



WELCOME HOMELESS

GOODSHEPHERD GUARDIAN

GOODSHEPHERD.CA

Summer 2020

Good Shepherd misses you



In March our world went topsy-turvy. The coronavirus hit us and it hit us hard. It affected every aspect of our daily lives. Quickly everything started to shut down. We were told to wash our hands, socially distance and stay at home if we could. As a result, Good Shepherd Ministries had to close its dining room and switch to take-out bagged lunches while reducing other services. It also meant that we had to close our doors to our volunteers – temporarily we hoped.

Well, coronavirus is still with us. Co-workers have rallied and worked hard to continue to offer food, shelter and support to the homeless. The DARE program participants have pitched in to help as well. While we are continuing to respond to the need, there is one thing that we are missing – YOU!

Volunteers have always been an integral part of our ministry and now more than ever we are realizing the importance of community involvement in our work. Volunteers offer their time and talents but also companionship, compassion and friendship. You, our volunteers breathe life into the place. Whether an individual, family, corporate group, parish – you all have one goal – to help others and to make a difference.

While we are apart, we want you to know that you are never far from our thoughts. We look forward to the day when we can safely welcome you back with open arms, to have you fill the space with activity, laughter and your smiles.

We continue to pray for your health and well-being. Stay safe and God bless.

David Lynch

Executive Director

No doubt you know that we are working quietly behind the scenes to continue the Mission of Good Shepherd Centre and to be faithful to the Gospel which inspires us all.

While we are not seeing you during this time, we know that you are still supporting us by your love and care, prayer and concern. Generous donations and gifts-in-kind continue to arrive



in abundance so that no one goes hungry from our door. Sr. Joan - Manager, Mission Integration

We appreciated the spirit of hospitality you share with us all. You are remembered at mass each day.

May our mantra continue to be “Do good for yourselves by doing good for Others.”

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Caring through Crisis



Christine Slater has been Good Shepherd's Pastoral Care Director for nearly 10 years—providing experience and compassionate support to our clients, volunteers and co-workers.

As you can imagine, job descriptions have changed with Covid-19. During the pandemic, work continues but it's different—less formal way of interaction and more space for in-depth sharing and conversation.

Our in-house meal program has become a take-out lunch program and hundreds of bagged lunches and hot meals are given out each day. It's been a revelation of camaraderie as we are experiencing this crisis together. We all have a sense of mission and purpose. In some ways, a layer of joyfulness has emerged as we are doing whatever it takes to create a welcoming environment for our clients who call Good Shepherd their home.

Nemicio Molina has been at Good Shepherd Centre for 15 years and things have changed in the last few months.

Initially, there was some fear coming to work each day during the pandemic but helping the clients and keeping the focus on cleanliness helped everyone. Since many of our guests have the option to stay inside the Centre through the day, we've also been able to get to know people. We can misjudge people if they are quiet or grumpy but people are gentle and grateful.



Since the pandemic, Nemicio and volunteers Darren and Chrissy have increased cleaning in high traffic and touch areas of the Centre, doing a great job keeping everyone safe.



Our clients are still dealing with all the same issues as before: mental health, addictions, poverty, stigma -- but now add a global

pandemic on top of it. That means big changes in what services are available to an already disadvantaged group of people, where they can access shelter, food, clothing, healthcare, a bathroom. This pandemic has been challenging for all of us in diverse ways, but what if it challenged your day-to-day survival?

Naomi Tadros is the Healthcare Coordinator at Good Shepherd Ministries. Naomi has been taking care of clients, staff and volunteers at the Centre since March 2018.

