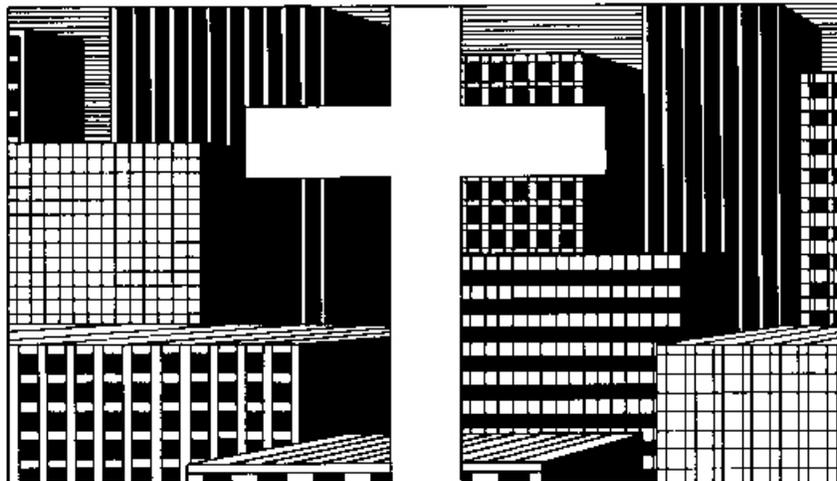


Urban Christian Outreach *(Ottawa)*



2024 Year in Review *(Issued June 2025)*

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.

ADDRESS:

Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)
PO Box 77033
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5N2

PHONE:

(613) 233-6633

WEBSITE:

www.urbanchristianoutreach.ca

EMAIL: jill@urbanchristianoutreach.ca

© 2025 by Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa) Inc.

Annual Report from the President of UCO for 2024

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Matthew 9:37-38

As I write this, we are celebrating Pentecost. The day when Christ’s disciples received the Holy Spirit and were immediately sent out into the world to proclaim the Word of God and the power to bring healing and peace to His people. This too is UCO’s mission here in Ottawa.

Sadly, 2024 proved to be no less challenging than recent years, both financially to UCO and to those we serve. All charities in general are continuing to struggle, especially since Covid. The fact that UCO is a Christian charity makes it even more difficult to raise funding. Your prayers and any financial support you can give, will be gratefully received.

May Christ’s Blessing and Peace be with you and with those you love and care for.



When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” Luke 24:30-32

Dear Friends of Jesus,

Amen! Were not our hearts burning within us when we first met Jesus? Every moment that we encounter our precious Lord, do our hearts not continue to burn within us? As we sit with our marginalised friends in coffee shops and park benches around the city, our Bibles often open, The Holy Spirit comes alongside us, and blesses us with his magnificent presence. I cannot imagine any greater joy. These life-changing moments stand alone, and change lives, moving us from the midst of desperation and brokenness, to hope – and even joy, yes even joy. Jesus loves the poor, no more, no less, than he loves the rich. For when we discover that we are sons and daughters of a King, are we not all rich? What a privilege it is to be called to share the Good News that we have in Christ Jesus, with those who need our Saviour!

Thank you, dear friends, for saying, ‘yes!’ to Jesus, and for coming alongside Urban Christian Outreach, in prayer, and by your sacrificial offerings. Without your help, we would cease to exist.

We are currently praying, and asking God for an outpouring of financial offerings so that we may continue to serve him faithfully.

Sidewalk Outreach and Pastoral Care

* Our ministry is led by The Holy Spirit; we seek to be prayerful and intentional, as we are led out onto the sidewalks, into coffee shops, shelters, parks, court houses, prisons, libraries, hospitals, and even under bridges to where we encounter the poor, the homeless, and the marginalised among us

* The Holy Spirit often draws us alongside those who struggle to be around people; those who don't frequent soup kitchens and shelters; those struggling with agoraphobia, mental health challenges, and addictions

* We engage with people of all faiths, or no faith at all; we seek to share God's love, and to be the hands and feet of Jesus

* Unless someone is shadowing us as a volunteer, we go alone, and not in pairs, often to those who are uncomfortable engaging with more than 1 person at a time. However, we know that we are not truly alone; God is with us – He protects us

* 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. Staff and volunteers are currently training to be facilitators for “Caring for the Wounded Heart” healing groups, a program offered by The Bible Society and the Trauma Institute.

* 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 would like to offer this again next year; however we will need your prayerful and financial help to manage this

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

* We teach literacy and basic math

* We help to coordinate medical, dental, counselling, and legal appointments

* We help with housing, supportive housing, access to services in the community, jobs, and 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

We continue to offer Bible study in downtown coffee shops, and in parks and public settings. We are blessed to live in a country where we can open our Bibles in public places, and not be at risk of being arrested. There is power in reading God's Word written, aloud. We pray that our Lord would open our eyes, and write his Word upon our hearts. This continues to be the highlight of my work. The poor have much to teach us.

UCO Adult Education

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 coming weeks.

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
Our Lady of Fatima RC Church
The Mission Dental Clinic

UCO Artwork

Monique Choquette continues to bless us with her friendship and with her inspired artwork, which fill the pages of our updates and annual reports. We thank God for Monique, and for her obedience to our Lord in using the gifts that He has given to her. Praise be to God!

UCO's Financial Supporters

Thank you, dear sisters and brothers-in-Christ. Your sacrificial offerings 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 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

UCO doesn'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!



***The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can
fathom.***

***He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak,
Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.***

***They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.***

Isaiah 40:28-31

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, knitted items, gift cards and clothing items. We are giving thanks this year to the congregation of Our Lady of Fatima, who work tirelessly to provide us with sleeping mats for the poor. The mats are made from recycled plastic milk bags, and are lovingly woven on looms. They are an enormous blessing to the poor who sleep outside. They provide a barrier to the cold sidewalks. We are also grateful to Dr. Susan Hahn, and her team at Trinity Presbyterian Church, for providing UCO with access to winter clothing, boots, hats, gloves, and other items for the poor, through their annual participation in The Big Give.

We also give thanks to Kanata United Church for gathering an abundance of supplies for the poor, including toiletries, back packs, and water bottles, etc. 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 dedicated 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 love for the poor among us.

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, organises events for UCO, 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!

We are so blessed to have such a faithful leadership team. Praise be to God for 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 retired in 2024, and we miss him. I will forever be grateful to Anthony for his ministry as my personal Spiritual Director. We pray God’s blessings on Anthony in his retirement.

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 mail, 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

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. 1 Thess 3:11-13

Thank you, dear friends, for partnering with us in our calling to serve our Lord Jesus on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa. With your help, may we be found faithful.

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



UCO's Treasurer's Report for 2024

Total income for the year 2024 was \$56,171.35
Our budget target was \$52,000.00

Total expenses were \$57,905.38
Our budgeted expenses were \$51,885.00

Income exceeded budget by \$4,171.35 and
expenses were above budget by \$6020.38

Budgeted surplus was \$115.00 however, by the
end of year we had a deficit of \$6020.38

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

- Individuals: 73 %
- Churches & Organizations: 27%

The breakdown of year 2024 expenses is as
follows:

- Payroll costs/programming/Client Service:
88.11%
- Administration: 11.89 %

We are giving thanks to God for you, and for
your sacrificial givings. You bring Glory to
God.

***“...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**

