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"Service is the best thing for me now. I want to give back."

I'm indigenous from Manitoba. I was the baby in my family. I come from a family of 16.

When I was younger, they used to abuse me, hurt me, beat me up, kick me, blacken my eyes. I started drinking at the age of 10. And smoking cigarettes, yeah. I always got blamed for everything. That's why I left. I moved away from my reserve when I was 15, never been back.

I've been in Toronto since I was 20 years old. I really struggled, living on the streets. When I found out about Good Shepherd and I was coming here, it just made me happy. This place kept me fed.

Read on to find out how you helped save Clarence's life...

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I also got my first job when I was 20. I worked for my buddy. I worked for 31 years with him, he was like a brother to me.

He dropped dead in front of me in 2018. I think of him every day.

When that happened, I quit drinking cold turkey. But I was still smoking crack. I had no work. My life was a shambles.

I left downtown Toronto. I lived in a tent for six years at Black Creek and Eglinton. I would have died if I stayed another year. I got frostbite, my toes were bending over.

All those years I was up there, I never went back downtown. But then in 2025, I came back here and Good Shepherd is still the same. I love it. And being here is the best thing for me.

I've been sober from drinking since 2018, and I've been sober from crack for a year now. I came into the DARE Program in February 2025.

I've been to two treatment centres. I went to St. Mike's for two months. After that, I went to an Indigenous treatment centre in Six Nations. I got my

spirit name. I'm a fire keeper, I keep the sacred fire burning. I'm proud of that.

The DARE Program can get you off the street and stop using drugs. It works for me. If I can do it, everybody can do it.

I love this place. It's a miracle. I was in the hospital for five days in January. The DARE staff kept my bed. As soon as I said, "I'm in the hospital," they said, "You don't worry, your bed's safe."

I try to give back what they gave to me. I'm doing a lot of service for other people. That's the best thing in my life now.

I want to get my own housing. I've never had my own home, my own place. I've lived with other people, but it did not last. I was using drugs back then and it made it hard to keep a place.

I really miss work, but I can't go back to work. My hip—I'm waiting for a replacement. I'm 58, I'm not young no more.

Service is the best thing for me now. I want to give back. People helped me out. This year, I'm helping other people.

Growing Hope: Expanding the DARE program



Your support is helping homeless men prepare for treatment as DARE expands in west end Toronto.

The DARE Program started in 1997 as a pilot project, offering space for 15 homeless adult men to prepare for treatment for addictions.

By 2000, DARE added 10 aftercare beds for men who had completed treatment but needed time and support to find housing. In 2001, the Program began to offer post-residential support groups for the growing number of successful graduates.

This year, the DARE Program is growing again! Good Shepherd will be expanding the program by 18 beds in the west end of Toronto. With 43 pre and post treatment beds, DARE is the largest program of its type in the shelter system.

Over the years, the DARE Program has opened its doors to more than 6,000 homeless men. In 2025, DARE admitted 239 homeless men like Clarence who were seeking treatment for addictions. The road to recovery is not easy to follow—but your support makes it accessible to hundreds of homeless men each year.

How you make healing and hope possible



"I'm still looking for housing," says Clarence, a DARE client featured on our front page. "I've never had a home of my own."

With 15,000 people experiencing homelessness, Toronto's shelters are full. The stresses and barriers that come with homelessness make it harder to find stability during this housing crisis.

Your support for Good Shepherd helps provide solutions that meet people where they are. From hot meals that meet immediate needs to innovative programs, your kindness helps sustain people in crisis today — and builds for a better tomorrow.

As you flip through the pages of this journal, you'll see how Good Shepherd is laying the foundation to end chronic homelessness for individuals like Clarence.

By expanding healthcare services including programs like DARE and building affordable housing that combines safe homes with practical day-to-day supports.

This Easter season, as we celebrate the resurrection, may you take pride in the difference you make. Your compassionate response gives people struggling with homelessness hope, the support to recover, and the chance for a fresh start

Alleluia!

Aklilu Wendaferew, MSW, RSW

Community Update



His Holiness Pope Leo with members of the SJOG congregation.

