



THE BRIDGES NEWS

SPRING 2022

NO ONE IN OUR COMMUNITY WILL BE
HOMELESS.

EXECUTIVE NOTE



Being in this role twice has given me a unique perspective on the changes in substance use. When I was Executive Director from 2000 – 2013, the drug of choice was crack cocaine. Most people smoked it. Crystal meth was just coming on the scene when I retired the first time.

Flash forward to 2019, and the whole drug landscape has changed. Opioids and crystal meth top the charts as the preferred high and are now mostly injected. Increasingly, they are being made or cut with veterinary medications and other chemicals that are poisonous or lethal.

Where once it was rare to have three overdoses a week, it is now the norm to have several a day, sometimes with the same person overdosing twice. Naloxone is a great help, but quite literally, every time a person uses, they could die. Addiction is a monster that grabs hold and creates a dependence so great that everything else in the person's life falls away. And addiction cuts across all social strata. Individuals experiencing homelessness are not the only ones affected.

Dealing with this is incredibly stressful for our staff, for the person overdosing, for EMS first responders, and for those watching it unfold. Why do we keep allowing it to happen? We have the tools at our disposal to mitigate the plague of drug addiction. Consumption and Treatment Sites have been proven to save lives and to provide the wrap around services that people need to make positive changes in their lives. Safe supply would eliminate the senseless loss of life.

How many mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandmothers, and grandfathers have to die for us to say enough?

Interim Executive Director



For many of us the future holds promise and hope. But many who are experiencing homelessness see no future at all.

Martin's story is like so many others we hear every day. Minor infractions led to more serious brushes with the

law until he found himself spending more and more time incarcerated. It was not long before Martin's life became a hopeless cycle of homelessness and jail.

Sometimes it is true, that when you hit the bottom the only way to go is up. It is also true that you must be willing to begin the climb.

When Martin met the staff and volunteers at The Bridges, he had already decided he needed to change direction. He understood it would take commitment, perseverance, and acceptance. He also understood that unless he accepted help, he would never be able to move forward.

"I really had nothing to look forward to."

Today, Martin is housed and able to manage his life with support from staff through the Blair Voluntary Trust program. He has repaid those to whom he was indebted, even paying off his traffic fines. With a smile, Martin tells us, "I can now drive legally for the first time in thirty years!"

Our supports are intended to help the whole person. We work to deliver hope, and to walk with individuals as they recreate their own futures. As he reflects on his own journey, Martin also recognizes that he has changed. He says, "I now believe there are people who care with no strings attached which in turn has made me a more caring person."

We may not be able to solve the homelessness issue, but we can change lives.

LANDLORD CORNER

"I enjoy giving back to those less fortunate." Asif Nadeem has provided rental housing for our clients for several years. Mr. Nadeem currently owns six properties that our housing team has accessed for clients needing safe, affordable and appropriate housing. We believe that addressing life's struggles begins with having stable housing. Working with our landlord partners, we were able to find housing for more than 170 individuals since January 2021. Thank you to those homeowners like Asif who support our work.



Your Newsletter. Your Way!

We would like to communicate with you in the way you prefer!

If you would like to sign up to receive this newsletter electronically please email Marjorie at marjorie@cambridgesheltercorp.ca

Written By: Marjorie Brown
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Designed By: Tara Chapman

YOUR LEGACY, YOUR WAY

Andrew Carnegie is often recognized as the “Father of Philanthropy”, having established more than 2500 libraries in the United States and around the globe through generous endowments. By the time of his death in 1919 Carnegie had given away \$350 million of his vast fortune but still had an estate of \$30 million to distribute. In keeping with his belief that education would lead to personal success and his vision of international peace, Carnegie bequeathed his remaining fortune to the Carnegie Corporation of New York, an institution he had founded dedicated to the “advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding”. Andrew Carnegie’s legacy lives on, more than 100 years after his death.

Just as those imprints remain as we move forward, a legacy gift to The Bridges would continue to reflect the donor’s values and commitment to bettering our community.

Listen to the voices of those who are helped by your donations today:

“I know how it feels to be broken, to be abandoned, to be lost. And I know how it feels to come looking for shelter and to find hope.”

“I was messed up, living on the street, lonely. When I came just to get out of the rain, I was offered a chance to change my life.”

We can’t just make homelessness disappear; however, your legacy gift will ensure that hope and a second chance will be here for those in need.



What will be your legacy?

As we walk in the soft sand of a beach we can look back and see our footprints.



THANK YOU

Did You Know?

Many employers right here in our community have Volunteer Grant Programs?

Does your employer offer a matching gift program or provide grants to local charities? By advocating on our behalf, you could make a significant difference in the lives of those we support. Recently, volunteers from the local Gap Factory store had their volunteer hours recognized through the Be What’s Possible corporate award which resulted in a \$1000 donation to The Bridges. Thanks to our volunteers and donors whose personal gifts trigger more support.

