



The Beacon



Toronto Harbour Light Ministries / Homestead Addiction Services

Volume 2, Issue 1 Spring/Summer 2014

The Salvation Army's Mission

The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world

Toronto Harbour Light Ministries Mission

We offer supports to enable people to rebuild their lives, reengage in community, and reclaim their future to the glory of God.

Our Vision

In cooperation with others, we will be a stimulus for excellence encouraging people to explore their full potential and experience new beginnings.

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Volunteers Needed

Being a volunteer brings a sense of purpose to one's life and the satisfaction which comes from having a positive influence and impact on someone else's life. It can be a hugely enriching experience.

To volunteer call us at:
(416) 682-2490

THE GREENING OF HARBOURLIGHT



What was already a priority became more urgent when in November 2011 the city of Toronto decided they would be charging charitable organizations, such as ourselves, for garbage collection. We wanted a greener operation to reduce waste, increase energy efficiency and to operate an environmentally responsible facility. With the added incentive of saving money, in January 2012, Gary Cresswell, Maintenance Supervisor, performed an internal waste audit to assess the volume of our waste and to see whether waste was being disposed of properly or not.

In February 2012 proper recycling and organic garbage containers for the Addition Treatment floors were purchased. In March we brought in the City of Toronto experts to talk about the importance of waste diversion. April 2012 saw the process of educating staff and clients through posters and flyers reinforcing proper waste

management and at client and staff meetings.

In July 2012 the City of Toronto conducted a waste audit to determine the effectiveness of our program. As a result of this successful audit, we became eligible for reduced fees from the City.

Here are some quantities to put some perspective on our final achievements. Initially we were disposing of 24 yards of garbage per week, and recycling was 6 yards per week. Since the city wanted to charge us for garbage collection we needed to increase the volume of recycling and organic garbage collection since those types of collection are free of charge. In order to do this Gary Cresswell converted two existing garbage bins into recycling bins, and an existing organic bin into a recycling bin, increasing our recycling capacity from 4 yards to 14 yards. Gary also changed most of the waste containers in the building to be recycling and organic, ensuring that this type of waste was mostly collected in comparison to garbage.

The amazing result of this program is that we have diverted 80% of our waste into recycling and organic waste. The standard that the city is asking for is 70%. The financial implications are that we are saving between \$20,000 - \$24,000 per year in user fees for solid waste management.

Future plans for greening include retrofitting of existing lighting systems to LED technology in the Sanctuary, 5th floor Lounge, and the Sanctuary Parapet Lighting. □
Chris Davey, Property Manager

SUE'S STORY



I came to Salvation Army Homestead Addiction Services on Sept 1, 2010 a broken woman, but ready to surrender to the Homestead Program and our lord for help. Ten weeks into the program I began to realize the benefits of the good teachings and nurturing I was given and started to feel quite, quite well again.

I then stayed in an apartment here at Harbour Light Ministries in the Transitional Housing Program. For eleven months I continued on my path of wellness and spirituality. Access to comfort, friendship, community and the solace of the chapel activities were all a part of rebuilding my strength and happiness.

The aftercare I received living here was a big part of my support system and extends into my present day circumstances.

The Homestead housing program helped me to move from Harbour Light into a lovely one bedroom apartment in a good area of the city. I continue to see my counselor on a monthly basis and she provides much guidance for me. I have volunteered as garden coordinator here at Harbour Light for three years now as I hobby gardened when I was living here.

I remain eternally grateful to this good, good building, the programs and kinship in it, the wonderful staff and counselors and of course the spirit of God who is always with me. □

Sue Connelly

LEARN FOR LIFE

Give your brain a workout!

"Get used to the fact that learning and studying is not exclusively for young people sitting behind desks. For as long as there is knowledge to be learned we are all students and that is for a lifetime" ANONYMOUS

These two sayings guide the spirit of the General Education Development/academic upgrading program at The Salvation Army Toronto Harbour Light Ministries. This course is offered to clients in the Addictions Treatment Program and The Transitional Housing Program every Monday through Thursday from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

We recognize the importance of the notion that we are working with ADULT learners who bring tremendous knowledge and skills to their studies. Our goal is to enable these learners to identify these strengths and foster a sense of personal self confidence in order to independently pursue their learning goals in the context of a positive learning environment. Therefore, each student follows an individualized education plan, which includes immediate and long term educational goals.