In a spirit of renewal and fraternity, Brothers from across the continent gathered in Los Angeles to map the future of the Mission of Hospitality in North America.

This visioning session marked a powerful shift: we no longer see ourselves as a "diminishing resource," but as a mission to be shared widely with lay partners and collaborators.

As the Good Shepherd and Our Lady Queen of the Angels Provinces walk the path toward unification, to be realised in May 2026, we've moved from

asking "How do we survive?" to "How do we grow?"

These moments remind us that our path is more than administrative—it is a spiritual journey toward greater vitality.

Together, we are planting seeds for a future where the healing spirit of St. John of God flourishes in new soil, carried by many hearts and always open to the Spirit's call.

This year was further enriched by significant milestones, including a Papal audience with the Superior General and his Council and a private audience with Brother Pascal, both of which deepened our sense of unity, service and global solidarity.



His Holiness with Br. Pascal Ahodegnon, Superior General, Hospitaller Order of St. John of God.

Keeping people housed

How your kindness helps prevent homelessness



You support an award-winning Eviction Prevention Team! Jafari, Father Paul, Helen, & Marina with a Rapid Response Award from the City of Toronto.

When someone stays housed, they stay healthier & more stable. Eviction means trying to find a shelter bed when most shelters are full to capacity. (Good Shepherd's emergency shelter beds operated at 99.8% capacity in 2025.)

Good Shepherd's Eviction Prevention team prevented 102 evictions in 2025, 72% of the households referred to them by the City of Toronto. Thank you for promoting the health and dignity of 102 households this past year!

Good Shepherd is best known for its busy meal program — serving 376,473 meals in 2025! But your kindness doesn't end there.

A homeless person's journey at Good Shepherd may start with a meal and a warm welcome. But to live more dignity, more health, more stability — that takes a home!

In 2025, your compassionate support helped more than 305 people secure or maintain housing. In a city where housing costs are unaffordable, this is a remarkable feat.

We take this opportunity to thank all of our co-workers who continue to assist in helping those who need our support and our donors and volunteers who provide us with the tools necessary to succeed.

Together, we are working towards an end to chronic homelessness in Toronto. For more information about the impact of your support in 2025, ask Cindy (cindy@goodshepherd.ca) to send you a link to the 2025 Annual Report.

Pastoral care message



May the glory of the Risen Christ fill your hearts with deep and lasting joy this Easter season. May it shine in every corner of your life, bringing renewed hope, fresh beginnings, and an unshakable peace from knowing you are eternally loved.

No darkness is too great, no sorrow too heavy, or no stone is too large for God to move.

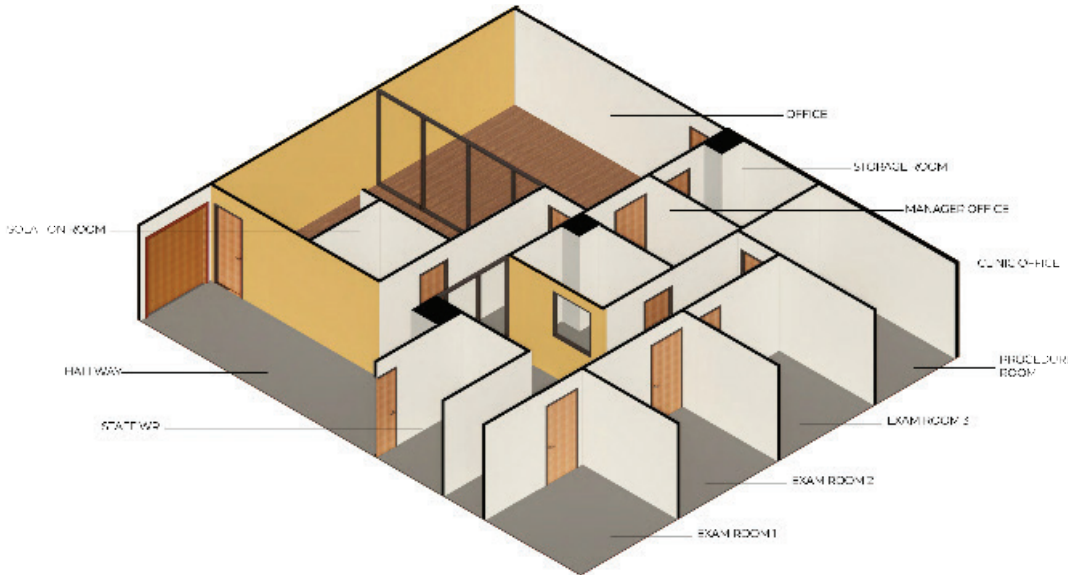
May the Lord bless you and your loved ones with a strong faith and an enduring hope. May you feel His presence beside you and His peace surrounding you today and always!

