



# 2022 MID YEAR UPDATE



**Kerr Street Mission**  
Oakville's Mission of Hope



Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2

# Striving for “Best-In-Class” Programming

It has been so good to see and hear the chatter of so many people in the halls of Kerr Street Mission again. With a full Summer Day Camp and the return of our in-person Community Meals, there has been a lot of activity and excitement in the building. It is something we really missed during the pandemic.

## Excellence

I am so thankful for our staff and volunteers' commitment to provide care and a community of support for our clients. Their continued efforts have made KSM a special place known for its love, compassion and kindness. I am also grateful for their drive for excellence. We strive for “best in class” programming, so our clients, whether age 5 or 85, can get the help they need – the same quality of care we would want for our families. Staff have really embraced this thinking and it is evident in what they have accomplished.

## Improvement

We have made tremendous progress over the last few years. Our Food Market has become a model and inspiration to other food banks. It has taken a significant investment of time and resources to increase our capacity and improve our food programs. The effort is worth it, as the quality and quantity of healthy food available on a weekly basis is unsurpassed, and we know it is making a difference to the health and wellbeing of those depending on us.

## Collaboration

Our Neighbour Care Network and CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Centre partnerships have also made immense progress. We have added new volunteers, new network partners and increased benevolence funds available. This has resulted in better care and support for clients in crisis and distress. It has been an incredible blessing to see the difference these programs have made in the lives of those we serve.

## Finances

I am very grateful for your trust and support of our work and the community KSM serves. Nine years ago we struggled to pay bills. Programming decisions were not based on “how to provide the best care and support for our community”, rather it was about what we could afford to do. Over the last number of years, and in particular during the pandemic, you gave generously and you helped us respond to both increasing and emerging needs.

In the first 6 months of 2022 I expected we would see a drop in revenue due to a variety of economic factors. Thankfully it has been less than expected. Because of your generosity we are only \$67,547 behind last year. Again, I am very grateful. It is important that we sustain our revenue as expenses are up considerably due to the increased cost of supplies and the increased needs of our community, in particular with Choose Fresh (*January to July registration was up 20% with an additional 35 families compared to September to December 2021, and August registration is up a further 15% in one month with an additional 32 families*).

Thank you for your faithful support. It is because of you we can respond to all of those that come in need of help!

Blessings,

Gary O'Neill

Executive Director

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# FOOD SERVICES IN NUMBERS

FROM JANUARY - JULY 2022



**700** is the average number of people accessing food from KSM each week.

**83** families representing 174 individuals receive food deliveries to their door each week.



**210** families are registered for Choose Fresh each month

*KSM subsidizes \$12,600 of the cost each month*



APPROX. **128** people enjoy sit-down meals each week

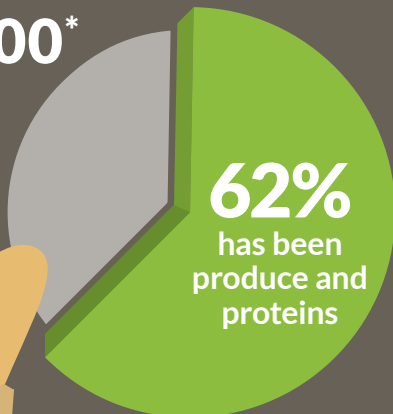


ALMOST **300** meals are distributed each week

*In total over 11,000 meals have been made so far this year!*

## FOOD DONATIONS OVER \$365,000\*

worth of food has been donated so far this year.



\*According to Food Banks Canada.



LEARN MORE!



Over **\$16,400** has been donated through Adopt a Shelf, providing clients with consistent access to canned proteins, canned fruit, and rice which are important for a balanced nutritional diet. These donations ensure that we are able to keep these items stocked on the market shelves.



# FAMILY SERVICES

Our primary motivation for the Family Services programming at Kerr Street Mission is compassion. We believe compassion is the secret component that allows us to offer high quality services. We want to provide every person coming through our doors with practical support for their immediate needs and to reduce their financial burdens. This year our partnerships through Neighbour Care Network and CAP allow us to have an effective impact in the lives of the families we serve.

