

The Gate

OSHAWA'S OUTREACH
CENTRE

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A SEASONAL UPDATE

From Betty Mann, Board President

Happy New Year!

I cannot believe that we are already at the end of the March month in a New Year. At the beginning of this year we enjoyed skating at Canlan Sports Arena for our Fundraiser "Skate for The Gate". It was a really nice time connecting with people and especially, for me, remembering how to skate again. And yes, I am still in one piece. I hope that if you didn't come this year, you will try joining us next year. A huge thank you goes out to one of our newest Board members – Carter – who organized the event with Emily's support (Board member who looks after our media). Thanks to all who joined and supported us in it.

We are also grateful that God has answered more prayers in sending us another volunteer. Welcome Caroline. We can still use another volunteer in the kitchen; especially if you want to join our awesome team. We are also thankful that we found someone to do our snowplowing for a very reasonable rate. Thank you Lord!

We continue to look for a new location for The Gate. If anyone has any good leads on a building we could buy in the south of Oshawa, please let us know or call us (905-432-5316). To suit our needs, we require 5,000 to 6,000 square feet but we are somewhat flexible. Our current lease ends at the latter part of this year and we will be going on a month to month lease per the Landlord's requirements. It is the Go Transit future construction that is initiating our move. We are praying strongly for the good Lord to work on our behalf

We thank you all for your ongoing support as we continue to support and compassionately care for more and more people each day. May you all be blessed as you bless others!

Betty Mann

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If you have certain prayer requests, please let them be known to us via letter, email or phone, and our team and Board of Directors would love to pray for you. Each person is a gift to us and we are His disciples here on earth.

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DROP-OFF DONATIONS CAN BE DONE DURING OUR OPEN HOURS

It is appreciated if we are provided with clean, laundered, modern date clothing suitable for age range 26 to 55 years old.

Our Open Hours

Monday to Thursday

8:30am to 2:00pm

Friday 8:30am to 1:00pm



FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

We open the door daily, sometimes wondering what and whom we will be introduced to. People hobble in with foot pain and cold swollen hands, dark circles around their eyes either from lack of sleep or the aftermath of a night of drug usage. Our hearts are always in the hope that the Lord will work within these souls who come to us broken, depressed, cold, out of prison, beaten and losing all hope.

On this one day we meet up with two individuals who are in excruciating pain and must sit down to soothe their agonizing legs and feet. An odor permeates until we ask them – What is wrong that we can help you with? “Legs and feet are in such pain I cannot walk” they say. In the uncovering of their bandages we discover limbs and feet whereby the skin is pasty and falling from the bone. We quickly send them for medical attention where sometimes we hear later that they have lost parts of their limbs through amputation. The ravages of weather and drugs take their toll. Another person saunters in begging to enter a recovery center because they are tired of following a drug habit of destruction.

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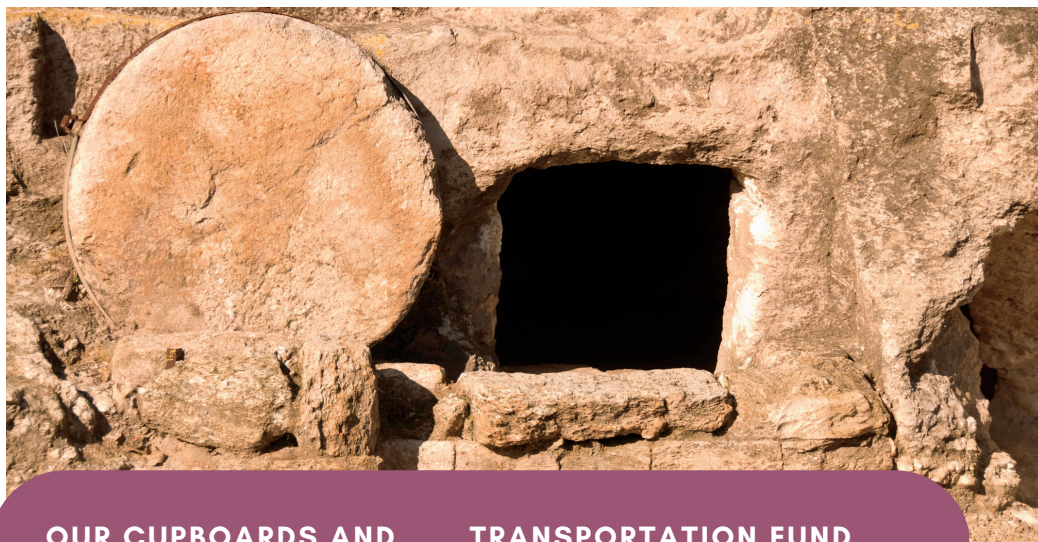
A LENTEN PRAYER

