HOPE springs eternal

HOPE GROWS HERE

HOW YOU ARE BRINGING FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE TO OUR COMMUNITY’S HOMELESS
The number of Shepherds of Good Hope facilities located across Ottawa

8

The number of unique clients served across our three shelter programs in 2016

OVER 2000

The value of the hours donated by volunteers in 2016

$1.2 MILLION

The number of meals served in the soup kitchen in 2016

MORE THAN 300,000

Number of individuals who live in one of our five supportive living facilities

195

The amount of fresh produce harvested by Hope Garden in 2016

7000 LBS

YOU MAKE HOPE POSSIBLE.
Hope
Since 2003, Hope Garden has been bringing fresh, locally grown produce to the clients and residents of Shepherds of Good Hope. The 6,000-square-foot garden is located in the Kilborn Allotment Gardens, with five plots donated by the City of Ottawa and one by a generous donor. Last year alone, Hope Garden harvested over 7,000 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables – all in support of our community’s most vulnerable.

It takes a community to grow Hope Garden; it wouldn’t be possible without a dedicated team of volunteers and a generous group of donors. Since 2004, Lee Valley Tools has installed a state-of-the-art irrigation system which helps keep the garden lush and green. Every year, Greely Sand and Gravel donates a truckload of compost and topsoil, keeping the earth rich and ready to produce. Laporte’s Nursery donates seedlings for free, providing the head start the garden needs to succeed. And support from generous donors – like you – helps ensure this special place continues to grow food for the hungry and hope for our entire community.

Some Hope Garden volunteers, like avid gardener Gerta, have been involved since the beginning. Some, like Peter and Ann, were gardening novices when they joined and now share their passion for horticulture with friends and family. Dedicated volunteers tend to the garden six days a week – watering, weeding and looking after the crops. They even deliver the harvested produce directly to the soup kitchen and supportive living residences, bringing joy to clients and residents when they walk in the door.

To the hungry at Shepherds of Good Hope, these are more than just vegetables – they are a reminder that people care. They are a symbol of hope.

Gardening begins in the first week of May and runs until early October. The first harvest, fresh lettuce for hearty salads, is in mid-June and planting is staggered to ensure yields are consistent throughout the growing season. While there are staples in the garden like cabbage, onions, beans, tomatoes, garlic and herbs, Hope Garden volunteers decide collectively what else to grow based on the needs of the soup kitchen and supportive living programs. Innovation is at the heart of every program at Shepherds of Good Hope, and Hope Garden is no exception; new for 2017 are trial crops of kale, Swiss chard and zucchini.

Hope Garden grows more than just vegetables to feed our community’s most vulnerable – it grows hope. Hope for today and for tomorrow.
IN THE EARLY 80S, Emer Cronin and her husband Barry, along with their two children, emigrated from Dublin, Ireland to Alberta, Canada. They thought it would be fun to try living in a different country for a couple of years. Two more children and 35 years later, Emer and her family are still living in Canada. A job brought their family to Ottawa and Emer’s church brought her to Shepherds of Good Hope, where she’s been making a difference in the lives of our community’s needy ever since.

Since 1988, Devine Infant Church in Orleans has been supplying Shepherds of Good Hope’s soup kitchen with volunteers for Sundays in July and August – the most weekends covered by any parish in the city. Emer used to help coordinate these shifts, organizing 15-20 volunteers for each shift over the nine weekends in the summer. She also led a team that helped prep and serve the meals to our community’s hungry. She liked the inclusive atmosphere of Shepherds of Good Hope and that clients were treated with dignity and respect. Four years ago, Emer had every Wednesday off from work. She decided to use this day to volunteer in the Shepherds of Good Hope clothing program. She enjoys the opportunity to make personal connections with those who use the service.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE IMPACT she feels she has on her community, Emer speaks of the endless need she’s witnessed during her decades at Shepherds of Good Hope. “Sometimes it feels like you’re only making a small drop in the ocean. The need is endless. When I first moved here, I didn’t think Ottawa would have such a need and it just keeps growing,” she says. “But it’s so much better than not doing anything. It also gets the word out – spreads the message across community.”

EMER BELIEVES THAT if you’ve been fortunate in your own life, you should help others. In fact, helping others is one of her core values, which is why Emer also chooses to donate generously to Shepherds of Good Hope on a monthly basis.

“You do what you can through volunteering but you only have so many hours in a week. The money can be put to good use at any time. You’re able to see the growth of the organization through innovative programs and you get to watch the funds help the various programs grow.”

Shepherds of Good Hope is grateful for our dedicated team of volunteers and monthly donors, like Emer, who help create a community for all through acceptance, compassion and care.
DID YOU KNOW that over 20% of clients who accessed our emergency shelter services in 2016 identified as indigenous? And of those, over 8% identified as Inuit. This is in stark contrast to the national averages; the 2011 National Household Survey shows that 4.3% of the total Canadian population had identified as indigenous and only 0.2% identified as Inuit.

A strong sense of community is at the heart of every Shepherds of Good Hope program. By acknowledging the unique cultural differences of our clients and residents, we strengthen that sense of community. In 2016, the Inuit Cultural Liaison program was developed, in partnership with Tungasuvvingat Inuit, to target the specific needs of our community’s Inuit clients and residents.

The yearlong program, funded by a $71,300 seed grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), offered cultural programming and support to Inuit clients residing at Shepherds of Good Hope. The Inuit Cultural Liaison assisted these individuals by acting as a cultural interpreter, providing case planning on a client-to-client basis, seeing clients through crises, hosting community feasts and connecting them with housing resources from other service providers.