Throughout the past nine years approximately 50 men and women have passed the GED (Grade 12 Equivalency) examination which is facilitated by the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Independent Learning Centre. Numerous others have attended classes with a view to preparing themselves for further study at college, university or for examinations with a union or other job-related initiative. We also assist all students with the application process but ensure that they never lose ownership.

Murray, who attended GED classes, bridged into the Redirection

Through Education program and George Brown College, is in his second year of their Business Program. Leroy attended upgrading classes in preparation for the RTE program and graduated from the Culinary Arts Program and owns a catering business after serving a term as the demonstration chef at Loblaw's. Bob, who passed the GED exam in 2009, bridged into Woodsworth College at the University of Toronto and later attained his accreditation as a Personal Support Worker. Melissa, who passed her GED exam in December of 2013, began her program of study as a Toronto Harbour Light Transitional Housing resident. Her first words upon entering our class in September of 2013 were "I don't think I really deserve to be here. I left school and was a bad student" Eventually this young lady realized her strengths and proceeded to engage in a supervised independent study program and attained a percentile ranking of 98 in Social Studies. Furthermore, she successfully completed the "ACE" program at George Brown College and plans to attend Woodsworth College in the fall with a view to pursuing a career in Social Work. Incidentally Melissa is a trail blazer of sorts as she is the first woman to write and pass her GED exam at the Toronto Harbour Light Centre. Our most recent graduate stated "I've tried this course twice and given up. I got scared. This time I did it and I felt like a million bucks." This gentleman is continuing his studies which commence this June. He states, "Now, I have choices."

We recognize that we teach adults who are in a period of transition in their lives. Some are in recovery with a concurrent disorder; others are searching for meaningful renewal in their lives. When they consider furthering their lives towards a sense of "wholeness"; we as educators are both honored and gratified.

The support of the entire Salvation Army Toronto Harbour Light community with respect to the value expressed for our work has ensured its continued and future success. □



Peter Davison BA (Hons) BED. OCT & Ray Cameron BA (Hons) BED

ADDICTION TREATMENT PROGRAM

The concurrent disorder residential treatment program, the concurrent disorder supporting housing program and the shelter addiction outreach counsellors continue to provide residential treatment, case management support for men living independently, and support for men in shelters who have substance abuse and mental health issues and who have experienced trauma. □

HOPE ACRES



The Salvation Army Hope Acres Community Church is a loving, caring, giving, warm, and friendly atmosphere where people are welcomed and made to feel at home. Our motto is "you are only a stranger once." It is a place where people are shown the love of God through the congregation. We are unique in that half of our congregation is from the surrounding communities and half are the men in program and yet are united as one church family. After each service on Sundays we as a family share in a meal and some great fellowship. The church works in close partnership with the Addictions Centre Chaplaincy Ministry led by Major Alonzo Twyne. There is an average of 20 men in program attending weekly Bible Study and weekly ALPHA program which are both optional. Our ministries also consist of a Home League that has a regular attendance of 7-10 women who meet on a weekly basis. Monthly, we visit and lead a chapel service at a nursing home in our community. We have a Discovery Kid's Klub which meets twice a month with an average attendance of 15-25 children from the surrounding communities. We are not a large church but our attendance for yearly camp is. We

have 15 children going to summer camp, an average of 20 men going to Men's Camp, and 8 women going to Women's Camp. A few Saturdays a year our church family gets together and goes out to a restaurant for breakfast. One of the highlights for us is at Christmas where we get to serve and share our faith and help make Christmas a little better for some families. We normally assist between 100-120 families in our community with toys and food. Hope Acres Community Church is ALIVE and a place where God's presence is over all. □

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

The Transitional Housing residents continue to show courage and determination in achieving their goals of permanent housing, education, employment and recovery. One resident just completed his G.E.D. and got a scholarship for his college education. We recently ran a new group called "Working towards healing and empowerment" that residents found helpful, and we are commencing a new community partnership to offer one-on-one Financial Coaching to residents. We held special events for Women's Day, Refugee Rights Day and the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, and we are looking forward to our annual Summer BBQ for current and former residents. Our two M.S.W. students just completed their first year practicum with us and got involved in offering housing and employment workshops, a study on newcomers to Canada who are Transitional Housing residents and the start of a mindfulness group. We recently hosted a gathering of other transitional housing providers in the city and hope to meet quarterly. □



