better because treatment

is close at hand. Donations pay for a nurse practitioner, a medical receptionist/lab technician, a medical supervisor, management oversight



Diane with Tim—one of her many inspirations over the years



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

and all operational costs. Thank you for bringing health care to homeless people.

A learning centre was a dream of mine because I taught school for 17 years before I came to The Mission. It happened because you believed that education improves one's self esteem and chances of integration back into the community. The school is entirely funded by donations. Thank you for believing in education.

On-site training programs for kitchen and custodial staff work because we deal with the barriers that prevent people from being successful. We look at their literacy level, their emotional readiness and their learning potential. Many students have gone on to full time work. We have wonderful partnerships to support this effort, but donations cover all direct costs. Thank you for helping to get people back to work.


The LifeHouse 5-month residential addiction treatment program has been operating successfully since 1993. Many people credit LifeHouse with saving their lives. This program relies solely on donations. Thank you for helping those who are addicted and who want to change their lives.

If you are a volunteer, we value the generous gift of your time. You bring life, love and the acceptance of the outside world into this space. Thank you.

And I have to end with a true story. Outside my office is a young man playing his guitar in the chapel. His name is Sean, and for weeks he would not make eye contact with me. His songs are sad and he is sad also. He told me the music helps to soothe his soul. He thanked me for the opportunity to be alone with his music. Sean is mentally ill and needs housing and a space of his own. He also needs support. Please pray for resources to provide appropriate housing for the many mentally ill who are living in shelters.

By the time you read this message, I will be retired from my role as Executive Director of The Mission. My time here has been so rewarding, and this special place will always be a part of my life. And you are a very important part of making miracles happen here. I bless and thank each one of you for your notes, your love and your generous spirit. Please remember the less fortunate in our community, and continue to donate as you can.

May God bless you.



Diane Morrison,
Executive Director, The Ottawa Mission

YOU ARE INVITED FOR A TOUR

As a generous donor to The Ottawa Mission, we invite you to 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 Shirley Roy at **613-234-1144 ext. 305**
or by email at sroy@ottawamission.com



THE WARMTH OF YOUR KINDNESS IS HELPING GORDON MAKE THE GRADE

Gordon is a young man who has struggled with depression and mental illness most of his life. For the past few years, he has travelled back and forth from his home on the west coast to Ottawa trying to find his place in life. The time he has spent at The Ottawa Mission has finally given him the care and encouragement that he needs to make a positive change.

While he was staying at the shelter, a case-worker was able to connect Gordon to psychiatric outreach services at The Mission's clinic, and he continues to receive regular treatment there.

“THE PEOPLE AT THE MISSION HAVE BEEN VERY KIND AND HELPFUL, AND I FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT MY FUTURE.”

Over the past couple of years he has also taken advantage of on-line education courses at our Stepping Stones Learning Centre. Gordon's goal is to obtain his GED, and we are thrilled to say that he is just one course away from this achievement.

Gordon is now living in the community, but still comes to The Mission every day for meals and school. He is also working with staff to explore employment opportunities and is enrolled in a custodial training program being offered in partnership with the Ottawa Catholic School Board.



“The people at The Mission have been very kind and helpful, and I feel confident about my future. I'm thankful for all that is available for me here”, says Gordon.

He has also worked with other Stepping Stones students on the development of a video game designed to help people overcome obstacles and set life goals – lessons that Gordon has learned well.

YOU CAN HELP CHANGE LIVES EVERY MONTH



For more information on becoming a monthly donor:

