

The

BRIDGES NEWS

Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Sharmina Ahsan. Sharmina is one of many volunteers who generously give the gifts of time and talents to the Cambridge Shelter Corporation (CSC). Sharmina has been volunteering with us for more than three years.

Prior to coming to CSC, Sharmina volunteered at the Multicultural Centre where she was involved with the New-comers to Canada program. However, Sharmina felt that CSC would be a better fit for her interests. Our mission of helping the homeless resonated with Sharmina. During her introductory tour, Sharmina was impressed by how well run and organized CSC is.



During the COVID-19 pandemic there were times when CSC did not have a full slate of volunteers. While respecting the decision of others to stay home, Sharmina continued to volunteer, regularly coming in for multiple shifts a week to ensure there were always enough pairs of hands to help. When Sharmina's friends and family learned that she continued volunteering at CSC, they did try to discourage her. Despite their misgivings, Sharmina knew her help was needed. Sharmina keeps herself safe and doesn't go out of the house unless it's for a necessity or an emergency. Staying safe is a priority for Sharmina because volunteering means so much to her.

Sharmina describes the programs and services offered at CSC as “amazing”, giving a *hats off* to Moe and the whole kitchen team for the outstanding job they do each and every day. If you are considering becoming a volunteer at Cambridge shelter, Sharmina wants you to know that it is a very safe place.

She loves what she does at the shelter and wants to participate in any way she can. She knows if others gave volunteering a chance that they would love it too.

When asked if she has a special memory of volunteering at CSC, Sharmina's says, “every day is memorable, especially when clients recognize me by name because it makes me feel that my help is all worthwhile”. We know that Sharmina’s help is very worthwhile. We appreciate the entire volunteer team at CSC for their help and for going above and beyond in this difficult time.

Interested in Volunteering?

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Paul Corkery

519-624-9305 ext 106

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT — BOBBYE GOLDENBERG

CSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sharon Livingstone
(Interim Chairperson)

Bob Howison
(Vice-Chairperson)

Bobbye Goldenberg
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Anne Tinker—Ex Officio
(Interim Executive
Director)



Recognized as a Woman of Distinction by the Cambridge YWCA in 2018, Bobbye brings a passion for her community and its residents to her role on the CSC Board of Directors and her position as Executive Director, Family Counselling Centre of Cambridge and North Dumfries.

Bobbye Goldenberg began her journey to mental health and addictions work first as an educator, from elementary school librarian to university professor, then vice-president of the largest community college in Canada, then not-for-profit work building houses across Canada as the CEO of Habitat for Humanity Canada, to domestic violence work, and finally to Family Counselling Centre of Cambridge and North Dumfries and Cambridge Addictions Services.

Over the past several years, the FCC of Cambridge and North Dumfries has been through many changes, including a growth spurt through the pandemic. Bobbye will finally retire in December, after over 17 years as Executive Director.

Bobbye's volunteer work has benefited committees and boards both locally and provincially. She saw The Bridges begin its exciting and challenging path toward change with a talented and experienced Executive Director and was willing to be a part of the journey. She has served on the Board of CSC since 2019.

HOCKEY HELPS THE HOMELESS



More than \$322,000 was raised in 2020 to support Waterloo Region's homeless population.

Save the date : October 29, 2021.

Gather your team and come out to play.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

It is hard to believe that it has only been eighteen months since the Covid 19 pandemic was declared. So many things have changed, and 'normal' seems years ago. Serving a marginalized and vulnerable population during the pandemic presented many unique challenges for us at The Bridges.

Prior to the pandemic, we were regularly providing emergency shelter for over 100 individuals each night. That capacity was immediately lowered to 64 to allow for the required physical distancing. Twice daily screening, mandatory mask-wearing, and constant hand sanitizing was put in place. We were able to place our overflow in the Super 8 motel, and our dedicated team of Housing Workers immediately went to work to find permanent housing for them.

Eighteen months on, we have become seasoned Covid veterans. We have come through three outbreaks and have found permanent, affordable, appropriate housing for 127 individuals. We could not have achieved any of this without our dedicated staff team, our Managers, our faithful volunteers, our partnership with Lang's Community Health Centre, and the support of our community. We are very grateful for the incredible number of donations of masks, hand sanitizer, toiletries, clothing, and food

We are looking forward to the 'new normal' when we will be able to open our doors and welcome the community back into our building.

Interim Executive Director

IMAGINE CANADA STANDARDS PROGRAM

Cambridge Shelter Corporation is accredited through the Imagine Canada Standards Program.

The Standards Program ensures excellence and leadership in five key areas:

- Board governance
- Financial accountability and transparency
- Fundraising
- Staff management
- Volunteer involvement

CSC was the first shelter in Canada accredited under this program in 2013 and received reaccreditation in 2019.

COMMUNITY EVENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

If you would like to host a fundraising event on behalf of Cambridge Shelter Corporation, we are here to help!

Email: info@cambridgeshelter.ca

Telephone: 519-624-9305

In 2020, we served more than 76,000 meals. Your financial gifts and donations of much needed items ensures we will continue this level of support.

KITCHEN & BAKING NEEDS

Coffee
Butter
Parchment Paper
Serviettes

Baking Powder
Chocolate Chips
Raisins
Baking Nuts
Cornstarch
White Sugar

THE BRIDGES

The Bridges facility is designed to offer a continuum of services and supports. We believe in a “whole person” approach to serving clients. To best meet their needs, we work in partnership with many other agencies, both within Waterloo Region and across Ontario.

We can all remember March, 2020 when Premier Ford declared a state of emergency in Ontario, closing most businesses and restricting how services were both delivered and accessed.

Despite the challenges introduced by the COVID-19 pandemic, we were extremely busy throughout 2020 and by March of 2021 our staff had permanently housed 118 homeless individuals. In the following months, we continued on this trajectory, and today that number is 127.

Our success reflects the commitment of this community to work with us by providing both the housing and the financial support needed.

Thanks to you these individuals wake up each morning, warm and secure in homes.

Your financial support is greatly appreciated by our staff and volunteers, but especially by those individuals we support. To donate by cheque, please make your donation payable to the Cambridge Shelter Corporation.

To donate online, please visit cambridgesheltercorp.ca/get-involved/donate.

Donations of \$10 or more will receive a charitable tax receipt. Thank you for your support.

\$25 \$50 \$100 OTHER \$ _____

NAME

I wish to become a monthly donor

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CREDIT CARD #

CITY/PROV

CVV

EXPIRY DATE

POSTAL CODE

NAME ON CARD

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Please check here to receive the newsletter by email.

DATE

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Charitable Registration # 89025 9419 RR0001

Cambridge Shelter Corporation

26 Simcoe Street

Cambridge ON N1R 8P2

519.624.9305

info@cambridgesheltercorporation.ca