The Bridges: Embracing Hope

Through generous community donations, The Bridges is making a difference in our community!



EMERGENCY SHELTER



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM



WHOLE-PERSON APPROACH

PAST EVENTS

On Friday, April 29th, we held our first **Good-Bye to Winter Classic** charity golf tournament.

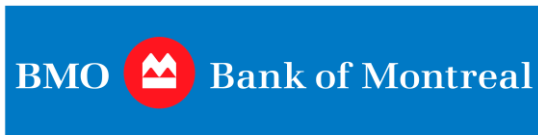
The event was held at GolfPlay in Kitchener where an energetic crowd of golfers gathered for an evening of golf, contests and great food in support of The Bridges and all that we do.

Continued contributions from our business community have enabled us to reach as many disadvantaged individuals in our community through fundraising events like these and other donations. We value these relationships as they are critical to us meeting our mission to offer programs and services that help the most vulnerable in our community.

We extended our heartfelt gratitude to our Event Sponsors Bank of Montreal and Drains “R” Us for their generous support and to GolfPlay for offering a spectacular venue.

We are also very grateful to our Contest and Prize Sponsors for their tremendous support.

It was a fun evening had by all and we look forward to our next event this fall!



CONTEST SPONSORS



PRECISE JANITORIAL SERVICES

PRIZE SPONSORS



PAST EVENTS

Our wonderful placement student, Alicia, recently hosted a **Chili Cooking event** for our tenants on the 2nd floor. Everyone who attended had a blast and got to take home a complimentary crock-pot! Thank you, Alicia, for your initiative and hard work to offer our tenants a fun and memorable event.



CSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sharon Livingstone
(Interim Chairperson)

Bob Howison
(Vice-Chairperson)

Bobbie Goldenberg
(Secretary Treasurer)

Barbara Kavanagh

Dr. Erin Dej

Ann Marie Macey

Marjorie Ann Knight

Rosalyn McKay

Kathryn McGarry
(Ex Officio)

Chris McEvoy
(Ex Officio)

Anne Tinker
(Interim Executive
Director & Ex Officio
Board Member)

FUTURE EVENTS

Save the Date!



For more information about event details or sponsorship, please contact Marjorie via marjorie@cambridgesheltercorp.ca.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY



Consider becoming a Monthly Donor!

Did you know that monthly giving saves on administrative fees and helps us to set more predictable budgets?

And, it's easy to set-up!

Regular donations can be made in affordable monthly payments. And, you can easily increase, decrease, pause or stop your gift at any time!

You can set-up online or give us a call!



Leave a Legacy Gift

A gift in your will has a lasting impact and gives you the satisfaction of knowing that the charity you felt passionate about in your lifetime will continue to receive support.

For more information contact
Marjorie at
marjorie@cambridgesheltercorp.ca



We rely on volunteers as an essential part of our team.

In our kitchen
At events and fundraisers
As corporate teams - supporting The Bridges while team building!

To learn how you can get involved, please visit our website or call (519) 624-9305 ext 106.

We would love to have YOU join our team!



Your Donation is a Gift of Hope!

Donating is Easy!

Give people the hope they need to move beyond homelessness. Your financial support is key!

-  **Donate Online**
Visit us online
-  **Mail or Drop By**
26 Simcoe St, Cambridge
Ontario N1R 8P2
-  **Call Us**
(519) 624-9305 ext 100

Charitable receipts are provided for every donation \$10 and over. Cheques payable to Cambridge Shelter Corporation.

Yes! I want to help today!

Please cut out this portion if you wish to make a donation.

Charitable Registration Number: **89025 9419 RR0001**

Donation online go to: **cambridgesheltercorp.ca/donate**

Please make cheques payable to: **Cambridge Shelter Corporation**



☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Sign me up as a Monthly Donor.

☐ 12 post-dated cheques enclosed

☐ Permission to charge my credit card

I may withdraw from the program at any time in writing. Please provide 12-post-dated cheques or credit card information below.

VISA ☐ MC ☐

Credit Card # _____

CVV# _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email, please include your email and check here ☐

Email: _____

Donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt

Ask your employer about Employee Matching Programs

Imagine Canada's Standards Program

We're very pleased to be recognized as an accredited non profit agency by Imagine Canada. Imagine Canada's Standards Program launched in May 2012. Designed to strengthen public confidence in the charitable and not for profit sector, the Standards Program is among the first of its kind at a national level, offering accreditation to charities and non-profits that demonstrate excellence in the following five key areas:

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



For further information please contact the Standards Program Coordinator at standards@imaginecanada.ca

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www.cambridgesheltercorp.ca

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