call **613-234-1155**

email **donations@ottawamission.com**

or visit **ottawamission.com**

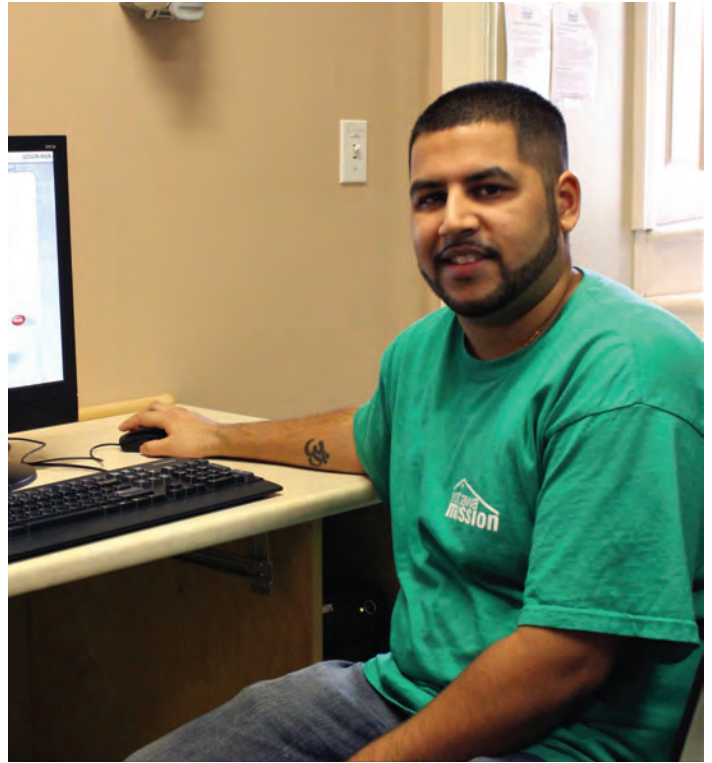
VOLUNTEER CORNER

WHEN HELPING BRINGS HOPE

Bhavesh has been volunteering at The Ottawa Mission every week for the past two years. He recently graduated from the University of Ottawa with a degree in Criminology and hopes to become a police officer. Like many people new to The Mission, when he first arrived Bhavesh had certain preconceived notions about people who are homeless and living in shelters, and he readily admits that his time here has been a real eye-opener.

Bhavesh has volunteered in the clothing room and the computer lab. In both cases, he has witnessed the overwhelming desire of the people he has met to change their lives for the better. In the clothing room, he has seen men looking for a jacket and maybe even a tie – something that might help them when they go out on job interviews. In the computer lab, Bhavesh has been able to work with people to find on-line resources that will help them find a place to live, or show them how to build a quality resume.

Throughout it all, Bhavesh has enjoyed dealing with people one-on-one and getting to know them for who they really are. “Whatever I can do to help is more than repaid by the respect



and gratitude that I get back from people who are making a real effort to get their lives back on track.”

We are grateful to Bhavesh, and to all of our volunteers, for bringing hope to those who need it most.

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.

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We Offer

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

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FAITH IN FOCUS INTO THIS WORLD OF COMPETING TRUTHS

Our Lord speaks gently.

Not about whether God exists or not. But whether someone is hungry or not.

Our Lord speaks urgently.

Not about our ambitions. But whether we can offer comfort to someone who is hurting.

Our Lord speaks hopefully.

Not about what we can get. But about what we can give.

Our Lord speaks apologetically.

Not about what has been withheld from us. But about the things we have withheld from others.

Our Lord speaks forgivingly.

Not to have us forget wrongs. But to encourage us to make right what is wrong.

Our Lord speaks lovingly.

Not to drown out the hate. But to give us what we all want.

Over the last 20 years that I have been at The Ottawa Mission I have watched you, our donors and volunteers, give your time and

resources to the work of this ministry. Through your compassion and caring you make the voice of the Lord clearly heard in the hearts and souls of the homeless, and it changes their lives for the better. The programs you make possible have a real and lasting impact on the lives of many who feel lost and alone.

We are ever grateful to you, because you generously reach out to others who are in need. Through you, the voice of the Lord will continue to be heard by the tangible acts of love that you make possible.

Rev. Laird Eddy
Executive Director, The Ottawa Mission Foundation



GIVE A GIFT OF HOPE

For only \$2.97 you can provide a special meal at our Easter dinner on April 1, 2013 and help bring hope to someone in need. Please give today.

To make a donation, visit
ottawamission.com

