



# GOODSHEPHERD JOURNAL

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**GOOD SHEPHERD'S VISION:**  
to alleviate the effects of  
poverty while striving to  
**eliminate chronic homelessness**  
within our community.

Photo credit: LEEROY agency from Pixabay

A gray-haired man wobbles and bobs as he stands on the Queen St. East sidewalk. He seems to be trying to sit on the standpipe attached to a building. He can't manage it. He leans against the building instead, his head hanging down.

Despite the snow, he wears no coat — perhaps the cold eases the severe rash that covers his arms? Maybe he has lost his coat? He is clearly unwell. But there is nowhere for him to go, to sit down, to get warm.

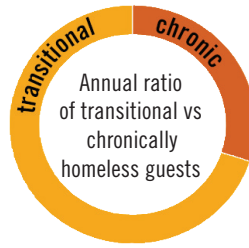
**The homeless in Toronto have never been more visible**, with so many of them trapped outside. **And yet they remain unseen.** Queen East is nearly empty of its usual foot traffic.

## How can we work together to end chronic homelessness?

Turn the page...

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**Chronically homeless:** people who are homeless for six months or more each year. They often have disabling health conditions (mental illness, addiction, acquired brain injury, developmental delays etc.) and need support in order to stay housed.



Good Shepherd's stats suggest that at least 30% of the overnight guests we shelter each year are **chronically homeless**.

**Transitionally homeless:** People who are transitionally homeless are not homeless long — sometimes less than a month! Homeless shelters can be a vital pathway back to housing for healthy people facing a temporary crisis.



**BUT** — if you went into the dormitories on any given night, you would find chronically homeless people occupying about 50% of Good Shepherd's beds. **The Homeless Hub reports chronically homeless people consume half the resources in the homelessness system.**

Source: Homeless Hub, Toronto Star, Good Shepherd Ministries Resettlement/Housing Program statistics.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it crystal-clear: housing is a health issue. You can't stay home in a pandemic if you have no home.

Shelters like Good Shepherd Centre play a crucial role in helping people in crisis — and our community will always have people in crisis. But shelters are not the right place to house people with complex, chronic health issues. The lack of affordable supportive housing has turned people with chronic health conditions into the chronically homeless.

Luckily, the homeless have their heroes, the people who take action to help them. (You, as a supporter of Good Shepherd Ministries, are one of them!)

Dr. Stephen Hwang is another hero for the homeless. Since the 1990s, he has researched the connections between health and housing status. His work shows why our community needs more housing for the “hard to house” — and that housing the homeless is not just a caring choice, but also the cost-effective option.

Dr. Hwang's recent appointment as Vice Chairman of Good Shepherd Ministries' Board of Directors underscores our commitment to our vision: to end chronic homelessness in our community.

By working together, we can create more permanent supportive housing. And then we can write a happy ending for the grey-haired man stumbling along Queen St. East. Together, we can bring him home.



**Dr. Stephen Hwang** is one of the world's most renowned researchers in homelessness, housing and health.

His ground-breaking research changed the conversation about homelessness and precarious housing in Canada - establishing that

homelessness and precarious housing are critical health crises that can be prevented.

Dr. Hwang was the first to prove that homeless men are eight times as likely to die as men in the general population. He co-led the At Home/Chez Soi study, the largest randomized controlled trial in history to evaluate solutions to address homelessness. Its success testing the “Housing First” approach influenced the province of Ontario to set a goal to end chronic homelessness by 2025.

Dr. Hwang is the director of MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions. He is also the St. Michael's Hospital Chair in Homelessness, Housing and Health, a scientist with the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, and a professor in the University of Toronto's Department of Medicine, Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation. In 2021, he became Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of Good Shepherd Ministries.



## A tribute to Werner (Vern) Zapfe on his retirement



Vern Zapfe, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Good Shepherd Ministries for the past 25 years, has retired.

A determined, energetic champion of the homeless, Vern is the longest-serving Board Chair of Good Shepherd Ministries. Over the years, he has helped Good

Shepherd grow to meet the expanding need.

Twenty-five years ago, Br. David Lynch was newly appointed as Good Shepherd's Executive Director. He was new to Canada. Good Shepherd Ministries had just undergone much-needed but expensive renovations. The needs of the homeless in Toronto were skyrocketing.

But luckily, someone was watching over Good Shepherd — Vern walked through the doors! In just weeks, he rallied his business community and organized a sold-out golf tournament.

Through his leadership and work with the executive members of the organization, Vern helped to put Good Shepherd Ministries on a solid financial foundation, one that allowed it to expand its services. And expansion was urgently needed: the housing crisis in Toronto kept forcing more and more vulnerable people into homelessness.

When it came to fundraising events, Vern was a powerhouse. He started with an annual golf tournament. Then he added a lottery, then an annual Gala. He recruited others to the cause as well, building Good Shepherd's support base.

