



The Gate

OSHAWA'S OUTREACH
CENTRE



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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND BOARD TEAM MEMBERS

Blessings from each of us as we now go forward into the warmth of spring season! It is always so refreshing to start a new season with a renewal and awakening of God's natural landscapes.

Times had been busy at The Gate and the number of patrons have significantly multiplied. We see many new faces throughout the course of any day and we serve them with the compassion that so many of them need. Food scarcity is of our main concern – and this is ongoing for special items we need like volumes of meat, differing dairy products like milk, butter, margarine and especially fresh both leafy and other vegetables like carrots, potatoes, asparagus, brussel sprouts, peas, etc.

A major complaint that we hear is the lack of housing opportunities and the rental prices. People are in despair and depression. Our dearest patrons are actually thrown into the circumstances of living in tents, sleeping in the outside elements, bathing in streams, or renting a cheap room infested with rodents, insects and no privacy. We pray for these people constantly and continually. Long housing waiting lists still exist and are looked at by officials in a priority and as-needed basis. Hope fails them and quite often their solution is living with “comforting addictions”, drowning in drink, and battling police authorities. Many of our patrons are “regulars” in the court system.

The Gate is a “home” for most, and a place of warmth, comfort, and nourishment. We sometimes meet the challenge of negative behaviors and actions, but they are dealt with through the right disciplinary action. Our dear Lord prevails, and we quickly learn that the fruit of faith is love; the fruit of love is service; and, the fruit of service is Peace in the lord.

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

FINDING BROKEN HEARTS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

After volunteering at the Gate for 4 years in January 2023, it has been an honor to join the DREAM Team Working in an environment where our common commitment is to point people to the Hope and relationship that Jesus offers each of us has made working at the Gate all the more meaningful.

Alan and Rita have years of experience and their love and care for people is evident! Another incredible gift the Gate has is its volunteers. Some are here almost daily - all day, some for a few hours and many one day a week. The Gate would not function without these awesome team members-it takes a village!

Then there are those who believe in the work of the Gate and donate financially- both churches and individuals- thank you for supporting God's tangible work at the Gate. How many times has someone walked in with a food donation that we needed that day? God is good and it takes a village!

The most meaningful part of our work at the Gate is the people of the Gate. The opportunity to encourage, offer refuge, a listening ear, a sleeping bag, clothing, shoes for bare feet- is the honor of doing what we believe Jesus would do- be present, compassionate and offering His hope and love/ Seeing the resilience of our people and how they care for each other has been a blessing for all of us who have the honor of spending time at the Gate.

Thank you for your part - IT TAKES A VILLAGE

God bless you for partnering with us!

Diane Westerman

Gate 316 Outreach Centre Social Service Counsellor



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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 day clothing suitable for age range 26 to 55 years old. Please call us before bringing clothing and items as our needs do vary over time.

Our Open Hours

Monday to Thursday

8:30am to 2:00pm

Friday 8:30am to 1:00pm

PROGRAMS

Food Fancy

Food Pantry

Recovery Program

ONE OF MANY

I never knew the lady's real name. When I first met her she said – Just call me Chilli, that's my street name. She is also known around town as – The woman who lives in a doorway downtown. We sat together on the step as she poured out her heart and grief for her son who was taken from her at nine years old. She also directed me to all the stars drawn on the sidewalk. She said that she drew one for everyone who had died on the street of an overdose.

This one evening someone drew one large star and in the middle of it was the single word – Chilli. I stood and looked at the large star on the sidewalk with her name in the middle of it and I said a prayer.

I turned to walk back to my home. I just could not stay downtown for the rest of the evening and wanted to be alone with my thoughts. As I walked I reminisced about times we were alone in the doorway. I remember the evening when she saw me approach soaked in the pouring rain. "You're going to drown out there, she said, come in here and sit next to me." I stepped up into her doorway home and we sat shoulder to shoulder out of the rain. "You are a good person" I whispered.

It was the last two meetings that haunted me. Two weeks before, I approached the doorway and there was a large cardboard box blocking the entrance. I called her name and got no answer. I looked over the top and saw a red blanket, and underneath what seemed to be someone sleeping. A mutual friend looked over and called her name, but once again got no response. The week before she died, she was sitting in the doorway with another lady. I looked at Chilli, but she was sitting there using drugs. She curled up in the corner of the doorway and waved her hand to tell me she did not want to talk. It was the last time I saw her.

I did not sleep much that night. Grief cast a pall over my inner being. Anger with God was palpable. She was a beautiful and gentle soul whose passing has left a void in my life. When we feel hopeless, we have to hold onto tenderness. God's love is the answer and our personal compassion makes an impression. The testimony of our faith and care must always be written on the wall of her doorway."

WRITTEN BY A Deacon on the streets.



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.



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.

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