*When we know their situation and needs we can direct them accordingly and provide the support they need. Our food programs and Christmas programs are amazing and needed. Our children and youth programs are terrific for the kids and they reduce the emotional and financial burden for the parents, but we continually see that most need more. I am thrilled that we have been able to expand our team and services, and rally support from the community so that we can respond with compassion and care that makes a real difference.*

Michelle Lockhart  
Manager of  
Family Services



## Since January of this year:

- 32 new volunteers were trained
- 26 intakes for the Neighbour Care Network
- Our CAP Debt coordinator met with 35 clients
- There are 7 clients actively working through the CAP Debt free plan
- We've partnered with 22 actively engaged churches to support our clients

## NEW PROGRAM!

We have partnered with Mother Matters to offer a new drop-in program for parents with preschool children. The drop-in offers an opportunity for parents to connect while their kids play and socialize with other children their age. Amazing relationships have developed, the parents ask great questions and our specialists offer advice regarding parenting toddlers well. We know this program will be a useful way to support parents in their journey towards parenting.

## A New Start in Canada

The war has had a devastating impact on Ukrainian families, and the secondary effect also sent shockwaves through the globe for natural resources like food. We are seeing the effects of this conflict at Kerr Street Mission. Our intake of Ukrainian families has steadily increased. Though we are happy to serve, it is heartbreaking to see more families in need. It is important that now, more than ever, we band together to support one another as we enter into an uncertain future.

It's hard losing everything; your family, your home, your community; for reasons that were not of your doing. This is the reality of Ukrainian refugees today. Many of them are coming in without husbands or sons, as all men above 18 years are required to stay back in Ukraine to fight. Many of the women and children come through our doors with little to no English, and a thin community network. The women have registered in our Food Market to ensure their families have healthy food to eat.

Many of the children have been part of our summer camp programs. Despite the precarious situation our Ukrainian clients face, they come to KSM with strong spirits and infectious hope.

*"Yesterday I met one of the brand new families to Canada. They didn't really speak English. But the boy started camp this summer and his English has improved drastically within the last month. He told me all about the zoo trip that he had. All in English!"* - Paula, Neighbour Care Network Coordinator.

**We have served 26 Ukrainian families representing 63 individuals so far this year.**

# NEIGHBOUR CARE AND CAP

## A letter from Zhanya

Dear Kerr Street Mission,

I want to thank all of the miracle workers involved in your work for all the support, help and provision for our family.

I came to Canada with my two daughters three months ago from Ukraine due to the war that started there.

One of the first places that we visited here in Oakville was your mission. I got to know it through my friends and later so many people recommended you to me, and so did I. You are well known for all the good things you are doing.

First we signed up for the food bank and it has always been a huge help for us. Girls love going to a “free shop” as they call it. I am not used to such things because we always worked back home to earn, but at first it was impossible here because my youngest daughter will start JK only in September and my husband is still back in Ukraine. But everyone here is so supportive, my girls get lots of compliments and smiles every time we come. We also meet somebody from Ukraine each time we are at KSM.

Then we also signed up for the camp. Masha and Darisha love it (and so do I). Now I can work at least part time, while girls are having fun. It wouldn't be possible for me to take them to so many entertainments, but you do!! They've been swimming, going to the cinema, visiting aqua park, safari and aquarium. They loved the taekwondo lesson!! The youngest even has a Russian speaking teacher in her group, which is a great help.

So, THANK YOU! For everything that you do! And hope to be able to help myself soon.

Zhenya from Ukraine



## Costly Generosity

A couple in their 80s are going through bankruptcy because they willingly helped others get settled in Canada at the expense of their own financial stability. After many years of piling debt, they came to NCN/CAP with broken family relationships and the strain of everyday living on a fixed income. After many discussions, they decided to go through the insolvency process to allow them to become debt free in nine months. On Aug 27th, 2022, they will be debt free! Their relationship with their children is on the path to restoration and they are in a much better place. NCN/CAP volunteers have been able to support them through this time. The couple are taking advantage of the food markets and programs at Kerr Street Mission, which have helped them immensely. All their issues have not gone away but they know that they are not alone, and we will continue to walk with them each step of the way.