Christ is risen, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Deacon Paul

Meeting people where they are

Your generosity is increasing on-site support for chronically ill people



Plans are in place to expand the Order of Malta medical clinic at Good Shepherd Centre.

Currently housing one clinic room and office, this much-needed expansion will increase the clinic to 3 exam rooms, a procedure room, & an isolation room, with offices for external practitioners offering a variety of medical care.

“You’re the first person who’s ever really listened to me!” That’s something Paul Perlas, RN & Clinical Manager, regularly hears in his tiny basement office at Good Shepherd Centre.

“People on the streets have more chronic illnesses and are more sick with their illnesses than people who are housed,” says Paul. “I see people who have never had a family doctor, never get regular check-ups. They wait until they’re desperate, they go to an emergency room, and no surprise, it doesn’t go well. That leaves them even more reluctant to seek care.”

“I take the time to listen. I take the time to look for other health issues. I had someone come to me with a rash. I took his blood pressure, it was double what it should have been — 200/190. There were signs he’d had a stroke that went undiagnosed and untreated.”

Homelessness and poor health often go hand in hand — and that keeps Paul busy. Along with providing nursing care, he coordinates partners who bring healthcare directly on site.

Family doctors visit to care for shelter guests and those who come for meals. A dedicated “foot doctor” visits every two weeks to patch up the feet of people who walk thousands of steps each day in worn-out shoes. Public Health teams offer vaccines

during mealtimes, and mental health and addiction supports are available through outreach partners.

Working out of one small office, Paul often has to borrow space to run clinics that meet people where they are. But with the leadership of the Order of Malta, plans are underway to expand services and strengthen access to care.

Interested in helping this project move forward?

Call Adrienne at 416.869.3619, ext. 223 or email Adrienne@goodshepherd.ca.



Barrett House: a supportive residence for 6 people who live with disabilities caused by HIV and AIDS.

St. Joseph’s Residence: a supportive residence for 8 frail older adults (55+) with multiple health issues and history of homelessness.

Your compassion gives dignity and security to people who live with chronic illness & extreme poverty. Thank you!

Helping the homeless: A retirement project for two



At 2pm, at the same time Good Shepherd welcomes hungry guests for a hot meal, Yasmin opens up the window to the clothing room downstairs from the dining room.

People in need of clothes wander down during the meal, take a look through the window at what's available, and ask for what they need.

"We see all kinds of faces," says Yamin. "The same people who come for the meals, they come down here, most of them. I used to volunteer in the kitchen with my husband Klaus, so I know a lot of the faces."

The clothing room is an entirely volunteer-run effort and opens from 2-4pm on Mondays and Thursdays. Yasmin arrives at 1pm to give herself time to organize donated clothes.

What are the most in demand items? "Pants like jeans, the most popular size is 34, 36," Yasmin said. "Shoes, and toiletries such as shampoo, soap, body wash, and toothbrushes and toothpaste."

In 2025, thanks to volunteers like Yasmin, Good Shepherd distributed over 39,000 pieces of clothing and toiletries. The clothing room would not be possible without your help!

Queen Street Saints

The Shepherd now, a cornerstone
Join a team, you're not alone
United Nations, cook a meal
Galley duties make you feel
Contented deeper, while you peel!

Hungry hands receive a tray
Some sustenance, and bless your way
Each patron is a story told
Unique each one, if young or old

A holler rings through dining hall
"It's 4 p.m. on Shepherd Wall!"
It's time to go, take bag and pack
Food for Soul, I will be back!

Ex Corde Meo, Klaus K.



