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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CHRISTMAS GIFT OF HOPE.**

**Christmas  
2017**

**CHAMPIONS OF  
HOPE**

**Thank you!**



As a Champion of Hope, your monthly gift touches the lives of many lost and lonely people in our community, and gives them the gifts of hope and opportunity.

**Your monthly gift allows us to keep our doors open every day to help people when they need it most.**



## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

“...with God all things are possible.”

Matthew – 19:26

For so many of us, the Christmas season is filled with happiness as we spend time with our families and build new memories. For people staying at The Ottawa Mission, however, this can be an especially difficult time of year.

The people you help us serve, whether by providing them with food and shelter, or helping them with job training, or offering them the chance to receive life-changing treatment for their addiction, also have families and friends. But because of their circumstances, many have little contact with the people who mean the most to them. And, at this time of year, being apart from loved ones is especially painful.

Through the grace of God, and because you care, we are able to bring hope to those who need our help at this blessed time of year. For each of the people who have shared their stories with us in this newsletter, what seemed impossible this time last year has become possible. Chris has newfound hope, Monique has confidence and a new career, Barry is back at work, and Pierre has found joy in life. And they, and so many others who have walked

through our doors, have been made to feel a part of our family here at The Mission.

We thank you for your kindness – at Christmas and all year round. Peter Tilley and his team at The Mission are using your gifts to truly change lives and turning impossibilities into everyday miracles for those who need help the most.

As a volunteer at The Ottawa Mission Foundation, I’m humbled and grateful for your generous and faithful support.

God bless you.

Michael Pallett  
**PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**THE OTTAWA MISSION FOUNDATION**



## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

The Ottawa Mission is a great place to volunteer. We have over 250 individuals who volunteer at the shelter weekly, and they have a huge impact on the quality and delivery of the services we offer. By being a part of our team, you can make all the difference.

Learn more about volunteering with The Ottawa Mission at [ottawamission.com/volunteer](http://ottawamission.com/volunteer) or call Miriam Dupuis at 613-234-1144, ext. 297, or attend our next Volunteer Orientation on Wednesday, December 13 at 7 p.m. in the shelter dining room.

## BARRY'S GIFT OF "THE EXTRA MILE"

It's been a rough few years for 56 year-old Barry. He had a good job for 14 years as a window installer until the company closed its doors. And then he had some serious medical problems that left him with a long recuperation and unable to work. For the first time in his life, Barry found himself needing social assistance to make ends meet.

As time went by, Barry's health improved, but he couldn't uncover any job opportunities. Part of the problem was, having been in the same job for so long, Barry was at a loss as to how to conduct an effective job search. Barry's brother had spent some time at The Ottawa Mission, and he recommended that Barry connect with our Client Services Centre.

The Mission's Client Services Centre provides a variety of support to people who are struggling – whether they're looking for housing, upgrading their education and job skills, or looking for referrals to other community support services. For Barry, it was all about finding a job. Staff helped him in so many ways - building a solid resume, providing training in computer basics, hands-on assistance with his job search, helping complete application forms, and even accessing the proper clothing to wear to interviews.



Today, Barry is working full-time, and he is so thankful for all the support he received. "People were unbelievably helpful, and their kindness put a smile in my heart. I'm so grateful that this type of service was available for me. They went the extra mile for me, and I'll never forget it."

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*"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'"*

Matthew 25:44-45



### 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 Leila Jakubinek, [ljakubinek@ottawamission.com](mailto:ljakubinek@ottawamission.com) , or 613-234-1144 ext. 236.**



## MONIQUE'S GIFT OF A BETTER FUTURE

Monique was working part time in the cafeteria at Algonquin College earlier this year, and having a difficult time making ends meet, when she unexpectedly received a special gift from a fellow employee – the gift of hope. The gift came from William, a graduate of The Ottawa Mission's Food Services Training Program (FSTP).

Monique enjoyed working in the cafeteria, but lacked the formal training that would help her move ahead to a better job and a long-term career. William told her all about the FSTP, and she was intrigued enough to investigate further.

