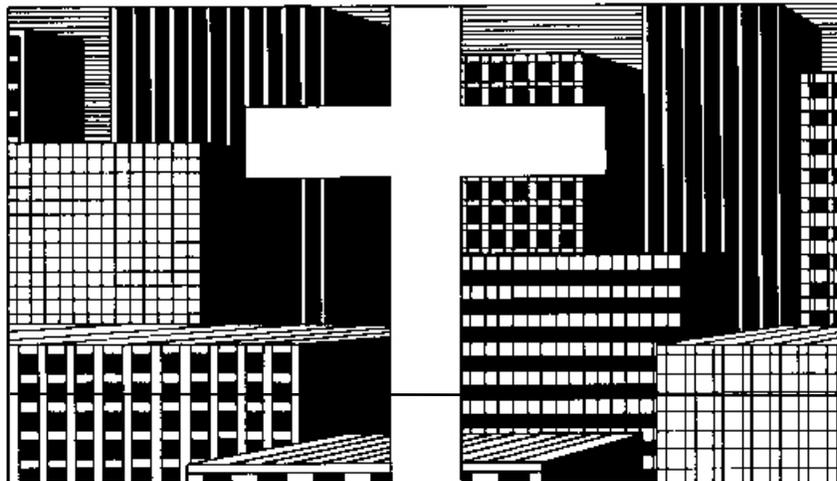


Urban Christian Outreach *(Ottawa)*



2022 Year in Review *(Issued June 2023)*

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 2022

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”Micah 6:8 NKJV

The past year has been a challenging one as we looked forward to marking UCO's 30th Anniversary. We had expected that life would return to normality in 2022, after years of living through the COVID Pandemic. That wasn't to happen however, and life in turn became even more difficult for some of our clients. Many of the services were either cut back or no longer available to meet the special needs of our friends on the sidewalks. Their loneliness became more acute as our streets emptied.

Jill Wilson, our indefatigable Executive Director, was finally able, after 14 years of uninterrupted service, to take a much deserved Sabbatical. This was made possible, in part, by Cheryl Bradley, an experienced volunteer who God raised up to take Jill's place. Cheryl accepted the challenge, and persevered during the pandemic with love and devotion. UCO is very grateful for her commitment and service.

Having returned full of energy and enthusiasm to downtown sidewalk ministry, Jill hopes that by God's Grace, our Adult Education Program at the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre will resume this fall, where students work hard to complete their high school equivalency, as well as to study a variety of subjects. Mental illness has interfered with the educational goals of both inpatient, and outpatient students in the past, and in their ability to succeed. Now that the pandemic has passed, Jill expects

UCO will be able to fulfil it's full mandate serving the poor, the homeless, and the marginalized on Ottawa's downtown streets. Like most charities during the pandemic, Urban Christian Outreach experienced a noticeable drop in givings. We pray that we have turned that corner, and that with God's help, our donations will increase, enabling us to continue to do the work that He has called us to do, in His Name. Thank you for your continued support.

“May God be near to defend you, within you to refresh you, and around you to preserve you, today and always. Amen.”
Canterbury Cathedral Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Konst,
UCO President



Annual Report from UCO's Outreach Worker for 2022

***“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” Colossians 3:15
ESV***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you all, for your prayers and generosity while Jill was away on Sabbatical. A special thank you to Jill and the Board of Directors for all your support and encouragement along the way. I thank God for you. What an honour and a blessing it was to learn and grow alongside ministry friends, while gaining a deeper understanding together of who God is, and where he shows up in our ministry work.

***For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.
Ephesians 6:12 KJV***

Not too long before coming on as a volunteer with UCO, I watched a movie called *Hacksaw Ridge*, based on a true story of Corporal Desmond Doss, a combat medic in WW1, who refused to train with a rifle, shoot, or carry any firearms because of his strong conviction that God created him to save, serve and protect lives, and not to take them. His protection was in the Word of God, and he carried The Word with him, even onto the battlefield.