Many stories remain to be told, many lives are being transformed. To date we have had meetings regarding personal debt with over 35 families and are currently serving 12 families with hopes of eliminating over **\$400,000** in debt. This is what the CAP Debt Centre has been involved in since full-time operations started in September 2021. This has only been possible because of your support, Thank you!!

christians  
against  
poverty

**CAP**





# CHILD & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

This past year our KSM staff were thrilled that gathering restrictions were lifted and we were able to welcome a larger number of youth back into programs at KSM:

- We saw the return of the Gary Allan High School STEP Program to our second floor youth area.
- The FCA Basketball and new Soccer program has not only provided an opportunity for kids to play sports and be active. It has also created a terrific leadership opportunity for a group of high school kids.
- New this year was the Kerr Street Wear project. The youth worked to develop and market their own t-shirt designs. During the program they learned how to create original designs and what it takes to get them printed on t-shirts. They also practiced public speaking when they described the inspiration behind their t-shirts and what they learned during the process.

*KSM offers children and youth a community of support that encourages them for success. To help the young people in our community find their way, we work to surround them with positive people, positive opportunities and positive experiences. We do this by offering activities and experiences that help them develop socially, emotionally, cognitively and physically. We work to create a place where they belong, they feel accepted and they have a voice.*

Tim Moore  
Child & Youth Development Lead



## NEW PROGRAM!

We've launched the Kerr Street Mission Kids Clubs this fall. It is a fun and engaging program where children have the chance to partake in programs that focus on creativity, hands-on learning & sports and games. Children have the option to choose whichever programs pique their interest. This new program will enable us to serve more children than in the past.



LEARN MORE!





# memories of summer

Every morning, without fail "Can we go now? Mum, come on! Come on, we gotta get to Kerr Street!" Rachel was sharing how, during the school year, it's a struggle to get her son up in time for school. But this summer he's been eagerly waiting at the bottom of the stairs with his lunch box every day at 7:00 o'clock in the morning. Kerr Street Mission's Summer Programs have become a mainstay for so many of our families. We are glad to say, we've provided a fun and safe space for kids to re-socialize with each other, which is crucial considering the challenges the pandemic has brought. Summer camp is an essential part of growing up, which keeps us committed to providing a great experience for kids in our community. This year our Summer Programs have been intentional about offering kids and teens the opportunity to participate in a structured, full day camp program that focused on fun positive developmentally appropriate activities.



**240** children participated in camp

**37** youth were enrolled in our Leaders-In-Training program

We had **26** staff with **3** being camp alumni

*Thank you!*

Our campers, staff and leaders in training truly had a summer to remember at KSM. Their laughter filled the hallways and seeing their big smiles was a testament to what a wonderful experience they all had. This wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of our donors who supported our "Send a Kid to Camp" campaign. We are so happy to share that we exceeded our goal and raised over \$200,000! We are so excited with how our community embraced and helped to support this initiative. We also had a record number of donors this year supporting our campaign. Thank you to all those who helped us. We feel so blessed.



# Special Acknowledgment

The Kerr Street Mission facility has become an important gathering place and hub of care for the community since it opened in 2010. We are fortunate to have a beautiful facility that enables us to do so much. We are committed to maintaining it so that it remains in good condition and can support programming needs for years to come.

Over the last two years we have pursued a number of specific grant opportunities that could help us maintain and upgrade our facility. We are pleased to announce that recently we have been successful with three applications and the work has begun, and will be completed by September 6th – the beginning of our new program year.

A very special thank you to the funding organizations for making this work possible.

## Kitchen Improvements

FUNDED BY



**Community  
Investment Fund**

## Gym Resurfacing

FUNDED BY



**Community Building  
Fund Capital Stream**

## Playground Resurfacing

FUNDED BY



**Community Building  
Fund Capital Stream**

We would also like to say a special thank you to Agriculture and **Agri-Food Canada** and **Feed Ontario**. With their support we have been able to acquire a new refrigerated van (shown on front cover). Having a refrigerated van is important for KSM as it makes it possible to receive more donations of fresh foods (produce and proteins) which enables us to supply the growing number of families that depend on our food programs.



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