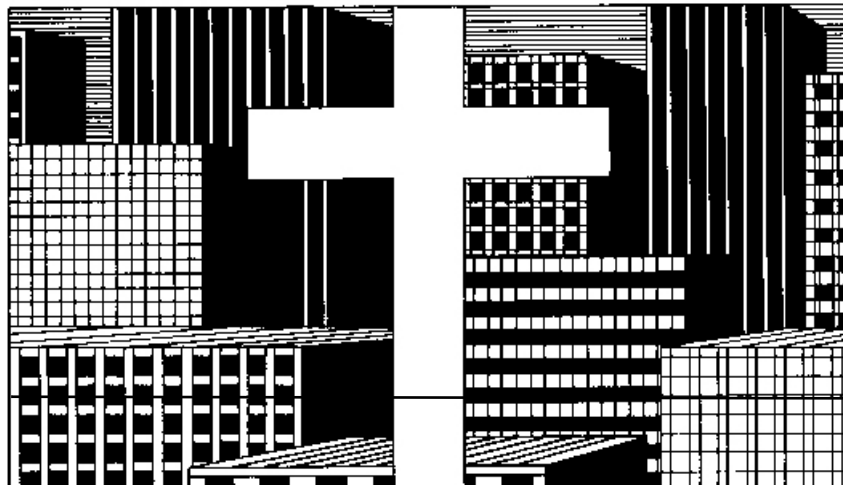


Urban Christian Outreach *(Ottawa)*



2023 Year in Review *(Issued June 2024)*

Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa) Incorporated
is a registered charitable organization founded in 1993.
Charitable Registration # 13776 1938 RR0001

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

The main purposes of Urban Christian Outreach are: to establish contact with those in the city of Ottawa who are struggling to survive spiritually, physically, or psychologically; and to mitigate the effects of urban isolation on the life of the individual.

We do this by pointing people towards a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ, and by offering ongoing pastoral and practical care, including Christian education, street literacy and life-skills tutoring.

Urban Christian Outreach staff engages in mobile outreach on the streets, and in the coffee shops, parks and other communal places of the city. We especially (but not exclusively) develop ongoing relationships with those whose fragilities make it difficult for them to function in group settings. We seek to be present to their need, even when there are no apparent solutions, thereby offering hope, respect and dignity to the individual.

Urban Christian Outreach works in co-operation with other agencies by referring clients to social, medical, shelter, educational, employment and Christian organizations that will further expand the individual's personal network within the community, and will serve his/her various needs.

The heart of the work is relational. However, from time to time Urban Christian Outreach may develop structured programs and projects that are in keeping with the central focus of enhancing the well-being of those who are experiencing urban isolation and deprivation. This will be done according to the needs of the clients and the qualifications of current staff.

The geographical area of outreach and projects is within a five-mile radius of Parliament Hill (Ontario only). Follow-up may take us into other areas of the city, for home, hospital and jail visits.

We engage in dialogue and speaking engagements with individuals and groups, to promote a wider understanding of existing needs, and to search out possible solutions.

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Annual Report from the President of UCO for 2023

In his book, '**God and the Pandemic**,' bishop, scholar, and author N.T Wright, says:

... so often when people look out on the world and its disasters, they wonder, why doesn't God just march in and take over? Why, they ask, does he permit it? Why doesn't he send a thunderbolt... and put things right? The answer is that he does send thunderbolts – human ones. He sends the poor in Spirit, the meek, the mourners, the peacemakers, the hungry-for-justice people... These people, prayerful, humble, faithful, will be the answer, not to the question, Why?, but to the question, What? What needs to be done here? Who is most at risk? How can we help?'

Dear Friends,

I have begun my Annual Report for 2023 with this observation by Bishop Wright because it answers the questions of what UCO does and how it meets its mandate. Those we serve are those “human thunderbolts“, he speaks of. I remember our founder, and former Executive Director, Katrine Barton-Coward, telling me that “We need the poor.” I don’t think I fully understood then what she was saying.

Unfortunately, the Adult Education Program at the Royal Ottawa Health Centre did not resume this past year as hoped. We pray that it will resume in the fall of 2024.

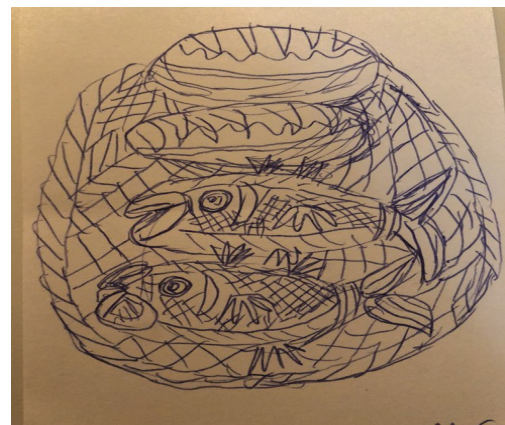
2023 has been no less challenging than 2022 was for the clients we serve, but to UCO’s financial status as well. This was due to the lack of sufficient donations required to meet our commitments. As I prepare this report, we are continuing to experience a marked shortfall well into 2024.