He was mocked, ridiculed and even beaten up by his fellow soldiers who felt that he was a liability. He ended up risking his own life, and was left alone on the battlefield to pull his fellow wounded soldiers to safety; every time he felt like giving up, he prayed and asked God, “Please Lord, help me get one more.” He went on to save 75 lives, including Japanese soldiers in the Battle of Okinawa. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour for his bravery and selflessness.

Corporal Desmond Doss' story inspired me. I saw the correlation between the physical, and spiritual battlefield he faced, as we also do in different ways in life, ministry, and on the sidewalks of UCO's outreach. It gave me new eyes, to always try one more time, one more way, and changed how I served. I have adopted this motto ever since, into ministry and my everyday way of life. It really came right on time before starting outreach with UCO. 'Please Lord, help me get one more.' The Power of one, with the Power of the one true God; just one more time can make a difference. Just one more call. Just one act of kindness to someone not so kind to me. Just one more word of encouragement. Just one moment to be still and notice my surroundings and the people in them. Just one more time to speak up, and to advocate for the vulnerable, marginalized and oppressed - to forgive one more time. God can use us in miraculous ways when we let Him.

But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26 KJV

In keeping with this motto, I have one more story that inspired me and helped encourage me through my ministry work. An American author, and disability advocate, Helen Keller, who was left deaf and blind after an illness as a toddler once said, *"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do."* Throughout Scripture, the power of one is undeniable, that one person's actions can actually change the lives of many. The power of one true God giving us His only begotten Son, with one sacrifice on the Cross for all of our sins. Just imagine what the Lord could do with His one singular unified body of Christ if we all asked him, "Please Lord, help me get one more."

For God's Glory,

Cheryl Bradley,

Outreach Worker



2022 Annual Report from the Executive Director

(Based on a 28 – hour salaried week; on Sabbatical from Feb. 15, 2022- Dec. 31, 2022, replaced by our Outreach Worker, Cheryl Bradley)

***"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* Matthew 11: 28-30 ESV**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Peace and Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We are thanking God for all of you, for your generosity in providing for UCO during the Year 2022. I was blessed with a time of rest and refreshment while on a year-long Sabbatical. I cannot tell you how encouraging this time of rest was for me. I highly recommend one every 7 years, for everyone; I regret not taking a Sabbatical 7 years ago. This time away from my regular routine gave me the opportunity to be still, to sleep, to read, to pray, to worship, to travel, and to spend extra time with my family and loved ones. I spent some days doing absolutely nothing, and I believe that days like this are highly under-rated, especially as we all enter into a time of recovery from the physical and emotional challenges of the COVID pandemic.

One of the highlights of my Sabbatical rest was a 2 week silent retreat which I decided to take at home. It was very healing to disconnect from my computer and cell phone, from television, errands and shopping, and from the busy-ness of life.

I withdrew from conversations with everyone, from the noise and chaos that sometimes surrounds us, and by Grace, I drew closer to God. Even though I try to live a fairly quiet life, I didn't know how much I needed this extended period of silence until it was upon me.

“Be still, and know that I am God.”

Psalm 46:10

Sidewalk Outreach and Pastoral Care

We give thanks to God for Cheryl Bradley, who so faithfully ministered to our friends on the sidewalks in the Year 2022. She is blessed with so many gifts; compassion, kindness, love, etc., but what is truly evident is her beautiful faith in Jesus, and her ability to hear Him. There was not a moment when I worried about our downtown friends; I knew that Cheryl was sent to us by God, and that His perfect will would be carried out in our ministry work. Praise God!

Cheryl continued to meet with our regular clients, who loved her and accepted her immediately. They already miss her, but look forward to seeing her again as a UCO volunteer when she returns after a time of rest. Cheryl also wrote about the many adventures she had meeting new clients as she allowed the Holy Spirit to go before her in order to achieve God's perfect will. Thank you, dearest Cheryl for your heartfelt ministry work to our precious UCO clients, and for your obedience to Christ. We will forever be grateful to you, and to our Lord!

We never know where God will lead us on any given day, sometimes it is to the courthouse to come alongside someone in their legal battles; at other times to pay a visit at the prison or the hospital, or to visit with one of our friends living under a bridge or behind a bush.