Good Shepherd poet Klaus worked in insurance and fell in love during an inspection tour. As he checked fire extinguishers and sprinklers, he thought, "One day, I'll volunteer here!" Now retired, and he and wife Yasmin have helped out in the kitchen and clothing room since 2024.

Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who help Good Shepherd fulfill its mission!

If you're thinking about volunteering, please email Corliss at volunteer@goodshepherd.ca.

Working to end chronic homelessness: Mathias Place update



Clearing the way at 1731 Lawrence Ave. East! Mathias Place, a Good Shepherd initiative, is under construction. In 2027, 95 adults aged 55+ who are exiting homelessness will move into accessible units that offer assisted living support including daily meals prepared on site.

2021: Site purchased.

2022-2023: applications begin for funding from Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the City of Toronto's Open Doors program.

2024: Demolition of the existing building on the site.

2025 April: CMHC approves grants and loans.

June: Blessing of site by Fr. John-Mark Missio of the neighbouring Precious Blood Church.

August: Site preparation begins.

October: Excavation begins.

November: First concrete is poured.

December: "Raft slab" of concrete completed and crane installed.

2026 January: The exterior walls start to rise!



Designed for aging in place, each unit in Mathias Place will allow residents to stay independent as long as possible. Office space has been set aside for medical and other partners, making it easy for residents to attend appointments.



General site view in February 2026. In 2027, Mathias Place will be ready to welcome the homeless.



FUN FACT

This site has always been about service. It was once occupied by Les Filles de la Sagesse, nuns dedicated to education and helping others. Mathias Place builds on that tradition of care.

PRODIGY
presents

Good Shepherd Gala
Saturday, April 25, 2026

Paramount Eventspace
222 Rowntree Dairy Road, Woodbridge

Cocktails: 6pm Dinner: 7pm
Semiformal Attire

Tickets: \$400 each or \$3000 table of 8

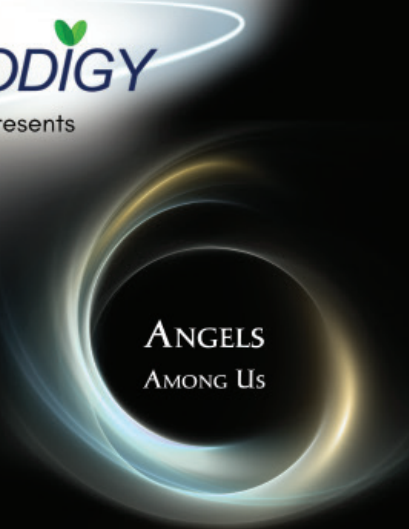
For more information or to purchase tickets,
please call Adrienne at 416.869.3619 x 223
email adrienne@goodshepherd.ca
or scan QR code.

Sponsored by



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When you make monthly donations to help the homeless, you help sustain services throughout the year. It's an effortless way to do more good. \$10 a month = \$120 a year!

To set up a monthly donation, visit goodshepherd.ca or call Cindy at 416-869-3619, ext. 277. You will receive a single receipt at the end of the year, and you can cancel at any time. Month by month, we can work together for the greater good!

LOVE NEVER COMES TO AN END

When you remember the work of Good Shepherd Ministries in your will, you offer hope and healing to those most in need. You give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, and safe shelter and new options for people who face homelessness.

To learn more about leaving a legacy of care and compassion, please contact Adrienne. You may reach her at 416.869.3619 x 223 or email adrienne@goodshepherd.ca.



FOOD

- Coffee
- Tea
- Coffee creamer
- Peanut butter & Jam
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Mayonnaise
- Salad dressing
- Parboiled rice
- Canned beans & vegetables
- Canned tuna
- Chocolate bars
- Cookies
- Granola bars
- Fruit cups
- Potato chips

TOILETRIES

- Deodorant
- Razors

- Shaving cream
- Shampoo
- Shower gel
- Bar soap
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

DORMITORY—new or gently used

- Twin bedsheets
- Towels
- Face cloths

CLOTHING—Men's

- Underwear (New)
- Socks (New)
- Hoodies
- Spring (light) jackets
- Sweatpants
- Jeans sizes 32-40
- Running shoes - Sizes 9-12

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