Our Executive Director, Jill Wilson, continues her unwavering devotion on our behalf, reaching out to the ever more distressed people she is seeing on the streets of our beloved city. God has called us to do this work and we thank you for your prayers and support.

... And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1b-2

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Konst,
UCO President



2023 Annual Report from the Executive Director

(Based on a 28 – hour salaried week)

For you know the grace of our Lord

Jesus Christ, that though he was

rich, yet for your sake he became

poor, so that you by his poverty

might become rich. 2 Cor 8:9

Dear Friends in Christ,

Peace and Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in providing for Urban Christian Outreach in the Year 2023. God blessed us, and he blessed the poor among us. While we ended our year with a deficit, we can still be so thankful for the many wondrous things that our Lord did in our midst. We were able to help so many people, and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and the hope that we have in Him, with those who struggle to get through the day.

Our work continues with those affected by addictions and mental health issues. I am happy to report that lives have been changed for those who entered addiction programs. Praise be to God! Thank you for your prayers! We hope to continue to refer more people to recovery programs.

We are currently in the planning stages of offering The Alpha Course in the fall, and would appreciate your prayers and support to make this happen. This program as you may be aware, is a 12 week introductory course to Christianity. We provide a meal, a video, and small group discussion. The course includes a weekend retreat, usually held at a camp or retreat centre just outside of the city, In past courses, many of our guests have said that it was their first time outside of the city of Ottawa! Lives were changed, as guests gave their lives to follow Jesus. We are seeking volunteers who might be able to help us with this ministry, by providing a meal, or financial support, or by helping out as a volunteer.



Sidewalk Outreach and Pastoral Care

We serve an awesome God, and we are so very blessed to be called to minister among the poor, the homeless, and the marginalized of downtown Ottawa. Our ministry is quite unique; there are no other Christian ministries doing the work that we have been doing for the past 31 years. Here are some ways in which we are unique:

- * our ministry is prayerful and intentional; we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, who takes us out onto the sidewalks, into coffee shops, shelters, parks, court houses, prisons, libraries, hospitals, and even under bridges
- * the Holy Spirit often draws us alongside those who struggle to be around people; those who don't frequent soup kitchens and shelters
- * we engage with people of all faiths, or no faith at all; we seek to share God's love
- * unless someone is shadowing us as a volunteer, we go alone, and not in pairs, often to those who are uncomfortable engaging with 2 people at a time. However, we know that we are not truly alone; God is with us. Emmanuel!
- * we engage in matters of justice, and sit on roundtables in order to improve the life of the poor
- * staff and volunteers receive ongoing training in areas of pastoral care, suicide prevention, addictions, mental health, Spiritual direction, healing ministry, senior abuse, human trafficking, and Bible studies
- * we offer Bible studies, one on one, to those who can't cope in a group setting

* we build long lasting relationships and friendships with those who are interested; some tell us that we are their only friend in this world

* we offer ongoing support to those who struggle with mental health issues and addictions

* we seek to build a support network around those who need help from various services

* we offer the Alpha Course from time to time, both one on one, and in small group settings

* we come alongside the poor and help them to develop skills, often referring them to programs

* we teach literacy and basic math in the downtown core, and in a classroom at the Royal Ottawa

* we help to coordinate medical, dental, and legal appointments

* we help with housing, supportive housing, access to services in the community, jobs, paperwork, etc.

* we welcome opportunities to speak to congregations, church groups, and small groups about our ministry and about the plight of the poor

Bible Study

Bible Study continues to be a favourite part of my work. There is something so very special about opening up our Bibles in a downtown coffee shop, to sit with our friends, and to read God's Word written, aloud. I am amazed by the number of people who look at us, or who offer a smile or an encouraging comment. Sometimes, a stranger will ask to join us; Praise God! We are working our way through the Gospels with one of our UCO friends, after having read the entire Old Testament. With others, sometimes our Lord calls us to reflect upon just one verse. One study guide that I find helpful is, 'Through the Bible in One Year', by the late Baptist Minister, the Rev. Dr. Alan B. Stringfellow. Whether we are reading full chapters or just a verse, we invite The Holy Spirit to help us to read, to bless us with the eyes, ears, and mind of Christ, and to write his Holy Word upon our hearts. Thanks be to God!