Born of humble beginnings, Vern emigrated to Canada from Germany as a boy. He worked hard in the construction trades, eventually establishing his own drywall business. He has been an active leader in his professional and personal life, and Good Shepherd is only one of many charities he has supported.

His determination, leadership and compassion helped Good Shepherd raise funds to expand programs to assist people struggling with homelessness, mental health and addictions.

Vern's hard work as a volunteer has strengthened our community and transformed many lives for the better. He sacrificed his time and energy so that the Brothers and co-workers at Good Shepherd could focus on feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, and caring for the sick.

It has truly been an honour and a privilege as an organization to get to know this incredible human being and to call him our friend and champion. To honour the crucial leadership role Vern has played, he has been named Chairman Emeritus of Good Shepherd's Board of Directors.

Vern may have officially retired but he is still a large part of our Good Shepherd family.

Thank you, Vern, for your unwavering commitment and incredible compassion.



**Compassion never goes on vacation!** Join the compassionate crew of monthly donors who give year-round. For more info, please contact Cindy at 416.869.3619 x 277 or [cindy@goodshepherd.ca](mailto:cindy@goodshepherd.ca)

## Volunteering during a crisis



For a charity that relies on thousands of on-site volunteers each year, the loss of on-site volunteers due to COVID-19 really hurt!

Co-workers who rely on the presence of volunteers have been making do and working hard to meet the needs of guests. We miss all of our regular volunteers but we also

miss all the school groups which came in droves to help out.

While we have always cherished our volunteers, this pandemic made us realize just how much.

It goes both ways. Not only do we miss our volunteers, but they also miss us.

Volunteering is a way to connect with your community, meet people and make new friends who share the same goal — to help others and build a better community together.

Luckily, where there's a will, there's a way. COVID-19 has resulted in an outpouring of kindness from not only our volunteers but from folks who are new to Good Shepherd. People want to find ways to volunteer and help virtually and in their homes. Volunteers are making sandwiches for our meals-to-go program,

collecting toiletries for our shelter guests, sewing masks to distribute to keep everyone safe, and knitting winter woollies to keep people warm.

The COVID-19 pandemic is showing us how creative people can be in finding ways to give back and make a difference.

If you are interested in giving back, please e-mail [volunteer@goodshepherd.ca](mailto:volunteer@goodshepherd.ca) or call 416.869.3619 x 262.



### Be an angel for the homeless today and tomorrow

Your gift today will make an immediate difference in the lives of homeless and vulnerable individuals.

You can create a legacy and continue to offer care, compassion and human dignity by remembering Good Shepherd in your will.

For more information, please visit  
[GOODSHEPHERD.CA](http://GOODSHEPHERD.CA)  
 or contact  
 416.869.3619 x 223 ~  
[adrienne@goodshepherd.ca](mailto:adrienne@goodshepherd.ca)

Legal Name: Good Shepherd Refuge Social Ministries  
 Charitable No. 89250 8169 RR0001

## VOLUNTEER IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME!

- Provide-A-Meal casserole program - prepare and bake casseroles in your home
- Food/Toiletry Drive - gather up your friends, family and colleagues and run a virtual drive
- Sewing Club - forget the book club and start up your own sewing club to make 3ply non surgical masks or even aprons for our kitchen
- Baking for a Cause - put the whole family to work and bake individualized treats like cookies or muffins for our meals-to-go program. A home-made treat can really brighten someone's day!



BROTHER DAVID

## Giving new life to people who are homeless and ill

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:40)

Just the other day someone told me: "If you have your arms, you have your legs, there's no excuse, you should be working! That's how I was raised!"

She meant the homeless, of course. And from the outside, it seems reasonable. Why should we be taking care of people who look like they can work and care for themselves?

But earning a living takes more than just having your arms and legs. Disabilities and illness can be invisible — yet still cripple a person and leave them unable to hold down a job.

People with invisible disabilities — mental illness, acquired brain injury, PTSD — find themselves homeless more often than the rest of us. As well, people get older and injuries and health issues pile up. No-one wants to hire someone who's not well. End result? Homelessness.

People who are homeless because of health issues make up only about 20% of the people who are homeless in Toronto each year.

But sadly, once they are on the streets, it can be like that well-known Eagles song: "You can check out any time you like, But you can never leave."

That's the bad news. Here's the good news. We may not be able to fix the health issues that trap people in homelessness. But we CAN fix their homelessness!

You are already helping to house the "chronically homeless" through your support of St. Joseph's Residence and Barrett House. Your donations to Good Shepherd Centre support our medical clinic and other programs that help move chronically homeless people into housing.

But we need to do more. The model of care used at St. Joseph's Residence works so well to house frail older homeless individuals that we are working to expand it.