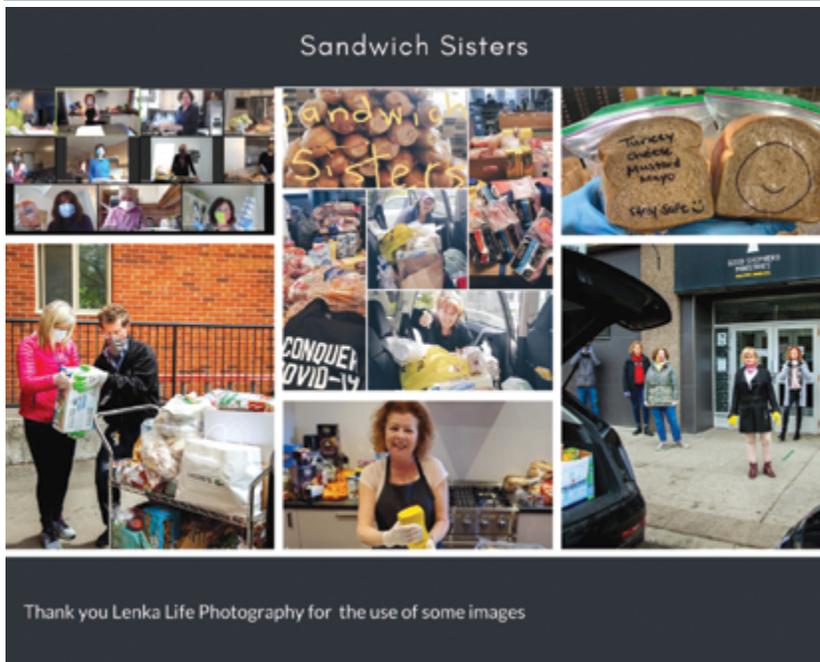


Chef Devon Palmer was a Sous-Chef prior to becoming the Chef and Supervisor at Good Shepherd in July 2019.

When I first started working at GSM I knew that the team was strong and I was taking over as the Chef of a well organized kitchen team. We were used to serving an average of 800 people per day in our dining room. Since the Covid-19 pandemic the dining room has been closed to the public, but the outstanding quality of service has continued. Our kitchen team, as well as co-workers from other departments, has

come together to make sure that our guests continue to receive a fresh meal. We will continue to deliver exceptional service to all those who rely on Good Shepherd Ministries.

#heroes4homeless - Spotlight



Since the current health crisis began, Good Shepherd had to close its dining room to meal service to ensure the health and safety of everyone. But we had to continue to feed the hungry so we started offering a take-out bagged lunch. That's when the Sandwich Sisters enter the picture.

This spunky group of go-getters was the brain child of Carolyn Quigley. She and a few of her friends wanted to continue to serve their community and help those in need. So on April 17 they started making sandwiches at home and donating them to Good Shepherd. Simple enough...but she never thought that this small act of care and compassion would

explode. The Sandwich Sisters have grown into more than 75 pods of families throughout the GTA supporting several community agencies like Good Shepherd Ministries. Virtual Zoom meetups help plan and organize this massive task. The Sandwich Sisters have been recognized across the GTA with media coverage on local network television and radio. One small act of kindness has done so much to help feed homeless and at-risk individuals. Thanks to the Sandwich Sisters and many other individuals, community groups and businesses, Good Shepherd has been able to distribute in excess of 75,000 lunches.

My name is Darren and I am currently attending York University for law and society. I chose to volunteer because it was something I wanted to get into for a while but was never sure about how. People recommended Good Shepherd as a welcoming place for those who wanted to help their community. I continue to volunteer through the pandemic because it is a time when they need individuals and I don't fear coming in. I've enjoyed my time volunteering because I've been able to learn so much from the individual workers, volunteers and clients who stay at the shelter.

It's an enriching experience that you can't buy.



Darren Kim, Volunteer



Chrissy Fung has been a volunteer for 12 years

At the beginning of the pandemic, people were throwing out the phrase 'war-time'. We all secretly want to be a part of the big, united effort, however small. I have been coming here for a while, kind of like a foundation period and so at the time of the new and unknown it felt strange to not keep volunteering. Nemeio made it easier by asking for some help, especially in that first month. And then came the Mass and then I knew I was really blessed! And with that always comes a little bit of responsibility. It's necessary to be part of this great Catholic reach-out! Now that things are more stable, less coming and goings, it's been a joy to talk more with the residents. They are beautiful and straight from the heart! Thank You Good Shepherd Ministries.

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE HOMELESS

1. Organize a virtual event to benefit Good Shepherd.
2. Volunteer from home by making sandwiches or spreading the word about Good Shepherd and its needs.
3. Make a gift in honour of a special occasion, birthday, wedding.
4. Remember the work of Good Shepherd Ministries in your will.

For more information, please call Adrienne at 416-869-3619, ext. 223.

THANK YOU!

Good Shepherd would like to thank you for your care, compassion and commitment to help homeless and at-risk individuals.

“Alone, we can do so little: together, we can do so much’. ~Helen Keller



Masks alone won't protect you from Covid-19.

Remember to sanitize your hands and practice social distancing.



SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



Wish List

As a charitable agency, we rely on our community to make our services possible. If you are able to support, here is our list of most-needed items;

- Hospital Grade Disinfectant
- Face Masks
- Cheese Slices
- Eggs
- Juice Boxes/Water
- Small bags of Chips

- Individually Wrapped Cookies
- Granola Bars
- Apples/Oranges/Pears
- Protein Bars
- Vitamin C
- Tylenol
- Polysporin

We luv ya! Keep in touch!



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