

SHEPHERDS OF GOOD NEWS

2020-2021

**SHEPHERDS OF GOOD HOPE
LES BERGERS DE L'ESPOIR**

233, RUE MURRAY STREET
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YOUR

YEAR

OF

GIVING

HOPE



This year, our community has stepped up like never before to help us weather the storm of COVID-19. Thank you for staying by our side. See inside for how you inspired hope.

MISSION OF HOPE

You can be a part of our **mission of hope! Help us provide dignity to a person in need by offering them the chance to change their life.**



Mosee was born in Iqaluit, Nunavut and moved to Ottawa in 2007. She is a mother, a grandmother and even a great-grandmother! Mosee's smile lights up any room she walks into. Today, she is a strong, joyful, and thoughtful woman.

Mosee lived on the streets and in and out of Shepherds of Good Hope's shelter for more than 6 years until she eventually found her permanent home at The Oaks, one of Shepherds of Good Hope's supportive housing residences. When she first came to The Oaks, she was so happy to have her own place to call home. Mosee likes going out into the community and getting involved in different activities. She connects with her community through the Inuk Task force. She likes to dance and play bingo and cards.

Mosee has found the pandemic difficult. She misses going out and doing things, being around everyone. Although she is happy she has her own home, she gets lonely at times because of the novel coronavirus.

"I'm so happy here. I have lots of friends at The Oaks. **Now, I have my own home."**



Durwin grew up in a small town near Toronto but lived most of his life in Kingston, Ontario. He decided to move to Ottawa in 1989 to try to find work and a place to live that was more affordable, however things did not go as planned and he soon found himself at Shepherds of Good Hope.

Durwin was homeless and stayed in our shelter until 2013 when he moved to our supportive housing residence in Kanata, Hope Living. He has happily lived there ever since and treasures having a home and community to call his own.

Since his move, Durwin has gone back to school and is now a certified bookkeeper. He also runs the tuck shop, which is a mini variety store for residents at Hope Living. He helps to organize the residence's weekly Bingo Night and enjoys many of the activities that are offered at Hope Living. Durwin has

really thrived living in a community setting with activities and outings he can engage in with friends. He has regained a lot of his confidence since moving to Hope Living.

"Without Hope Living, I don't know where I'd be. **I love it here."**

BEACON OF HOPE SOCIETY

Judy Lawson has always had a passion for helping others. By leaving a gift in her will through the Beacon of Hope Society, she ensures her memory lives on.



To her children, Michael and Hillary, their mom was someone who cared for those around her. If she saw anyone struggling or going through a tough time, she would be there, without question or judgement. She had a gift for seeing the whole person, not just their situation in life.

Judy spent a lifetime building a legacy of caring and thoughtfulness. She lived by her values. Through the simple act of leaving a gift in her will, she ensured that those causes were cared for even after she was gone.

She was a mother, a teacher, and an eternal optimist. In her teaching career, she went out of her way to help her students who were struggling the most. She knew that everyone has potential, and that at some point, we all need some extra help.

Judy sought to provide encouragement and hope to many of the people she met throughout her life.

She believed everyone should be treated with compassion, care, dignity, and respect. Judy saw these same values echoed in the work being done at Shepherds of Good Hope, which made it a natural fit. At first her children didn't know she had left Shepherds of Good Hope in her will, but when they learned she had made a legacy gift, they said it "made so much sense." That's just the type of woman Judy was.

For Michael and Hillary, their mother's gift to Shepherds of Good Hope was one of the best things she could have done for them. It allowed her values to live on, not only for people struggling with homelessness, but also for her family. Her children can now visit Shepherds and feel their mother's presence in the ongoing activities there. They chose to honour their mother by adding her name to the Beacon of Hope wall in the soup kitchen, as a lasting reminder to everyone who eats there that they are a part of a larger community of caring.

