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**WE ARE THANKFUL AND INSPIRED
BY YOUR GENEROSITY.**

**Thanksgiving
2017**

For only **\$3.47**, you can provide a warm meal and help bring hope to someone who is hungry this Thanksgiving.

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 Thanksgiving celebration
we expect to serve more than 2,700 meals.**



YOUR GENEROSITY IS AN INSPIRATION

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in Thanksgiving to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:11

Summer is almost over, and before we know it the Thanksgiving season will be upon us. We all have so much to be thankful for – our families, friends, good health, fulfilling jobs, the opportunity to enjoy our retirement years.

That’s why I am humbled by the gratitude expressed to us every day by the people you help serve at The Ottawa Mission – people who have endured much and have little to be thankful for.

Almost every day I get the chance to speak with some of the people who require the programs and services of The Mission. A couple of times a week, I usually cross paths with David and we have the chance to banter back and forth about the latest sports scores and where we see our teams heading into the playoffs. I realized one day that David’s sports experience is far different than mine. When he can, he listens to the games on a little radio he carries in his pocket.

Another thing that is different about David is that he needs to come to the Mission every day for his meals – without which, he’s

not sure how he would survive. But for David, it goes beyond nourishment – the fellowship of the staff and other clients at The Mission is equally important to him. As he said, “I don’t like to be alone...I need to share a meal with someone.”

In that moment I had a renewed sense of all the people who walk with us in faith as we extend the hand of love and compassion to people who are homeless, hungry and hurting. And I thank God, because He has provided us with all of you.

Blessings,

Sean Wong

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE OTTAWA MISSION FOUNDATION



LEARN ABOUT BECOMING A MONTHLY DONOR

To find out about becoming a monthly donor – *a Champion of Hope* – please call 613-234-1155, or email foundation@ottawamission.com.

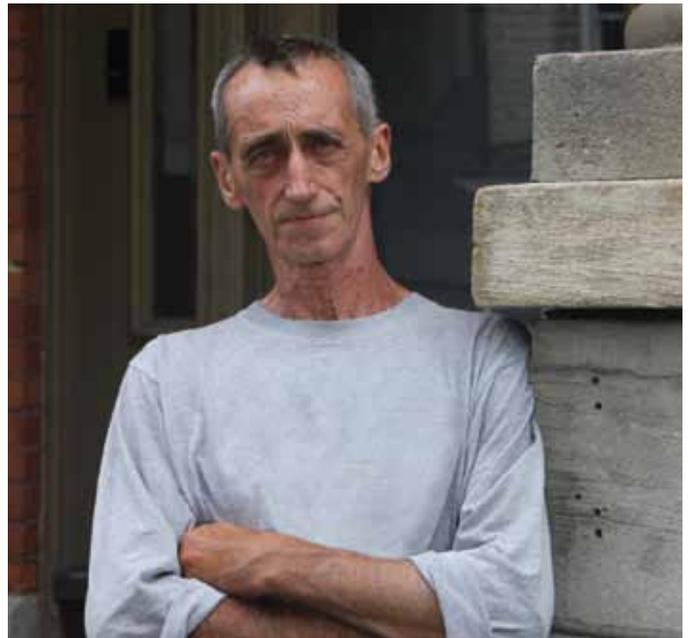
GEORGE NAVIGATES TO A BETTER LIFE

On Canada's 150th birthday, George celebrated one year of sobriety. His journey to this milestone has been a long and winding one, but he's thankful to The Ottawa Mission and you for his success.

George is 61 and was born in Cape Anguille, Newfoundland, once a bustling fishing village near Port aux Basques. He was one of eight children and was a commercial fisherman for most of his younger years. When the cod fishery collapsed in 1992 most people in Cape Anguille, George included, lost the only livelihood and sense of community they'd ever known. Some turned to alcohol to ease their pain, and George was one of them.

Over the years, as George travelled the country searching for sobriety and work, he stayed in shelters in pretty much every major Canadian city – including Halifax, Toronto, London, Calgary and Vancouver. He says it wasn't until he arrived at The Ottawa Mission that he finally got the help he needed.

When speaking about The Mission, George will often say that it really is what it claims to be – “more than a shelter” – and that this is what makes a difference to people who often have to navigate the system without the support they need to get back on track. He says, “At The Mission, no matter what challenges you are facing – mental illness, health issues, long term addiction, poor housing options – there is always someone there to help. So, instead of



giving up because you can't find the answers or support you need, you can work together with staff - all under one roof - to improve your life.” George's own journey led him through the full range of addiction treatment available at The Mission, from the Day Program (a daily drop in session) through the Hope Program, and Stabilization, and on to our five month residential LifeHouse treatment program. We also helped George access a Custodial Skills training program where he renewed his certificates in Health & Safety, First Aid and CPR.

