

The Bridges

Cambridge Shelter Corporation

February 2023
Spring

Meet Volunteer Phil Fletcher

“No one, even 10 years ago, could anticipate the magnitude of the homeless problem that exists today”.

CSC volunteer Phil Fletcher sees first-hand how homelessness has impacted Cambridge. Since joining our volunteer team in 2018, Phil has been a dedicated kitchen helper, preparing meals, serving those who come for dinner, and tidying up afterwards.

Phil remembers the beginnings of Cambridge Shelter Corporation. He admired the vision and tenacity of the community volunteers who saw a need and stepped up to fill it. These same volunteers welcomed Phil when he came on board, making him and the others from the Cambridge Community Church feel welcome.

During his years with us, Phil has met a variety individuals. He remembers one particular gentleman who used a wheelchair. After every meal, this man made a point of approaching the kitchen staff and volunteers to say thank you.

The patience and compassion of the staff Phil works with has always impressed him. Day in and day out, Phil notices, no matter what they face, they never seem to get rattled. When Phil gets a glimpse of how much a meal, a bed, a bit of respect means to the marginalized in our society and remembers the pioneers who brought the vision to life, he is determined to do what he can as often as he can for as long as he can.

And for anyone considering a volunteer role with CSC, Phil has some simple advice. “Just do it. It’s very rewarding.”





Patrick's Housing Story

Hi, I am Patrick and I would like to share an experience with the Cambridge Shelter. In mid-April this year there was a fire at the house where I, and four other roommates were staying. We all got out safely, the fire department contained the fire. It was 5:00 AM and a GRT bus was dispatched for us to stay warm. We were put up in a motel for a couple of days and it became known that the house was uninhabitable. That's when the shelter really helped because there was no place to go. With the staff's help I applied for housing and soon got a response. The shelter provided furniture needs among other needs and moved everything to the unit. **Pretty awesome eh!**

Since the beginning of COVID, CSC has found affordable, appropriate homes for more than 200 individuals.

Volunteers Needed

As we return to in-person fundraising events, CSC is looking for passionate individuals to join our volunteer events committees.

From golf tournaments to speakers evenings, events will bring together generous sponsors, donors, and community members.

If interested, please contact Paul at paul@cambridgesheltercorp.ca

Program Highlight:

The Blair Voluntary Trust

The Blair Voluntary Trust Program assists individuals in housing retention and to maintain their basic needs. The Trust is registered with the office of the Public Guardian and Trustee and follows the OPGT processes and procedures. Most of the Trust clients are housed and maintain their housing with the supportive efforts of the program.

There is no cost to the clients for this service. Those supported by the trust are referred by agencies throughout the region.

CSC also has staff trained and available to file income tax returns for our clients.

Using a Housing First model, CSC programs and supports have been developed to ensure our clients can successfully exit homelessness.



Executive Director Message

As we continue to emerge from a long winter sleep we look to warmer and brighter times for the spring of 2023. The CSC is well-known for its excellent sheltering program. Today, we are also recognized for our housing capabilities that have strengthened during the last three years.

Our housing team, along with the support of the entire CSC staff, have housed 215 clients since the beginning of COVID. Despite this success, or perhaps because of it, we are now looking to enhance our number of community programs. New programming will allow us to increase our housing number exponentially.

As well, CSC leadership and board have been working towards an exciting new social enterprise, In Our Backyard, which we will launch in the coming months. Watch for updates and for ways that you can support this new initiative.

I also want to take time today to thank everyone who donated clothing, furniture and monetary gifts these past few months as they have been so important in helping the individuals we support in getting through the cold winter months.

Mr. Pull

CANADA STANDARDS PROGRAM

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

The Canada 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 has received annual reaccreditation since then.



Cambridge Shelter Corp.

The Bridges offers 80 emergency shelter beds for men experiencing homelessness in Waterloo Region. We also have 20 bachelor apartments on site which provide full-time support to those who are in transition from the shelter to the community.

Staying Warm on Extreme Cold Days

Region of Waterloo warming centres at 150 Main Street (Cambridge), 150 Frederick Street (Kitchener) and 99 Regina Street South (Waterloo) will remain open until March 26, 2023.

Warming centres are available during Extreme Cold Warnings as issued by Environment and Climate Change Canada. An Extreme Cold Warning for Waterloo Region is issued when the temperature or wind chill is expected to reach minus 30 C for at least two hours.

Warming centres are intended to provide temporary relief from extreme cold and are not available for extended stays. As the only permanent emergency shelter in Waterloo Region serving adult men, The Bridges continues to meet the shelter needs of those experiencing homelessness. We are grateful to our caring donors who have provided coffee and creamer, warm coats and boots, and financial support during these cold winter days.



Save The Date

Good-Bye to Winter Golf Classic
is now

Hello Summer!

Friday May 5th 2023

Tee off at 6 pm

Golfplay, King Street Kitchener

Single registration \$125

Three member team registration \$375

Great prizes ♦ Great food ♦ Great cause

To register or to sponsor please email

marjorie@cambridgesheltercorp.ca



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