HOMESTEAD

The Homestead provides residential and day treatment services to women 18 years and older at our downtown location. We can accommodate 18 residential and 7 day clients. Clients have the option of choosing 6 to 10 week treatment plans in order to suite their lifestyle needs. We also offer community based relapse prevention groups held every six weeks. Additionally, we offer a 10 week anger management group, 4 times annually.



Our Scarborough satellite provides 2 separate community day treatment programs for women and men. The women' program can accommodate up to 16 clients and the men's program up to 8 clients presently. We also provide relapse prevention groups at this location. Additionally, Scarborough has a Supportive Housing Program, with Addiction Case Managers serving 24 women throughout the Scarborough area.

We also have a family program at our Scarborough location. This program serves families of individuals struggling with addictions. We provide support and essential addiction related information to these families. This is provided through information sessions and a 10 week group.

Another service provided by Homestead Addiction Services is Addiction Outreach. We have Addiction counsellors providing support, counselling and referrals within the shelter system. We presently provide these services to men, women and families, in various shelters in Halton/Oakville, Peel/Brampton, and our downtown Toronto shelters. □

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SERVICES

IRS continues encouraging new Canadians to fulfill their dreams and be fully active in Canadian society through our information sessions, ESL classes and settlement services. Last month our guest speaker was Salvador P., from Romero House, who was providing information about housing stabilization including the Newcomer Housing Program they have.

IRS joined the members of the **Toronto Anti-Human Trafficking Network** to continue the dialogue on human trafficking and discuss the elements of the Toronto Anti-Human Trafficking response model for Ontario that is going to be launched at the end of 2014.

The end of 2013-2014 school year is fast approaching and we celebrate with all our students their accomplishments and efforts. This has been a good year. We look forward to growing and learning in our afternoon ESL classes in September. □

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A new spring—and a fresh start!

Wasn't that a long, long, winter? Here on Jarvis Street, it seemed like it had been winter for a hundred years. So, as the grass started to green and the trees started to bud, there was not only joy that winter was ending but a great sense of relief, as though we had come through a hard struggle and had emerged into a bright future!

As an organization, the spring brought more good news following an intense time of work. Toronto Harbour Light Ministries and Homestead Addiction Services was granted

Accreditation by The Salvation Army with a total score of 95.5%! This accreditation reflects a high level of skill, dedication and attention to quality in the services that we provide to our communities. Our team is proud and grateful that our efforts have been recognized, and we are dedicated to continuing to provide the highest quality care that we can.

When the winter is the coldest and longest, the spring is most welcome. May this spring be for each of you a time of hope, new growth, and confidence in a bright future. Have a safe and blessed summer! ☐

Upcoming Events

June 18th

Visit by General Andre Cox and Commissioner Silvia Cox

June 23rd

Farewell Ceremony IRS/TDSB

June 26th

Annual Volunteer Recognition Barbeque

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

We wish to thank our generous donors who made our garden possible again this year:

- CANADIAN TIRE LAKESHORE – Peter Oliver, Brian and Derek
- CANADIAN TIRE BAY STREET – Larry McFadden
- CANADIAN TIRE DANFORTH - Mike Mizzen, Aran and Lindsay
- LOBLAWS BROADVIEW – Carmen Palumbo
- LOBLAWS MUSGRAVE - Andrea Buckett, Community Coordinator
- LOBLAWS LOWER JARVIS – Serge Nunnero, Gurinder Atwal
- BILL'S GARADEN CENTRE – David and Carol
- FRESHCO PARLIAMENT – Omar and Dave

Thanks to Gary Cresswell, Manager Maintenance THLM, volunteers Andrew, Rosemary and Joe. And special thanks to Sue, our Garden Master for her leadership, creativity, donor magic and abounding energy. Thanks to Struan for the great photos.



Anne Campbell-Smith, Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator

OUR GARDEN



Photos by Struan