Judy's legacy gift reminds us how a gift to support people experiencing difficult times can lead to someone finding their own hope and encouragement. Judy is a part of Shepherds' ability to empower others by helping meet them where they are in life. Judy's bequest to Shepherds of Good Hope helped to continue the programs and services that make our community stronger.

If you are interested in creating your own legacy with Shepherds of Good Hope, and making an enduring promise of hope to those in our community who are struggling, please contact Leanne Brown at 613-789-8210 ext 241 or lbrown@sghottawa.com.

ANNIE'S STORY

You were there for Annie as she regained her love for sewing when she found a home of her own. Today, Annie gives back by teaching others how to sew.



This year for International Women's Day we shined a light on the resiliency of women who were formerly homeless and those who are still experiencing homelessness.

In collaboration with many wonderful local organizations, volunteers, and donors, we were able to host a special International Women's Day at our shelter. This year, we wanted to highlight the strength and skills of all women. Each participant received a flower from local florist, The Stalk Market, and enjoyed snacks, journaling, and crafting.

This year, for the first time, a former shelter client shared her experiences. Annie, now a resident of The Oaks, one of Shepherds of Good Hope's supportive housing residences, graciously spent time with women staying in our shelter to teach them how to sew Inuit dolls, a traditional craft from her home of Nunavut.

Annie continuously gives back to the community that supported her through the rough years of her life when she lived on the streets and in Shepherds of Good Hope's shelter.

She was homeless for nearly three years. During this time, she stayed in Shepherds of Good Hope's Managed Alcohol Program at the shelter until she found a home of her own. Annie

STATS: 2019-2020



2,500+
Shelter Clients



40 DAYS
Average Length
of Shelter Stay



830+
Active
Volunteers



240,000+
Soup Kitchen
Meals Served

has lived at The Oaks for four years now. She couldn't be happier.

She loves the people she's met and the activities she can participate in. Annie is also on the Inuk Task force with her friend Mosee. The task force gets together to cook Inuit food — including her favourite, arctic char! — and share knowledge with other Inuit people in the community.

Annie moved to Ottawa from Nunavut in 2012. She is a mother of 6 children, and a proud grandmother of 15 grandchildren. She has always had a passion for sewing. At a young age, Annie learned how to sew by watching her great-grandmother, grandmother and mother. Her passion for sewing and helping others didn't stop at International Women's Day. When our city was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and personal protective equipment was running low, Annie stepped up with her sewing skills to keep our community safe. She played an integral role in sewing gowns for staff members at The Oaks. She made more than 15 gowns as well as masks for other clients. We are so grateful for Annie's time and talent, especially during these difficult times.



Your support gives hope to women in our shelter and our supportive housing residences. Women just like Annie. It is because of support from donors like you that Shepherds of Good Hope is able to help people staying in our shelter to find a permanent home, reconnect to their cultures, and enjoy their hobbies once again.

Thank you for being there for Annie. Your support has meant she can pursue her passion to give back to the community that helped her.



Thank you for being a part of Annie's mission of hope.


268
**Emergency
Shelter Beds**

But we
regularly sleep
more than
300 people


190
**Supportive
Housing Beds**


275
Clients housed

WORLD HOMELESS DAY

For the first time in Shepherds of Good Hope's history, we participated in World Homeless Day.



We brought together students of all ages, local politicians, shelter clients, supportive housing residents, staff, volunteers and more to draw attention to the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Local decision-makers served breakfast in our soup kitchen while elementary and high school students participated by sending in paper hands with hopeful messages for people experiencing homelessness. More than 500 Helping Hands were hung up in the soup kitchen and around the shelter. These hands were symbolic of giving a homeless person a hand up, not a handout.

Inspired by the hands, clients in our shelter put together letters for local decision makers on tracings of their feet, with messages about what it means to walk a day in their shoes. This initiative, spearheaded by one of our peer workers, supported people experiencing homelessness to have their voices heard by their elected representatives.

Thank you to everyone who came together to raise awareness about the need to end stigma against people experiencing homelessness.