As with many cultures, food is an important element of this community. To celebrate the end of Inuit Cultural Liaison Program, Shepherds of Good Hope and Tungasuvvingat Inuit hosted a special Community Feast Celebration. The Community Feast Celebration featured traditional Inuit food such as arctic char, caribou stew and bannock, as well as Inuit throat singing performed by volunteers. Through support from generous funders and individual donors like you, we are able to continue in our mission of creating a community for all through acceptance, compassion and care.

“SUPPORT FROM THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION MEANS THAT LOCAL NON-PROFITS, LIKE THE SHEPHERDS OF GOOD HOPE, CAN CONTINUE TO DELIVER INITIATIVES AND SERVICES THAT MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE RIGHT HERE IN OTTAWA–VANIER. I AM PLEASED THAT OUR GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BE A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAM.”

NATHALIE DES ROSIERS, MPP FOR OTTAWA–VANIER
HAVE YOU EVER passed by Shepherds of Good Hope’s main shelter on King Edward St. and seen an ambulance or police car parked outside? Like many in our community, you may have assumed those vehicles were there to pick someone up. What most people don’t know is that they’re often there to drop someone off at our Transitional Emergency Shelter Program (TESP).

Shepherds of Good Hope has always welcomed intoxicated individuals in our emergency shelter, many of whom are highly transient, active in their addictions and known to be some of the most vulnerable men and women in our community. Over the years, it became apparent that there was a need for a more comprehensive program to help engage these individuals. From this need came TESP, which combines case management, medical care and recovery services to better meet the needs of our community’s hardest to reach.

TESP has a full-time registered nurse, a client care-worker and a frontline employee on-site 24/7. The program accepts clients who have been picked up for public intoxication by paramedics or police. The benefit to diverting clients from hospital emergency rooms or police jail cells is twofold – better care for the women and men who require assistance and lower costs incurred by hospital emergency wards to treat these individuals.

Each client admitted to TESP is attended to immediately by staff who are familiar with their type of case, behaviour and medications. On-site case workers help them set goals, find missing identification, acquire social service income, and access referrals to mental health and housing supports. Since its inception in 2013, TESP has saved the city a conservative estimate of over $2 million in emergency services costs and freed up space in emergency rooms across the city.

With your support, Shepherds of Good Hope continues to develop innovative programs to best address the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community, as well as our community at large. Next time you pass by an emergency services vehicle parked by the main shelter, we hope you feel a sense of pride knowing that you are helping bring hope to our community’s hardest to reach.
Generous, forward-thinking supporters who have chosen to establish their legacy by including Shepherds of Good Hope in their will, either with a fixed amount or a percentage of their estate, will be inducted as lifetime members into the Beacon of Hope Society. By making an enduring promise of hope to those in our community who are struggling these donors are a guiding light for the future. They are a Beacon of Hope.

To immortalize the members of the Beacon of Hope Society, we have created a special legacy wall in the soup kitchen chapel. Over 60 names have already been added to the wall, shining down and watching over the men and women who use our services, reminding them they are not forgotten and are never alone. For more information on leaving a gift in your will, please contact Micah Garten at 613-789-8210 ext 241 or by emailing mgarten@shepherdsofgoodhope.com

**THE BEST FIELD**  
**By John Blakeley - Resident, Hope Living**

When love come calling for you  
It came it came with humble steps  
The foot prints of each other  
The tears of our regrets

To lift the other higher  
Good courage and great peace  
The prayers of our lifetimes  
Continue when we meet

When love came calling  
What was under heaven?  
And saw so many broken wings  
I staked my claim right there  
And chose the best field  
To toil a servant  
And a friend

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

John Blakeley was born and raised in Ottawa, Ontario. An avid musician and artist, John writes his own music, lyrics and poems. A former infantry soldier and insurance agent, John’s battle with severe depression began in the early nineties and left him unable to maintain a completely independent lifestyle. A resident of Shepherds of Good Hope’s supportive-living facilities since 2002, John now lives at Shepherds of Good Hope’s Kanata-based seniors’ residence, Hope Living. Like what you read? Keep an eye on your mailbox! This Christmas, John will be sharing more of his life story and more from his collection of touching poems.
Shepherds of Good Hope’s signature fundraising event, the 5th annual A Taste for Hope, presented by BMO Wealth Management, was held on March 22, 2017 at the Horticulture Building, Lansdowne Park. The fundraiser grossed over $73,000 in support of Ottawa’s most vulnerable women and men. The foodie event of the year, A Taste for Hope featured 18 of Ottawa’s top chefs, each preparing a dish in their signature cooking style for the guests’ enjoyment. To wet the palette, attendees enjoyed an open bar with local wines, craft cocktails and gourmet coffee beverages. The silent and live auctions drew the attention of everyone in the room; items up for grabs included vacation getaways, home furnishing packages, exclusive music passes and unique chef experiences like the Beechwood Chefs & Friends Package, a sit-down meal for ten featuring six of Ottawa’s top chefs each preparing a course.

Shepherds of Good Hope would like to thank everyone who attended the event, participating food and beverage venues, event sponsors, dedicated event volunteers and everyone else who helped make the evening a true success. Your support ensures that our community’s most vulnerable will continue to receive the care they deserve. Our community is stronger because of you! Keep an eye out for the 6th annual A Taste for Hope coming in March 2018!