Monique has since graduated from the five-month program and can't say enough about her experience. Asked about her first impression of The Mission she says, "I was in awe. People think this place is just a soup kitchen, but it's so much more, and the door is always open." Monique was equally impressed with the FSTP, which offers people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness an opportunity to gain the skills they need to find a good job.



She points out that, aside from working in a fully-equipped industrial kitchen, the program also has a theory component to it – and the textbooks used are from Algonquin College's culinary program. Students also receive certification in First Aid, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), health and safety, and food handling.

Since graduating from the program, Monique is working part-time, and pursuing full-time opportunities. In her words, "The Mission, and the FSTP, have provided me with the motivation and confidence I need to build a better future. I am very grateful for this special gift."



## LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY OF HOPE

Homelessness is an ongoing challenge that doesn't have a simple fix. But there is something you can do that will help those who will walk through the doors of The Ottawa Mission for years to come - by remembering The Mission with a gift in your will.

For more information about becoming a member of The Ottawa Mission's Legacy Circle, please visit our website - [ottawamission.com/legacycastle](http://ottawamission.com/legacycastle) - or contact Angie Kelly at 613-234-1155, or by email at [akelly@ottawamission.com](mailto:akelly@ottawamission.com).

## CHRIS' GIFT OF A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Two extraordinary things happened to Chris this year that have given him a new lease on life. Chris has been homeless since he was 16. He is now 56. He has lived his life either on the streets or in and out of shelters between here and Toronto.

Chris came to The Ottawa Mission a year ago. He was suffering from cancer and became a patient at our Hospice. He came and went from the Hospice while he underwent surgery and treatment and recently, while still in our care, he received the wonderful news that his cancer was in remission. That's the first extraordinary thing.

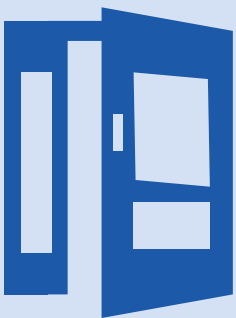
While staying with us and gaining strength, we connected Chris with resources to find him somewhere to live and now, for the first time in his life, he has a place to call home. That's the second extraordinary thing.

Of his time at The Mission, Chris says, "You couldn't ask for better people. They've given me a chance that I've never had before."



Despite his hardships, Chris has always felt empathy for others in his situation, and gave his time, when he could, to volunteer at soup kitchens.

Chris is now living in a supported housing facility, continuing to regain his health, and strengthening his commitment to finding a way to give back and help others. He aspires to be an outreach worker and his strong faith guides him in his journey. As Chris told us, "Even though it seems sometimes like there is no point in going on, faith will bring you hope." We couldn't agree more.



## *Blue Door Gala*'S SUCCESSFUL DEBUT!

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the more than 160 people who attended our sold-out inaugural Blue Door Gala dinner on November 16th. A special thanks to all of our sponsors, without whom the event would not have been possible. Visit [ottawamission.com/bluedoorgala](http://ottawamission.com/bluedoorgala) for a complete listing of sponsors and to see photos of the event.

Events like this not only raise much needed funds for life-changing programs at The Ottawa Mission, but also provide the opportunity for our supporters to get to know one another, and to learn more about the ongoing issues impacting homeless people in our community.



## 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.

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### It's Cold Out There – Are you ready to walk and raise funds for the homeless?

Coldest Night of the Year is a family-friendly walking fundraiser for the homeless. As a walker, you will experience a hint of the challenges faced by people who are homeless in the winter while raising much-needed money for people in need in our community.

Join us on Saturday, February 24, 2018 and walk 2k, 5k or 10k to support The Ottawa Mission. Individuals or teams are welcome.

For more information, visit [coldestnightoftheyear.org/ottawamission](http://coldestnightoftheyear.org/ottawamission) or contact Leila Jakubinek at 613-234-1144, ext. 236 or [ljakubinek@ottawamission.com](mailto:ljakubinek@ottawamission.com).

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### Fundraise for the Ottawa Mission!

There are countless ways to help change the lives of hungry and homeless people who walk through the doors of The Ottawa Mission every day.