More and more we are being called to walk alongside those who are struggling with the disease of addiction. Perhaps you can relate to this in your own family. We probably all can. Drugs have the ability to destroy lives and families. Satan is working overtime to destroy what God has created, which includes God's children and families. It is impossible to have a healthy relationship with a loved one when they are under the influence of a mind-altering drug, but battle can be won in prayer, as well as in talking about it, to those addicted and to one another. There is no shame, and yet we struggle to confess these things to one another, and to ask for prayer. I recently had the privilege of talking with a Christian family about this very issue, and we acknowledged that we don't talk about these struggles amongst our church family. We need to change this. We are now praying for one another and for our families, loved ones, neighbours and co-workers, and church families, that we might be able to talk freely about this *elephant in the room*, without shame. No one chooses to become addicted to mood and mind-altering drugs. It is a disease. The same can apply to all addictions and all diseases. We need to lift this veil of shame that prevents us from seeking the help that we need for ourselves, and for our loved ones. Shame does not come from God. Jesus has come to bring freedom for the captives!

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” Romans 8:1

We are now beginning to see Jesus move in mighty power in the lives of others. We are seeing people say, 'yes' to 1- year residential treatment programs, such as *Teen Challenge* (open to adults of any age) and to *His Mansion Ministries*, and to *Jericho Road*.

These are Christian programs that treat the whole person, honouring Jesus Christ and the power that He has to heal. Their success rates far surpass non-Christian programs. One doesn't have to be a Christian to enter these programs; they must, however, show up for chapel and Bible study. Finances are not an issue; God will make a way. We trust the Holy Spirit to change the hearts of those who don't know Jesus. One of UCO's clients is currently in a Christian treatment program; please pray for him. Later this week, I am meeting with a kind-hearted young Christian man to begin his application for a residential treatment program. Please pray for him! Let's trust our Lord to ***'restore the years the locusts have eaten?'***
Joel 2:25

'Lord, give us the eyes to see those who are struggling, to see them as you see them; give us a heart to love your people as you love them. Lift the veil from our eyes that we might look past our fears, past what we see in the flesh, that we might see Jesus in others, that we might see You. Give us a spirit of boldness to speak truth into the lives of those who need your healing hand, and deliver us from a spirit of judgement. Lord we confess that we are all in need of your healing. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.'

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”
Genesis 1:27

Bible Study

Cheryl continued to meet regularly to study the Bible with one of our clients, as they began a study of the Gospel of Matthew. Our client reports that she always looked forward to her time with Cheryl, and to studying God's word. I am now encouraging her to start a Bible Study at her group home with a new resident, a Christian woman who recently moved into the home. Please pray that this will come to fruition. We will often open our Bibles in downtown coffee shops and malls, or on a bus, and it is amazing how many people will comment; God's Word written is a powerful conversation starter! God can use one verse of Scripture to change the course of someone's life.



UCO/ROMHC Adult Education Classroom

We have been blessed to have a unique partnership with the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre, where we work alongside Occupational Therapists (OT's) and volunteers to provide an Adult Education Program in a classroom environment. We are grateful to **Paula Osborne, OT Tech**, and to **Anie Charlebois, OT**. Normally, enrolment is ongoing throughout the school year; students are not restricted to the September to June schedule offered by the school boards. However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, since March of 2020, our classroom has been closed to outpatients and all non-staff, which includes UCO, as my salary is covered by Urban Christian Outreach. The classroom has been reduced considerably at this time, and limited to those who are in-patient only. We hope and pray that we will be able to reopen our classroom in the fall of 2023.

In the months prior to being shut down due to the Pandemic, students worked 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.

Speaking Engagements, Advocacy, and Community Networking

The Year 2022 continued to provide challenges for us, and as the world began to slowly return to a pre-pandemic state, we were blessed to receive a few invitations to speak. We are grateful for the many churches and organizations who continued to bless us through their Missions tithes and offerings, especially during these challenging times, by praying for UCO's needs, by their generosity of financial donations and tithes, and for providing Zoom service connections for our Board meetings.

