



CCSAC NEWSLETTER

CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

June 2022

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Vice-Chair: Emmy Verdun
Secretaries: Elizabeth Demaray & Mary Mussell
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Canadian Martyrs
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Church of the Ascension
Dominion-Chalmers United
Eglise unie St-Marc
First Baptist
Fourth Avenue Baptist
Glebe-St. James United
Knox Presbyterian
Quaker Ottawa Meeting
St. Andrew's Presbyterian
St. Barnabas Anglican
St. Giles Presbyterian
St. John the Evangelist Anglican
St. Matthew's Anglican
St. Patrick's Basilica
St. Peter's Lutheran
St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican
St. Teresa's Roman Catholic
Southminster United
Trinity Anglican

Our Mission:

To unite Christians of all denominations through joint participation in social projects and prayer.

Get in Touch!

We would love to hear from you!
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Ottawa, Ont. K2P 1Z5
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www.centretownchurches.org

Community Fridge and Pantry

By the Glebe St. James United Outreach Team

A Community Fridge and Pantry project is underway at 415 MacLaren Street! A group of folks representing a CCSAC member church, Glebe St. James United, is working with community organizations as well as the Carleton School of Architecture to bring this project to life!

The location and power for the fridge were provided by Ottawa Community Housing and Arlington 5 Café donated the fridge. Users will be encouraged to 'take what you need' and 'leave what you can.' The fridge will be maintained by a large team of volunteers drawn from churches, universities, community groups and the community at large.

For more information, please contact Susan Palmai at palmaisusan@gmail.com.



Congratulations to the Community Laundry Co-op!

The Community Laundry Co-op has recently been able to purchase and install two new high-efficiency commercial machines that significantly boost its capacity. As a founding member of the Co-op, we were pleased to learn about this good news.

In March 2022, the Co-op did 108% more laundry than in March 2021. This has enabled it to hire more people who experience barriers to employment. Small businesses are showing their support by choosing Community Impact Laundry, the Co-op's social enterprise, as their service provider. This is an important step to enable the Co-op to build long-term financial sustainability.

The addition of new equipment means Co-op members' access to self-serve laundry is not impeded by the growth of its commercial business. Post Covid, the Co-op is rebuilding its membership with outreach efforts directed towards low-income residents of Ottawa. The Co-op is located at Heartwood House, 404 MacArthur Avenue in Ottawa East. Further information is available at <https://communitylaundrycoop.ca>.

Helping With Furniture

Helping with Furniture (HWF) is a 100% volunteer-run, charitable organization that exists to provide hope, comfort and stability to families and individuals who are starting over to transform empty dwellings into homes. This is accomplished by delivering gently used, donated furniture and household goods including tools, books, toys, computers and bicycles to displaced families and individuals so that they can begin new lives with dignity and the comforts of home.

The clients are referred by over 130 social agencies and include refugees and newcomers, Indigenous peoples, and people displaced by situations of abuse, addiction, long-term homelessness, mental health issues, fire, and insect infestations. Each week donated, gently used furniture and household items are picked up and brought to the warehouse, sorted according to client's requirements and preferences, and then delivered to their homes. A follow-up visit ensures that clients have everything that they need and provides help to assemble and place the furniture, hang pictures, and demonstrate the use of the appliances and tools provided.



In 2019, Helping with Furniture furnished the homes of 308 individuals and families. 2020's pandemic has highlighted the challenges faced by our vulnerable populations in Canada and resulted in a 33% increase on demand for services. Four hundred and twenty-two homes were furnished in 2021.



HWF has helped more than 3,015 clients after they lost their homes and most of their possessions due to conflict or natural disaster in their homeland, domestic abuse, family separation, addiction, or long-term homelessness. While many clients found apartments after they were displaced, most had to live in empty dwellings, often for extended periods. After clients receive new-to-them furniture and household goods from the HWF warehouse, they can set up functional, comfortable homes, with dishes in the kitchen, furniture in the living room, sheets and pillows on the beds, curtains on the windows. No longer needing to focus on surviving in empty dwellings, clients can begin to re-establish their sense of safety and security, focus on raising their families, go back to studies, find work, thrive.

Over the last 18 years, Helping with Furniture has been privy to stories of unbelievable trauma and hardship, but has also seen the amazing strength and resilience clients rely on to continue their journey. Being there to support them in that journey is the least that can be done. For more information: <http://www.hwfottawa.org>.

Refugee Assistance Programs in Ottawa

The Anglican Diocese of Ottawa's Refugee Ministry Committee, the Ottawa Lutheran Refugee Sponsorship Committee and the Catholic Centre for Immigrants are all Sponsorship Agreement Holders with the federal government. The information provided on the refugee ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa outlines what is involved in sponsoring a refugee — which requires financial assistance of up to \$60,000 as well as a group of volunteers to assist the refugees for at least one year after they arrive in Canada. The Catholic Centre for Immigrants and the YMCA/YWCA Newcomer Information Centre provide services and assistance to new immigrants once they arrive in Canada.

For more information, please visit the websites of the various organizations and churches.