



CCSAC NEWSLETTER

CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

May 2023

Executive:

Chair: Kristine Burr
Vice-Chair: Emmy Verdun
Secretaries: Elizabeth Demaray & Mary Mussell
Treasurer: Janet Rivers
Communications & Newsletter Editors: Mary Mussell & Lorna Kingston
Facebook Coordinator: Anisha Eipe

Member Churches:

Blessed Sacrament
Canadian Martyrs
Centretown United
Christ Church Cathedral
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!
507 Bank St.
Ottawa, Ont. K2P 1Z5
613-232-3059
Contact@centretownchurches.org
www.centretownchurches.org

New Location for the Food Centre

By Christine Kincaid

May 1 marked a momentous date in the history of the Centretown Emergency Food Centre. After 45 years at 507 Bank Street in the basement of Centretown United Church, the centre has relocated to the City of Ottawa's Catherine Street Community Service Hub at 370 Catherine. The move included the launch of a new name, logo and website. Removing the word "emergency" and adding "community", the centre now goes by **Centretown Community Food Centre (CCFC)** – a name better reflecting its role in the community of helping neighbours in need. The new logo features a cart icon which represents the shopping model offered at the new centre which has expanded its hours. The website, cfcottawa.ca, has also been revamped.

Diana Mahaffy, the manager of the centre, put a highly organized plan in action to implement the move that went off without a hitch. "This move is over a year in the making", said Christine Kincaid, Chair of the Accommodations Committee of the centre.

Thanks to the generosity of CCSAC churches, donors and supporters, the centre was able to purchase new shelving, refrigeration, furniture and even brightly branded aprons worn by staff and volunteers. CCSAC funded reusable shopping bags – branded with the shopping cart icon from the new logo – as gifts to clients to mark the opening and help with the transition to reusable shopping bags.



Diana Mahaffy - Manager



The co-location with the City's Catherine Street Community Service Hub offers many benefits to clients of the food centre. In addition to being a fully-accessible facility, it is a welcoming drop-in centre with washrooms, charging stations, public computers, Wi-Fi and access to government services. Clients can take a number and wait in comfort before their turn to be served. Once in the centre, each client is provided a shopping cart and, with the help of a volunteer or staff member, can select what they need from the shelves – more closely modelling a grocery store experience.

Forever grateful to CCSAC and especially to Centretown United Church, this move represents a new chapter in the life of the centre and opens up possibilities for the provision of even better service to the people of Centretown.

CCSAC's Community Kitchen Project

Centretown Churches Social Action Committee

COME COOK AT OUR PLACE!



TUESDAYS GLEBE-ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH	650 LYON STREET SOUTH 12PM-3PM CALL 613 236 0617 TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT
WEDNESDAYS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH	140 LAURIER AVENUE WEST 11AM-2PM CALL 613 234 3261 TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT
THURSDAYS ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN	82 KENT STREET 12PM-3PM CALL 613 232 9042 TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT



We are opening our churches to community members who don't have a space to prepare and cook meals for themselves and/or their families. We supply the cooking equipment and some basic ingredients (lentils, rice, cooking oil, seasonings). You bring the food you want to prepare and containers for taking your prepared meals home.

With encouragement from the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee, the Community Kitchen project launched on March 7, 2023. Three downtown churches – Glebe-St. James United, First Baptist and St. Andrew's Presbyterian – open their kitchens for several hours one day a week each so that those living in our neighbourhood who lack adequate cooking facilities may come to prepare meals for themselves and their families. A community kitchen is available Tuesday to Thursday. All three churches have chosen to open their kitchens during the day to accommodate guest cooks who have school age children. In addition to its facilities, each church provides someone to manage appointments, a session coordinator, volunteers, basic cooking equipment and utensils, and a few ingredients. Guest cooks must make an

appointment for kitchen time, make their own way to the kitchen, bring their own ingredients and containers for taking away their meals and help with kitchen cleanup after each cooking session.



Ottawa Innerscity Ministries

Margo Dewar, Managing Director of Ottawa Innerscity Ministries (OIM), was a special guest at the April 3 meeting of CCSAC. Ms. Dewar described their mission as helping people on the street survive by giving them emergency food, clothing, and personal items. Equally important is the companionship that OIM volunteers share with street friends in a caring and non-judgemental way. Today, their volunteers meet up to 170 homeless people during a 3-hour walk in downtown Ottawa, a dramatic increase from 60 just two years ago. OIM offers an Innerscity Arts program for youth and an Outreach and Support program for veterans. They are located at 391 Gladstone Street. For more information, please visit their website: www.ottawainnerscityministries.ca.

“Relationship is truly what we are about” – Margo Dewar