Today George is living in one of our Second Stage transitional houses while he works part time, helps out his elderly neighbour with her yard work, and continues his recovery. As George says, “I wouldn't be here today without the wonderful staff at The Mission and the people who support their work.” Fair sailing, George!



COME AND TOUR THE OTTAWA MISSION!

We welcome anyone interested in learning more about how we help people in need. If you would like to come in for a visit, we would be happy to show you around the shelter and provide you with information about our programs and services. It is also a chance for you to learn more about this multi-faceted community resource centre. We would ask that those interested in a tour call to make arrangements in advance.

To arrange for your tour of The Ottawa Mission please contact Shirley Roy, sroy@ottawamission.com or 613-234-1144 ext. 305.

GLEN IS GRATEFUL TO BE HOME

Glen has spent much of his adult life in and out of shelters across Canada, including The Ottawa Mission, struggling with addiction and trying to find a way to stabilize his life.

Glen stayed with us for several months last year and says although life is pretty chaotic living in a shelter and sharing a dorm with others, he feels The Mission is one of the best shelters in Canada. He appreciates the volunteers and staff that work hard every day to keep the shelter clean and prepare meals for people staying here. Glen goes on to say, "Dealing with a serious addiction for most of my life left me on the streets for years. I'm a very private person and asking for help was hard – I always felt judged. But I didn't feel that way at The Mission. A housing case manager worked with me to find a safe and affordable place to live which, in turn, stabilized my life. I live alone and still visit The Mission from time to time for a meal because it is a very welcoming place."



Glen adds that even now that he has his own place he continues to receive support for practical things like how to pay bills and establish routine in his life. Glen has few friends and admits loneliness can hit sometimes. But he's very happy to finally have a place of his own and grateful to The Mission and its supporters for their generosity.



Please Join Us for a Special Seminar "Understanding My Will and Estate Plan"

At this seminar, you will learn from legal and accounting experts how you can provide for your heirs, remember loved ones and support causes that are important to you in your Will.

When: Friday, September 29, 2017 – 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Where: The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre

Complimentary parking is available and a light lunch will be served.

Please RSVP by September 20 to Angie Kelly at 613-234-1155 or akelly@ottawamission.com. Space is limited.

WENYIN – THE FACE OF INSPIRATION

When you meet Wenyin for the first time you are struck by his beaming smile and humble nature. And when you hear about his journey over the past year, you can't help but be amazed by how much he has turned his life around in such a short space of time.

Wenyin is 36 and emigrated to Canada with his mother and sister from South Sudan fourteen years ago seeking asylum from persecution. Wenyin struggled for many of those fourteen years, and his self-destructive behaviour caused a rift in his family.

Things came to a head in the fall of 2016 when Wenyin lost his property management job and his apartment. He came to The Ottawa Mission in crisis and has not turned back. Right away he started attending our Day Program – a drop in session for men suffering from addiction. He also visited our medical clinic where he received treatment for depression, and strengthened his commitment to healing by attending our daily chapel service and participating in bible study.

When Wenyin learned about our Stepping Stones Learning Centre, he grasped the opportunity to improve his future job prospects by working on



completing his high school education. At this writing, he is just a couple of months away from achieving this. But there's more!

Wenyin also completed a Custodial Training Program offered by St. Nicholas Adult High School, and this summer he is working every morning at Inspiration Village in the Byward Market as part of a maintenance team keeping the site in pristine condition.

As Wenyin says, "Before I came to The Mission, I had never completed anything I started, and I was wasting my life. Now, with the support and encouragement of everyone I have met at The Mission, I have accomplished more than I could have imagined. They keep me motivated and I still feel inspired every day."

Congratulations, Wenyin. We are inspired too!



IMAGINE CANADA ACCREDITATION

This summer, The Ottawa Mission Foundation formally received accreditation from Imagine Canada's Standards Program.

The Standards Program awards accreditation to charities and non-profits that demonstrate excellence in five fundamental areas of operation: board governance; financial accountability and transparency; fundraising; staff management; and volunteer involvement. The Ottawa Mission Foundation joins a select group of 220+ charities and non-profits in Canada to receive this special accreditation.

The Standards Program Trustmark is a mark of Imagine Canada used under licence by The Ottawa Mission Foundation



ENGAGE AND CONNECT WITH THE OTTAWA MISSION

Are you looking for ways to get involved with or learn more about The Ottawa Mission? Here are some upcoming opportunities you may want to consider.