Lord, we lift our hearts to you. As the dawn breaks, may we carry the unity we share into every moment knowing that we are one with the risen Christ.

Lord, we lift our eyes to you. As the sunrises, may this moment stay with us, reminding us to look for the beautiful colours of promise in your word.

Lord, we lift our prayers to you. As the dew falls, may we breathe this morning in and know that like the earth, you sustain us, keep us and work within us always. And so, we lift our voices to you. We celebrate the greatest day in history, when Jesus rose from death, defeated darkness and bathed the world in stunning resurrection light. May we ever live to praise you!

Amen



OUR CUPBOARDS AND YOUR DONATIONS

Thank you for your ongoing gift cards and donations.

Please call us before bringing clothing and items as our needs do vary over time.

MEAL TICKET PROGRAM

*We have resumed our meal ticket program with St. Vincent's Kitchen. We are so happy to help others in this way.
\$1.50 per ticket*

TRANSPORTATION FUND

Your donations can help our clients attend job interviews, medical appointments and other obligations. We have been encouraged by DRT to use Presto passes. For each patron requiring a ride, we provide a return ride on each Presto card issued.

PROGRAMS

*Food Fancy
Food Pantry
Recovery Program*



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So far, at The Gate we have succeeded in putting one person through Teen Challenge – a nationwide group of addiction rehabilitation centers that provide for people who sincerely wish to kick the pain in their drug immersed lives. Another person is now standing in line to enter their doors as The Gate supports them in their life. A voice calling out from the wilderness of the desert is searching for that source

of peace and a life of joy.

As we walk among the tables we see bodies hunching over their tables with faces in their breakfast plate – bent over in exhaustion and needing sleep. They are searching for that everlasting peace and rest which never seems to come fast and long enough. Food is at its best as it is carefully planned each and every day. Today it is French toast with bacon, rich maple syrup and grapes on the side. Lunch is a rich blend of ham, pineapple, broccoli and a piece of pie. Everything is put together with the love and compassion of Christ. Within a day or two our food supplies quickly deplete. Our food lines become longer. Another day of goodness and God's provisions.

Pray for us as we pray for you and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

TEEN CHALLENGE

Teen Challenge Canada places the Christian faith at the center of helping some of the most vulnerable among us – Canadian men and women caught in drug and alcohol addiction.

Every one of their centers offers a place of refuge and a chance to focus on recovery and healing. The journey is difficult and the program is not for everyone. But for those willing to do the hard work, sobriety is within reach. Trusting God and receiving the love of Jesus makes this lasting change possible. That is why faith based component to recovery is so important. Teen Challenge is there for everyone who wants help.” At The Gate the support of this program has been implemented, and, so far we have seen the success of one person go through the program and there is a new potential candidate waiting to enter with our help. Should you wish specifically to fund this program for future candidates, please indicate on your donations “Teen Challenge” and we will ensure it is used for this beneficial good. For more information, please check their website: www.teenchallenge.ca/



IN ORDER TO RESPECT OUR CLOSE NEIGHBOURS, PROTECT OUR PATRONS, AND FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR BUILDING AND STAFF, WE RELY ON THE POLICE SECURITY SERVICES 24/7 AND GOD'S PROTECTION.
NO DRUG USAGE, VERBAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSES PERMITTED.