OUR CHAMPIONS OF HOPE

- **THE MANY GROUPS, BUSINESSES, AND INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORT US WITH DONATIONS**
- **THE STAFF & VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK TIRELESSLY TO SUPPORT OUR CLIENTS**
- **YOU! YOUR SUPPORT KEEPS US GOING EVERY DAY!**



CHAMPIONS OF HOPE

We are forever grateful for the unwavering support and generosity from the restaurant industry and small businesses that continually pull together to help feed hundreds of hungry and homeless people in our city.



Year after year, the culinary community volunteers their time, talents and oh-so-tasty ingredients to deliver one of the best foodie events in Ottawa, Taste for Hope, in support of Shepherds of Good Hope. This past year was our eighth annual, sold-out Taste for Hope, which raised a record-breaking \$89,000. This would not be possible without the tons of food donated for the event, our corporate sponsors, silent and live auction donors and you, the guests who purchased tickets. We could not have done it without our presenting sponsor, Ideal Roofing.

Not only do the restaurants come together during this event, many of the restaurants donate their time and food to Shepherds of Good Hope at other times throughout the year. The Ottawa Gatineau Hotel Association (OGHA) and Shepherds of Good Hope just celebrated 20 years of giving back through their Hoteliers Have Heart campaign. Every year on Valentine's Day, the Association donates a truck full of the soup kitchen's most-needed food items.



This year the OGHA donated over 15 tons of food valued at \$23,000. On top of this tremendous food donation, over 40 employees from local hotels and members of OGHA volunteered their time, serving lunch in the soup kitchen for the week until Valentine's Day.

If you are a small business or restaurant who has donated to us, please know how appreciated you are, especially during the difficult times of COVID-19. If you have a business or restaurant and would like to help homeless people in our community please

contact us by email at: donate@sghottawa.com. Thank you to all our Champions of Hope who support us throughout the year. We couldn't do it without you.

BETWEEN TWO EMERGENCIES

In January, our city declared a homelessness emergency. Three months later, the COVID-19 pandemic hit our city.

Despite Ottawa's ten-year plan to end homelessness, homelessness in our community has moved beyond a crisis to levels never seen before. Last year, almost 8,000 people stayed in emergency shelters, which have been operating at over 100% capacity for years. Dozens of people have been sleeping outside through the winter. Marginalized groups like Indigenous people, seniors, veterans, women and children fleeing abuse, and newcomer families have been hit especially hard.

While many factors lead people to become homeless, **lack of affordable housing is key.**



**RENTS ARE
UP 13% IN
OTTAWA**



**WAITLIST FOR
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING**



**OUR SHELTER
IS AT OR OVER
CAPACITY**

Governments at every level have made investments in affordable housing, but it's simply not enough to meet this overwhelming need.

By March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic further aggravated the homelessness emergency in Ottawa. We fundamentally changed the way we operated our programming in the span of a few days. **We couldn't have adapted the way we did without the overwhelming kindness and support of our community.**

Despite this incredible work, it is nearly impossible to maintain the recommended physical distance in already overcrowded emergency shelters. People need homes. Throughout the pandemic, Shepherds of Good Hope has been working closely with the City of Ottawa and our partners in the homelessness sector to create additional shelter and isolation spaces for people experiencing homelessness.

At the same time, we must plan for the long term. We cannot return people experiencing homelessness to the streets or overcrowded shelters after the pandemic is over. We must work together to protect the most vulnerable people in our community from the spread of COVID-19 and get desperately needed affordable housing in Ottawa.

We believe everyone has the right to a home. It has never been clearer that housing is a human right, and a public health issue. We have an opportunity, and a duty to ensure that every person in our community has a safe place to stay, both now and for the future.

Thank you for supporting our mission of providing homes for all.


**SHEPHERDS
OF GOOD HOPE
FOUNDATION**

SUPPORT US TODAY:

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