The Ottawa Mission Foundation's Young Professionals Network Launches in September

The Young Professionals Network (YPN) is a committee of enthusiastic professionals who would like to make an impact in our community. Through volunteering, event organizing and fundraising, you will contribute to the success of the life changing programs helping people in need at The Ottawa Mission, all while working alongside like-minded young professionals. Interested in getting involved? Email Bianca Oran at boran@ottawamission.com to learn more!

Volunteer Orientation

The next information session for people considering becoming volunteers at The Ottawa Mission is taking place on Wednesday, September 13 at 7 p.m. in the shelter dining room. Everyone is welcome.

The Ottawa Mission's Speakers' Series

Join us for a series of talks/discussion groups on a variety of topics. All sessions take place in the Mission's Chapel at 53 Daly Street and begin at 7 p.m. Here are two upcoming sessions.

Monday, September 25 – Walking Together: A panel discussion about how The Ottawa Mission's services have helped two men along their journey.

Monday, October 23 – Ottawa Mission Board Member and former Member of Parliament Jack Murta will share how his many years volunteering in a number of capacities at The Mission has enriched his life and strengthened his faith.

Please RSVP your attendance to Miriam Dupuis at 613-234-1144, ext. 297 or volunteer@ottawamission.com.

You're Invited to the "Blue Door Gala" Dinner In Support of The Ottawa Mission

Thursday, November 16, Christ Church Cathedral. Tickets are required. For details please visit ottawamission.com/events.

Community Events

The Ottawa Mission will be part of the following two upcoming community events. If you are there, please drop by for a visit!

Fifty-five Plus Lifestyle Show – September 15 & 16, Ernst & Young Centre, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Byward Market Non-Profit Day
– Sunday, September 17, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Save the Date for the Coldest Night of the Year!

The 4th annual Coldest Night of the Year event benefitting The Ottawa Mission will take place on Saturday, February 24, 2018. Stay tuned to future newsletters and our web site for more information.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

A KIND AND GRATEFUL HEART

As she approached retirement after 40 years as a counsellor and social worker, Jean Wylie was looking for volunteer opportunities. Thankfully for us, she answered the call one day to help make sandwiches at The Ottawa Mission. That was seven years ago, and Jean has become a familiar face to the staff and clients at The Mission where she never misses her Tuesday shift helping to prepare and serve meals.

Beyond this, Jean volunteers or participates in just about every community fundraiser that The Mission is involved in – including Coldest Night of the Year, WestFest and many more.

But for Jean, working in the kitchen and serving people in need holds a special place in her heart. She points out that many clients at first are reluctant to even make eye contact with the volunteers and staff. But, she says that over time they come to trust you. “Sharing a smile with someone who likely doesn’t get a lot of people smiling at them during their day is an uplifting



experience. And the gratitude they express is overwhelming. I’m also very grateful.”

As Jean was returning home from the shelter recently, still wearing her Mission Volunteer t-shirt, she was approached at the bus stop by a young man. He wanted her to know that five years ago he was a client at The Mission, and his life has totally turned around. He is working full time and has a place of his own. He just wanted Jean to know that her work as a volunteer really matters.

It really matters to us too Jean! Thank you and God bless.

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 healing, faith and hope for building a wholesome life.

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The Ottawa Mission Offers

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

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A SON'S INSPIRATION... A LIFE CHANGED

At 55, Chris is beginning a whole new life – one he could never have imagined even a year ago.

Chris's adulthood was marked by addiction and trouble with the law. Although he was college educated and had a good job, a number of influences – including a troubled relationship with his father, the sudden death of his mother, and failed personal relationships – led him to a life of drugs.

Thirteen years ago, Chris became a father. As with most people, becoming a parent was life-changing for Chris, but he was not equipped – mentally or physically – to really embrace fatherhood because of his addiction.

Then one day his young son came up to him, put his hands on Chris's face, and said, "Please stop what you're doing. I need my Dad in my life." Chris vowed to himself to conquer his addiction, and he was successful. But Chris had a lot of difficulty finding work – he says not only because of his background, but also because of all his tattoos.

Last year Chris was on social assistance when his case worker told him about the Food Services



Training Program at The Ottawa Mission. Chris had always had a passion for cooking, so he immediately applied and was accepted – tattoos and all!

Chris graduated from the five month program in June, and is working full time. As Chris says, "I am so grateful to my son for being such an inspiration to me, and to The Mission for the training and encouragement they have provided. I have a career now, and I have hope for the future. And most importantly, I can provide for my son."



SHOW THAT YOU CARE THIS THANKSGIVING

For only \$3.47, you can provide a special meal at our Thanksgiving dinner on October 9th and help bring hope to someone in need. Please give today.

Please give today at ottawamission.com