

Bethel St. Andrew's United Church: Supporting the Community Through Outreach

Bethel St. Andrew's United Church remains committed to supporting those in need through its Outreach Fund, which is dedicated to assisting local charities and families facing financial hardship.

Each year, the church allocates an annual budget to support outreach initiatives in West Carleton and beyond. The fund is designed to provide financial assistance to local families experiencing unforeseen difficulties, such as job loss or fire-related displacement. The church remained steadfast in its mission to support community organizations that provide essential services to vulnerable populations.

In 2024, Bethel St. Andrew's United Church distributed funds to several impactful organizations, including:

- **Shepherds of Good Hope** – Supporting individuals experiencing homelessness and food insecurity.
- **The Ottawa Mission** – Providing shelter, meals, and essential services to those in need.
- **West Carleton Food Access Centre** – Helping local families access food assistance.
- **Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre** – Offering social support services to individuals and families in crisis.
- **Operation Come Home** – Assisting at-risk and homeless youth with housing, education, and employment programs.
- **Lanark County Interval House** – Providing emergency shelter and support to women and children fleeing violence.
- **Caldwell Family Centre** – Offering food, clothing, and outreach services to low-income families.
- **Inner-City Ministries** – Supporting marginalized individuals in Ottawa's urban core.
- **Special Olympics** – Promoting sports and activities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Bethel St. Andrew's United Church is also proud to partner with the **Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre (WOCRC)** to bring valuable programs to the community. This partnership includes hosting the weekly **EarlyON Program** and a **Community Café** six times a year, providing a welcoming space for families and individuals to connect. Additionally, the **Diner's Club** gathered at Bethel St. Andrew's twice last year, offering meals and companionship for seniors. BSA is happy to be working together with WOCRC as part of these valuable community programs.

Our United Church Women (UCW) donated funds and feminine products to both the West Carleton Food Access Centre and the Arnprior Food Bank in 2024. The Christmas Tea and Carol Sing are annual outreach events within the West Carleton region hosted during the Christmas season. The UCW makes small remembrances to give to congregation women and purchases small poinsettias. On an annual basis, the UCW bake and deliver cookies in gift bags to seniors who are isolated to their homes in winter.

"We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our congregation and community, which allows us to extend a helping hand to those who need it most," said Anita D'Arcy, a representative of Bethel St. Andrew's United Church. "Through these contributions, we continue our mission of service, love, and compassion."

The church remains committed to assessing community needs and ensuring that financial aid is available for those facing hardships. As part of its ongoing outreach efforts, Bethel St. Andrew's encourages individuals and organizations to reach out if they know of families or individuals in need of support.