One way you can make a difference is to host a fundraiser. It's an opportunity to get your school, workplace, church, or family and friends involved in a very worthwhile cause.

We have developed a new set of on-line tools to make organizing your fundraiser easy. Visit [www.ottawamission.com/events](http://www.ottawamission.com/events) for all the details – and you can start fundraising today!

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### Volunteer Orientation

The next information sessions for people considering becoming volunteers at The Ottawa Mission are taking place at 7 p.m. in the shelter dining room on the following dates:

- Wednesday, December 13th
- Wednesday, January 10th

Everyone is welcome.

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### The Ottawa Mission's Speakers' Series

Join us for a series of talks/discussion groups on a variety of topics. The next session will be taking place on **Monday, January 22nd** in The Mission's dining room at 53 Daly Street beginning at 7 p.m. and the topic will be the **growing fentanyl crisis** and its impact on our community.

Please RSVP your attendance to Miriam Dupuis at 613-234-1144, ext. 297 or [volunteer@ottawamission.com](mailto:volunteer@ottawamission.com).

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### Connect with us via Social Media

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

 [facebook.com/OttawaMission](https://facebook.com/OttawaMission)

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 [instagram.com/OttawaMission](https://instagram.com/OttawaMission)

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# VOLUNTEER CORNER

## HARVEY JUST KEEPS ON GIVING

At 75, Harvey Steinwald has done a lot of volunteer work. He feels fortunate in his life and wants to give back to his community.

For many years, Harvey has been a member of the Ottawa chapter of the Knights of Pythias - an international charitable fundraising organization. They have been donating to The Ottawa Mission for 15 years – most recently contributing towards special bakeware for our kitchen, where we serve an average of 1,307 meals a day.

Harvey had never visited The Mission in person until just last year and, for him, it was a truly eye-opening experience. He said he realized for the first time the extent of the good work that was happening here, and he decided right away that he wanted to be part of it. Now, every Wednesday, Harvey hops on the bus outside his home in Kanata for his 45 minute ride to The Mission, where he spends the morning helping



in the kitchen and serving lunch to several hundred people.

“The work that goes into providing good food to people in need is extraordinary,” says Harvey. “The Mission’s kitchen team is welcoming and very well organized, and volunteering here simply makes my day. I go home pretty tired after my shift, but it’s so gratifying to know I’ve made a difference.” Harvey, on behalf of all of us, we thank you for your generous support – past, present, and hopefully for long into the future. You have become part of our family, and we are so grateful for all that you do!

### 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/Palliative Care

### The Ottawa Mission Foundation Board of Directors

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## PIERRE'S GIFT OF A SMILE

A few years ago, Pierre woke up on a park bench in the rain in Simcoe, Ontario. He was addicted, homeless and suicidal. His childhood was one marked by a dysfunctional family, a poor education, and little or no affection. And he had forgotten how to smile. But that night he felt a glimmer of hope. He says it was a sign from God, and he somehow found the strength to reach out for the help he needed to change his life.

He came to Ottawa for treatment of his addiction and, while in treatment, he learned about The Ottawa Mission's Second Stage Housing program. This program offers transitional housing to men in recovery who need time to prepare for re-entry into the community. At our Second Stage houses, a group of six men cook, clean and re-learn how to look after themselves. They also receive regular support from Ottawa Mission staff as they continue their journey.

Pierre was welcomed into Second Stage – and it was a time, he says, that transformed his life. The care he received had an amazing impact on him. "Working with people at The Mission



has taught me so much. It has taught me that there are good people willing to help if only you ask. And they have given me the tools I need for a better life."

Pierre is now living in his own place, attending church, going back to school, and looking forward to his future. As Pierre says, "I am so proud to say that I am now over 2 years sober. I thank God and The Mission for saving my life. Today I have many reasons to smile."

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*"Share with the Lord's  
people who are in need.  
Practice hospitality."*

Romans 12:13



**The Ottawa Mission operates 24/7, 365 days a year providing food, shelter and vital services to hungry, homeless and hurting people who walk through our doors in search of a better life. Monthly donors like you are vital to our work, and we thank you for your faithful generosity.**