

The Bridges

Cambridge Shelter Corporation

Summer 2023

Trust Staff Volunteer Time to Help Clients

Unfunded support program assists individuals from a number of community agencies.

“Guess what I’m doing with my income tax return?” Greg asked our Trust staff recently. “I’m going to buy my mom some flowers!” Greg is a Blair Volunteer Trust client, living in shared accommodations, and working sporadically with a local company.

Most weeks, Greg’s income does not allow for extras like flowers for his mom. After buying groceries, paying his rent, and covering his basic daily needs, Greg struggles to purchase small gifts for family or friends. While his modest income tax refund is usually spent on emergency needs, this year Greg was able to shop for someone else.

According to Canada’s Income Tax Act, income taxes “shall be paid on the taxable income for each taxation year of every person resident in Canada at any time in the year”. The Act then goes on to define taxable income, outline the rules for determining taxable income, identifies eligible deductions, and specify how income is to be reported. For many of us, navigating the Income Tax Act and filing our taxes can be a daunting task for our clients.

The Cambridge Shelter is proud to be a host for the CVITP (Community Volunteer Income Tax Program) coordinated by Canada Revenue Agency. Aside from a small grant to cover cost of some materials from Revenue Canada there is no direct funding for the program. Staff volunteered their time to provide free tax service for the members of Waterloo Region, serving 190 individuals to date, some with multiple years of reporting. Because this is such a valuable service and received so many referrals in previous years, CSC has extended it from the tax season to being a year-round service.



A grateful client recently presented Trust Staff with this Welcome sign he made in his home workshop.

CSC Hires In Our Backyard Coordinator



Since launching on April 28th, our Social Enterprise program, In Our Backyard, has received several requests for yard work quotes. This enthusiastic response from our community reinforced the need for an experienced team lead. On May 15, Brenda Walsh joined CSC as the Social Enterprise Coordinator.

Brenda is passionate about horticultural. Her background combining two decades of experience in the landscape industry with a decade in the social service sector made her the perfect candidate to lead this program. Specializing in design and installation afforded Brenda the opportunity to work with many local landscaping companies. She brings a wealth of knowledge to her new role. In addition to her professional experience, Brenda has contributed back to her community through volunteering. She understands the correlation between poverty and homelessness, and the challenge which our clients face in securing stable employment. A strong believer in the power of positivity, she is excited to share her encouragement in this next chapter of her career by helping people see their full potential.

Your Donation Helps

Between January 1st 2023 and March 31st 2023, CSC provided:

- 19,666 meals
- 8789 overnight stays
- 17 individuals support to find permanent housing
- 37 individuals with support to obtain personal identification
- 157 Trust clients with budgeting assistance.

Special June Appeal

The Great Canadian Giving Challenge

It's back! The Great Canadian Giving Challenge, runs from June 1st through June 30th.

Here's your opportunity to enter CSC in this contest. Every dollar donated (minimum of \$3) during the month of June, gives CSC a ticket for the draw. Our donors are so generous all year long, we know you will help us out this month.

The prize of \$20,000 will **provide 250 overnight stays with breakfast**. In the first three month of 2023, we provided 8789 overnight stays and breakfasts.

To enter, visit our Canada Helps donation page through our CSC website:

<https://cambridgesheltercorp.ca/donate>

Executive Director Message



Greetings and
Happy Summer!

There is so much going on that it's hard to choose where to start.

Our *Hello Summer* indoor golf tournament was a resounding success. We were able to finally put winter behind us by hitting the virtual links at the Phoenix Golf Course. We couldn't have done it without our supporting sponsors and golfers who had a great evening of mulligans and shenanigans. We look forward to seeing you all on the outdoor fair-

ways on September 29th at the Cambridge Golf Club.

Our housing team continues to deliver results by the boat-load as we are now over 225 folks housed in the last three years. The team has set the bar high for themselves as they strive to increase those numbers even more. We have recently added a new Scattered Site Supportive Housing program to our portfolio. This allows the CSC team to provide ongoing supports to both those we are able to house and to the landlords that come on board. We recognize how fragile the tenant/landlord relationship can be; our aim is to ensure that our friends remain housed and our landlords have their needs met as well.

Since its launch on May 1st, our social enterprise *In Our Backyard* already has close to 35 site visits planned. The feedback has been more encouraging than we could have anticipated. This yardwork company provides employment for folks who have been housed by CSC and want to contribute to their community by ensuring that it stays clean and vibrant. If you would like to get a quote on some lawn or yard maintenance work, visit inourbackyard.ca and sign up today!

In closing, my thanks and gratitude go out to our wonderful staff and volunteers. We pride ourselves on our positive work environment, including keeping our clients safe and healthy as they move towards permanent housing. CSC is not just a shelter anymore. We have many flourishing programs geared to stabilizing and ultimately housing those we serve. Our staff and volunteers are the glue that keeps our operation strong and for that I say a heart filled THANK YOU!

Have a great summer!

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.



Hello Summer Event

Thanks to our sponsors and supporters, we raised \$5000 for our Housing Support Program. Special thanks to our prize sponsors:

- Gowling WLG
- 13 Local Food & Beverage
- Beertown Public House
- Cambridge Centre Honda
- Cowan Insurance Group
- Stillwaters Plate and Pour
- Workwear Outfitters

Hello Summer Presenting Sponsors



Coming Events

June 23 Gore Mutual Insurance Company Volunteer Day

Over the past 25 years, Gore Mutual Foundation has donated over \$10M to 300 charities across Canada. In celebration of the Foundation's anniversary, Gore Mutual is holding a Community Day on June 23rd for its employees to experience spreading good first-hand by volunteering with a local charity. CSC looks forward to welcoming Gore Mutual volunteers to The Bridges on June 23rd.

September 29 CSC Annual Fall Golf Classic

Mother Nature has promised Friday, September 29th will have the sun shining and only a gentle breeze blowing. CSC annual Fall Golf Classic returns to Cambridge Golf Club. Once again, we are hosting a fun-filled afternoon of creative contests and camaraderie. To register, sponsor, or volunteer please contact Resource Development at marjorie@cambridgesheltercorp.ca.



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