UCO/ROMHC Adult Education Classroom

In partnership with the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre, we have a long history of working alongside Occupational Therapists (OT's) and volunteers to provide an Adult Education Program in a classroom environment. Enrolment is ongoing throughout the school year; students are not restricted to the September to June schedule offered by the school boards. Students work on a variety of subjects including math, history, science, English reading and writing, Food Safety Training, computer skills, and G.E.D. (High school equivalency) as well as I.L.C. (Independent Learning Centre) credits. We hope and pray that we will be able to reopen our classroom in the fall of 2024.

Speaking Engagements, Advocacy, and Community Networking

We thank God for the many churches and organizations who continue to bless us through their Missions tithes and offerings, by praying for UCO's needs, by their generosity of financial donations and tithes, for providing us with Zoom service connections in which to meet as a Board, and for gifts of clothing, toiletries, gift cards, and winter clothing for the poor. We simply could not do what we do without their community support:

Parkdale United Church
St. Peter & St. Paul Anglican Church
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
The United Way
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Phebe Foundation
St. Vincent de Paul
Kanata United Church
The Constantine Connection

UCO Artwork

We are so blessed to have *Monique Choquette* as our friend, and local freelance artist. Some of you may have met Monique at UCO's Anniversary celebrations. Monique has used her God-given talent to provide us with artwork for updates and annual reports for almost as long as Urban Christian Outreach has been ministering to the poor, which is now over 31 years! Monique also helps me to stuff envelopes with our quarterly updates! We give thanks to God for Monique!

UCO's Financial Supporters

Your sacrificial offerings have allowed us to serve the poor, the homeless, and the marginalized for over 31 years. We remember you in prayer, always thanking God for you, and for your generosity. Your gifts enable us to pay for our sidewalk ministry expenses, such as meals, coffee, bus transportation, skills-development expenses, Bibles, and literacy supplies. Your donations also cover my salary, payroll deductions, liability insurance, Workman's Compensation fees, telephone, internet, and website fees, photocopying and printing fees, stamps, paper, labels and envelopes, etc. By God's Grace, we are a licensed charity and we provide Income Tax receipts for financial gifts, as well as for gifts-in-kind. We strive to be good stewards of your sacrificial offerings, and pray that we will be found faithful. I have been asked how one might donate to UCO, and so here are a few ways:

- * by cheque, to Urban Christian Outreach, P.O. Box 77033, Ottawa, ON K1S 5N2
- * by post-dated cheques sent to the above
- * by etransfer, to donate@urbanchristianoutreach.ca
- * by credit card through Canada Helps: www.canadahelps.org
- * by payroll deductions through The United Way www.unitedway.org
- * by providing gifts-in-kind (i.e. gift cards for restaurants, gas, groceries, Presto cards, and automobiles
- * by making a bequest in your Will
- * in person: we are happy to pick up donations and would welcome an opportunity to meet with you

Thank you, dear brothers and sisters-in Christ for journeying with us as we seek to serve our Lord on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa. We don't receive any government funding; we rely on God, and on his faithful followers to provide for all of our needs. Without your support, we simply could not continue. We are calling out to God at this time that he might increase our donations, so that we might continue to serve Him. We are also praying that He might provide us with a newer car in his perfect timing. We are currently driving a 2007 Honda! Praise God!

UCO Volunteers

Urban Christian Outreach is blessed to have faithful volunteers who give of their time and resources to support our ministry work. We thank God for all those who give their time to support the poor, including those who shadow us in our ministry work, those who work one on one with the poor, and those who offer help in practical ways by offering rides, knitting, donating gift cards and clothing items. Please contact us if you would like to know more about volunteer opportunities.



UCO Board Members

The ministry work of Urban Christian Outreach is overseen by the leadership of our faithful Board of Directors, who are called by God from a number of Christian Denominations in Ottawa. We thank God for **Barbara Konst**, UCO Board President, for her gifts of administration, wisdom and leadership, and for her genuine concern for the poor among us. Barbara also has gifts of encouragement, which I am so grateful for, as our work can be very challenging at times.

We give thanks to God for **Chris Garnett**, for her gifts of kindness, faithfulness, and prayer. Chris has been a faithful Board member for many years and also helps to prepare our envelopes for our mailings!

We thank God for **Dr. Susan Hahn**, UCO Secretary, for her many years of service, and for her gifts of organization and administration. Susan efficiently prepares our Board meeting Minutes, and helps to organize events, and gather practical items for the poor.

We also give thanks to God for **Denis Bourque**, for his many years of service. Denis has gifts of wisdom and discernment, as well as technical gifts. Denis sets up our Board's monthly Zoom meetings, and efficiently displays our reports on screen!