It is your compassion, your ongoing support that makes Good Shepherd able to consider taking on this new work. The details of this project may not be clear yet, but our vision is crystal clear: we want to eliminate chronic homelessness. And with your help, we can find a way to house the frail, older homeless people in Toronto.

I want to thank you for the faith and support you put into Good Shepherd's services for people who struggle with poverty and homelessness.

May the joy of the resurrection and the promise of spring fill your hearts and homes this Easter!

Your Brother,

Br. David Lynch, OH  
Executive Director

### COMMUNITY UPDATE

The Hospitaller Order of St. John of God continues to work on the front lines worldwide. The Brothers work to provide health care and meet the needs of individuals who are struggling with homelessness, with disabilities, with chronic illness — to bring hospitality and compassion to life, to see the face of Christ in the "least of these brothers and sisters."

In response to those needs, Br. Nick Foran was recently transferred. He is the new Director of Good Shepherd Centre in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He will be missed, but we know that he will be making a difference to those he serves.





## Why the Pomegranate?

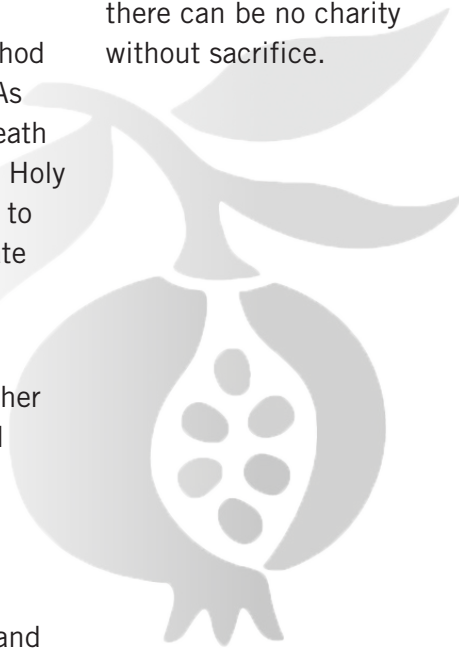
The Hospitaller Order of St. John of God was founded in Granada, Spain. Granada is the Spanish word for pomegranate and hence, the city of Granada uses the fruit as its symbol.

The pomegranate is also known to some as 'God's fruit.' In Exodus, God gave orders to Moses to place embroidered pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet with gold bells between and at the bottom of the high priest's blue ephod (ceremonial dress). As protection against death when he entered the Holy of Holies, Aaron was to wear this pomegranate embroidered robe.

The pomegranate is also seen in many other religions as a symbol of humanity's most fundamental beliefs and desires – life and death, birth and eternal life, fertility and

marriage, abundance and prosperity. In the Jewish faith, the pomegranate represents righteousness; to Christians it means life and the hope of eternal life.

To the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God, the combined symbols of the pomegranate and the cross represent 'charity and sacrifice'. The fruit expresses the need for love to expand and the cross reminds us that there can be no charity without sacrifice.



## DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thank you to the following organizations:

Knights of Columbus, Toronto Council 1388	\$30,000.00
F.K. Morrow Foundation	\$25,000.00
Prodigy Group	\$20,000.00
Knights of Columbus, Fraternal Mission Department	\$12,482.50
Electrical Contractors' Association of Ontario	\$10,000.00
The Muzzo Family	\$10,000.00
BASF Canada	\$5,000.00
Mattamy Homes Canada	\$5,000.00
J.S. Cheng & Partners Inc.	\$4,500.00
Ecclesiastical Canada	\$3,000.00
The McLean Foundation	\$2,500.00
Adams & Miles LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants	\$2,000.00
Seth Foundation for Health & Human Welfare	\$2,000.00
Business Elite Media Group Inc.	\$1,000.00
Capstone Infrastructure Corporation	\$1,000.00
Knights of Columbus, Monsignor Ingoldsbys Council	\$1,000.00
Knights of Columbus 9079	\$1,000.00
St. Ambrose Parish	\$1,000.00
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 13	\$750.00
DJ McRae Contractors Ltd.	\$500.00
Hullmark Asset Management	\$500.00
Icon Collective Inc.	\$500.00
Mary J. Rosseel Farms Inc.	\$500.00
AGS Automotive	
Congregation of Notre Dame, Visitation Province Inc.	
Manion Wilkins & Associates Ltd.	
St. Justin Martyr Parish, Unionville	
Ursuline Sisters of Chatham	

## Wish List

A small gesture can make a huge difference

### Food

*Packaged snacks:*  
granola or chocolate bars, chips, cookies, fruit cups  
*Fruit:*  
apples, oranges, bananas  
Juice boxes  
Bottled water

### Dorm Supplies

Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes  
Deodorant  
Bar soap  
Shampoo



Founded in 1963, Good Shepherd Ministries is a registered charity and a mission of the



**Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God**  
Province of the Good Shepherd in North America

goodshepherd.ca

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