



The Sycamore Centre is a safe, welcoming place where anyone can rest, receive practical help, and experience the love of Christ through genuine community. Every week, lives are touched through simple acts of compassion, dignity, and connection. Since the Sycamore Centre opened its doors on August 6, 2025, we have provided approximately 1000 meals, 300 showers and 200 loads of laundry to people in need.

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | February 2026



## A Growing Vision

As needs in our community continue to grow, we believe God is calling us to faithfully expand our reach. We hope to extend our hours so we can be available to more individuals and families, add new services and programs that offer deeper support and opportunities for growth, and, in time, open additional centres to bring hope and practical help to more communities. We are excited for what God is preparing and grateful to walk this journey alongside you.

## My Story



My struggle with mental health and addiction began at 22 with prescription medication. By 27, I was preparing to raise two children as a single mother, and at 28, I experienced a devastating loss when my daughter's father died from a drug overdose just months before her birth.

In December 2022, after major back surgery, my addiction escalated, and I found myself in a violent relationship that nearly cost me my life. Although I tried to get clean, I relapsed in September 2024. In March 2025, I made a promise to my children, and four days later I truly began my recovery journey.

In September 2025, I came to the Sycamore Centre, where I received support through hot showers, meals, laundry, clothing vouchers, and compassionate conversation. They also connected me with housing support. I am now housed, and as of December 17, 2025, I am nine months clean. I am coming home not just sober, but a new person.

- Gracelynne Empey

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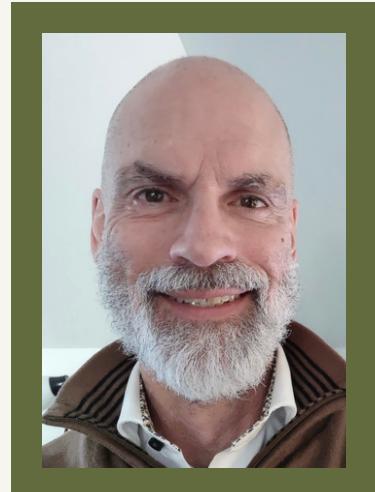
# About Us

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Levi Veldman brings years of experience working in a homeless shelter in Laval, Quebec, to his role as Director of the Sycamore Centre. In January 2025, he felt called by God and the Oxford Church to lead the creation of a new Support Centre in Ingersoll. Levi spent months engaging with existing support services, meeting with workers and community members to understand the gaps and needs in the area. His vision and dedication guided the planning process. On August 6, 2025, the Sycamore Centre officially opened its doors, providing a welcoming space for support, hope, and growth in the community.

Pastor Robert Widdowson brings a broad range of ministry experience to the Sycamore Centre, including serving as a factory chaplain, pastor, theology teacher, and hospice spiritual counselor. These significant roles have allowed him to walk alongside people in many seasons of life. Robert has a passion for listening to people's hearts and building relationships with those facing difficult circumstances. Shaped by his faith, he offers practical support and encouragement. Robert's experience and his heart for service reflect the Sycamore Centre's commitment to compassion, dignity, and faith in action.



## How can you help?

### DONATE:



Your generosity will help provide food, basic necessities, practical support and opportunities for growth for those who need it most.

### Donate

### Volunteer

### Pray

### WEBSITE:



Welcome people into the Sycamore Centre. Build relationships, provide compassion and serve those walking through difficult seasons in their lives.

Please pray for the individuals and families we serve, our volunteers, our staff, and the ongoing mission God has entrusted to us.

E transfers:

[donations@sycamorecentre.ca](mailto:donations@sycamorecentre.ca)

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