

THE GATE

Oshawa's Outreach Centre

www.gate316.com

1990 — 2016

From the President's Desk

A belated Happy Thanksgiving to all our friends of the Gate. I thank God for the Gate that a few people started 26 years ago because they cared about those in our city who needed a helping hand. Today, because of supporters like you, we are able to serve approximately 25,000 meals a year to those who are hungry. We were privileged to have MP Colin Carrie drop by the Gate recently. They are planning to do a food drive for the Gate for Christmas, so thank you Colin Carrie. We had another successful year with our Ride for Refuge fundraiser. Mayor John

Henry opened the event with a count down and we raised about \$10,000 for the Gate that day. Thank you everyone who participated in this event. We look forward to our Fall Fundraising Dinner on Nov. 12 and hope you can join us. Look further in the newsletter for details on that. We hope you will also take part in our Food Fancy Fundraiser. It is a great way to get a gift card to give to someone at Christmas. I have included another write up on a couple who have been coming to the Gate lately. It helps us to remember that life isn't always predictable and any one of us could be suddenly

in a situation where we need a place like the Gate to help us out. Thank you everyone who supports the Gate so that we can all work together in helping one another through the tough times. Please continue to pray for us at the Gate. Please pray for a larger facility that will suit all our needs. Also, please pray for those who walk in our doors at the Gate, that their needs will be met and that they will find peace and hope as they learn to trust in Jesus and experience His love by those who care. May you all have a blessed Christmas!

*Betty Mann
President of Gate 3:16*

Christmas at Gate 3:16

Every year we celebrate Christmas at the Gate. This years party will be on Fri. Dec. 16, 2016. We will be doing Christmas a little different this year, by having a sit down hot Christmas meal for the people in the evening. So instead of the usual sandwiches, we would like to request donations of Turkeys and Deserts and any other special dishes that make Christmas special. If you would like to donate anything towards this, please give our manager, Rita a call at 905-432-5316 ext. 21. She will give instructions about drop off times. Thank you in advance for your contributions towards this.

Season's Greetings

On behalf of clients, staff, volunteers and board of Gate 3:16, we wish you a very blessed Christmas celebration. We pray the Lord may bless you and all your loved ones as you enter the year 2016.

Sad News:

Our beloved Past President - Marten Van Harmelen - has just past away on November 15, 2016. He will be greatly missed. A memoir of his life will be written in the next newsletter.



OUR CUPBOARDS

Thank you for your support and for helping to keep our shelves filled!

WE ALWAYS APPRECIATE

Coffee, tea, sugar, whitener, powdered milk, ketchup, mayo, soup, Styrofoam plates, bowls and 7 oz cups, plastic forks, spoons & knives, paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, Kleenex, tin foil, dish and laundry soap and XL heavy duty garbage bags!

OUR PROGRAMS

Please consider supporting our programs.

MEAL TICKET PROGRAM

St. Vincent's Kitchen offers dinner daily for \$1.50. Thanks to your support, we are able to provide our clients with up to 25-30 tickets a day.

TRANSPORTATION FUND

Your donations can help our clients attend job interviews, medical appointments and other obligations. A one way Durham Region bus fare is now \$3.75

Gate 3:16 Outreach Centre, helping Oshawa and Durham Region's less fortunate since 1990

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Angel Tree Program

Our Angel Tree Program is a sure way to help someone in need. Every year the Gate hosts two Christmas celebrations for those we serve. Each client leaves with a present donated by a caring person such as yourself. These gifts include socks, mittens, toiletries, a deck of cards, and anything else that may be useful to someone who doesn't have much. Our Client Christmas Party will be held on the 16th of December. To make a difference this Christmas season, please call Rita at 905-432-5316 ext. 21

Electronic

To receive this newsletter by email, please email office@gate316.com.

Get Involved!

At The Gate, we rely on our family of volunteers to prepare and serve meals, answer phones, and help with our fundraising ventures. Contact The Gate if you are interested.

Information Sessions

We would be honoured to give your organization, church or school a better idea about Gate 3:16. Contact Betty about arranging an information session or a guided tour of our agency.

Volunteers Needed

At the Gate we rely on our family of volunteers to prepare and serve meals, to do bicycle repairs and for our fund-raisers. Talk to our Coordinator, or go to <http://gate316.com/volunteers> if you are interested.



Story of Joe

This is a story that was shared by a person who has been coming to the Gate recently. He didn't want his identity shared, so we will call him Joe and no picture will be shown.

Joe and his wife have been married for 35 years. His wife has never been homeless before and Joe only occasionally when he used to travel. Joe and his wife are on Ontario Disability Support. They had an apartment up until September when their apartment got bed bugs. The landlord said he would give them their month's rent back if they decided to move out. It turned out that their landlord only gave them \$400; not enough to get an apartment. They couldn't find any apartments under \$1000. So they had to use the money they had to get a U-Haul Trailer and put what they had left in a storage unit. At this point they were homeless. They had no tent or sleeping bags. Joe said they only had the clothes they wore and the few items in his backpack. They tried staying in with Joe's little brother but that Landlord gave his brother a hard time. They ended up sneaking his wife in and he ended up fending for himself. He said he went 11 days without a shower. At this point he decided to stand at the exit ramp as he had seen someone else do. To their surprise they made enough money in 3 hours to get into a motel for the night so he could have a shower. (Unfortunately the shower at the Gate wasn't working at this time.) Joe was chased off by the police from standing at the ramp. He was warned that it was against the law, so he didn't go back, but at least they got a good night's sleep and a shower. Joe and his wife applied for money from the CDCD (Community Development Council of Durham) for the last month's rent so they could get an apartment with their next month's ODSP cheque. They got approved and did find an apartment, for Nov. 1. There is still 11 more days for Joe and his wife to deal with their homelessness, but at least now they have hope.

Throughout this time, Joe and his wife were given sleeping bags, meals, support and a place to be on rainy days at the Gate. I noticed that Joe was nodding his head and relating to what was being said during the devotions, that day. It was good to know that he was getting fed spiritually as well as physically. At this point, his wife came in and joined him for lunch.

Joe stated that his wife didn't use to have a very good opinion about homeless people but now her whole outlook has changed. She now understands that homelessness is the end results of life gone wrong and it can leave you in a hopeless state, when you don't know where to turn. It's a life experience you never totally understand until you've been through it. Thank God they have hope now.

(P.S. After praying about our shower needing fixed, we were blessed by an awesome donation of a new shower and plumbing materials from Rona and Canadian Tire. God is great and continues to hear our prayers.)

11th Annual Food Fancy

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a flyer explaining what Food Fancy is all about. If you donate \$100.00 you will receive a \$75.00 tax receipt and a \$25.00 voucher for one of the stores mentioned on the form. We ask you to fill out the form and mail it with your cheque. A self addressed envelope is provided for your convenience.. We know that you will make it a success again this year.

"I know the Bible is inspired because it inspires me."

Dwight L. Moody