I am always amazed at how our Lord brings together the right people with the gifts that we need, for such a time as this! Praise be to God for the faithfulness of our Board members!

Spiritual Advisor to UCO and Spiritual Director to the E.D.

We thank God for the Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey of Parkdale United Church, who has supported our ministry work, and blessed us with Spiritual oversight for decades! Anthony's ongoing prayerful and practical support has meant so much to us as a Board. His gifts of leadership and wisdom, along with his knowledge and heart for the poor among us, have served to enrich our ministry in so many ways. On a personal note, Anthony has been my personal Spiritual Director for over 15 years; I thank God for his prayerful and practical support, and for his mentorship and friendship. Knowing that he holds us up in prayer as we walk the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa, has given me peace. Anthony has announced that he will be retiring in September, and we are saddened by this. We give thanks and praise to God for Anthony, and for his Spiritual leadership over so many years. Please join us in giving thanks to God for him, and please keep our friend and brother-in Christ, and his wonderful family in your prayers.

UCO's Webmaster

We thank God for **Josiah Milne**, UCO's faithful Webmaster, who takes care of UCO's website, posting our quarterly updates and keeping our website up to date. Josiah has been blessed with gifts of faith, ministry, grace, and encouragement. Praise be to God!

Our website address is:

www.urbanchristianoutreach.ca If you would like to receive your quarterly updates by email, please provide us with your email address, by either writing it on the back of the donor card, or via email at jill@urbanchristianoutreach.ca

UCO Prayer Group

Jean Gallant, is UCO's faithful prayer partner, and a dear friend, and we give our Lord thanks and praise for her, and for her faithful team of prayer warriors at Trinity Presbyterian Church, who uphold us in prayer. We thank God for Jean's gifts of faith, obedience and discernment. If you would like to join our prayer group, please give us a call at 613-233-6633, or send us an email at jill@urbanchristianoutreach.ca

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

Dear UCO community, you have blessed us and you have blessed the poor among us. Thank you from our hearts. May our Lord pour out his Holy Spirit upon us all, that we might continue to be a blessing to Him and to the poor, the homeless, and the marginalized of Ottawa, whom we are so blessed to come alongside. We thank God for you.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Wilson,
Executive Director**



UCO's Treasurer's Report for 2023

Total income for the year 2022 was \$47,663.03
Our budget target was \$60,000.00

Total expenses were \$61,236.66.
Our budgeted expenses were \$59,805.00

Income was below budget by \$12,336.97, and
expenses were above budget by \$1,431.66

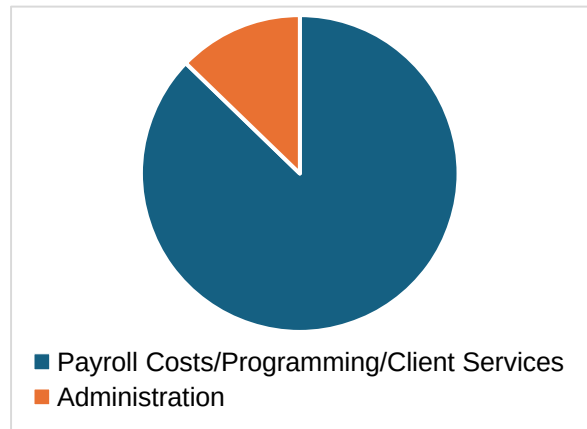
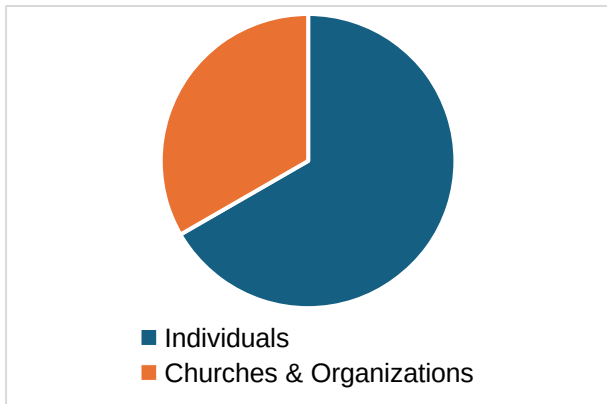
Budgeted surplus was \$195.00; however, by the
end of year we had a deficit of \$13,573.63

The ratio of donations from individuals as
compared to the ratio from churches and
organizations is as follows:

- Individuals: 69.66 %
- Churches & Organizations: 30.34%

The breakdown of year 2022 expenses is as
follows:

- Payroll costs/programming/Client Service:
87.16%
- Administration: 12.84%



***“...give thanks in all circumstances; for
this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18***

**Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Wilson,
*UCO Interim Treasurer***