We are grateful for gifts of clothing, toiletries, gift cards, and winter clothing for the poor. We give thanks to God for their beautiful faithfulness and generosity:

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 thank God for **Monique Choquette, a local artist**, who's gift to interpret Holy Scripture through her drawings, has covered the pages of our reports for almost 30 years! We give thanks to God for Monique, not only for her gifting as an artist, but also for her wisdom in being able to reflect on the true meaning of God's Word written! We have learned so much from her.

UCO's Financial Supporters

Without your generosity, we simply could not do the work that God has called us to do. We are a very small ministry, and we don't receive any financial support from government sources. We pray to God and ask him to provide for us; Scripture tells us that He know our needs before we even ask! We ask Him, and he puts us on your heart. Thank you so much from all of us at UCO, and from all whom we have the privilege to serve. We rejoice over every small envelope that arrives in our postal box, and we give thanks to God for you. We thank Him for your kindness and generosity, especially as we know that the cost of living has increased for you. Your givings are a sacrifice, and we are so truly grateful to you. We are partners in Christ, serving Him by serving the poor among us.

May our Lord bless you for your sacrificial givings, dear friends. Your offerings pay for our sidewalk ministry expenses, such as meals, coffee, bus transportation, skills- development expenses, Bibles, and basic classroom and sidewalk 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.

UCO Volunteers

We give thanks to God for all those behind the scenes: to those who volunteer their time to come alongside our friends on the sidewalk; to those who want to remain anonymous; to those who shadow us in our ministry work, and to those who offer help in so many ways, through practical helps, offering rides, knitting, donating gift cards and clothing items; to those who help me personally in my work, to those who meet our needs as the Lord leads them; to those who came alongside Cheryl during her year of ministry work. We look forward to Cheryl's return as a UCO Volunteer. Please contact us if you would like to know more about volunteer opportunities.

UCO Board Members

The work of Urban Christian Outreach is overseen by the leadership of our Board of Directors, who are called by God from a number of Christian Denominations in Ottawa. We thank God for his faithful servant **Barbara Konst**, UCO Board President, for her gifts of wisdom and leadership, and for her heart for God's poor among us. Barbara also has gifts of administration, and efficiently runs our Board meetings in record time.

We also give thanks to God for **Chris Garnett**, Board Member, for her faithful support as a Board member, and also for her ongoing practical and prayerful support. Chris also helps to prepare to our envelopes for our mailings! We thank God for **Susan Hahn**, UCO Secretary, for her many years of service, and for her gifts of organization and administration. Susan is a master at preparing our Board meeting Minutes, and we often receive them within an hour of our meetings! We also give thanks to God for **Denis Bourque**, for his many years of service, for his wisdom and guidance, and for his excellent technical skills in organizing our Zoom meetings.

God has provided UCO with an outstanding Board of Directors, and has equipped them with the gifts and fruit necessary for our ministry work. I am so grateful to each member of our Board and to God for his faithful provision, and especially during the Year 2022, where they carried on the ministry leadership of Urban Christian Outreach, while I was on Sabbatical. Thank you dear friends in Christ! Knowing that you were at the helm of our ministry work, gave me Peace to know that UCO was in the best hands! Praise be to God!

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

We are so grateful to The **Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey** of Parkdale United Church, who has blessed us with Spiritual oversight for many years. Anthony's prayerful and practical support of our ministry work has meant so much to us as a Board, and to me, personally. We thank God for Anthony, for his service to UCO, and for the many ways in which he advocates for the poor of Ottawa, in a leadership role.

UCO's Webmaster

Josiah Milne, UCO's faithful Webmaster continues to look after UCO's website, posting our quarterly updates and keeping our website up to date. We give thanks to God for Josiah, for his beautiful gifts of faith, grace, and encouragement, and for the blessing he is to us.

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

We give thanks to God for Jean Gallant, UCO's faithful prayer partner, and for her faithful team of prayer warriors who uphold us in prayer.

I feel blessed knowing that I can send a quick text to Jean, asking for prayer coverage for a specific need; I know that help is on its way. 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.

*“Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
Philippians 2: 9-11 ESV*

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

UCO's Treasurer's Report for 2022

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**