



Where Hope Lives

2016
Annual Report



Board Chair

MESSAGE



Glenna Swing, Board Chair

St. Matthew's House **celebrated a milestone in 2016 with the Grand Re-Opening of our Children's Centre and Food Bank.** This was our first major renovation in over 20 years. The renewed bright, clean and engaging environment is a shining example of how our community, staff and Board worked together to move our programs forward. We also honoured our Children's Centre manager by naming our new infant room "The Angela Dauda Infant Room". I will forever remember the look on Angela's face... priceless! She has been providing love and support to the children of St. Matthew's House for 42 years. These are the great success stories of our past year.

The day-to-day challenges of running St. Matthew's House has shown that **our staff, volunteers and Board have tremendous strength and loyalty.** We are a vibrant and active agency and our determination is steadfast. **The work we do in our community is rewarding.** We provide emergency food support to over a thousand families each month, provide seniors with a safe place to live, and witness the first steps and first words of the children we work with. **This is all possible because of our funders and donors who trust St. Matthew's House,** believe in social justice and show concern for those who live in poverty. I also want to extend my gratitude to Bishop Michael Bird for his faith in us!

Special Needs Resourcing Services in Hamilton have been operating under a partnership model for the past three decades. Our Early Childhood Integration Support Services Program is one of the five organizations in this hub. In the near future these services will merge into a single agency provider. Through this process, our goal at St. Matthew's House is to ensure that the children we serve continue to access the supports that they need.

This is my final year as Board Chair. The past three years have been a humbling, inspiring experience. I'm very proud of the work we've accomplished at St. Matthew's House and I look forward to continuing to serve the community as Past Chair. I will be turning the chairmanship over to Mike Rehill and am grateful to Mike for accepting this job, for his leadership skills and belief in our mission.

Once again, **to our staff, volunteers and supporters, thank you for your love of our organization.** The needs of our community are ever changing, we will embrace the transitions ahead of us together. God bless!

Executive Director

MESSAGE



Steve Leighfield, ED

Throughout the year, we were able to complete **major renovations at the Child Care Centre and the Food Bank on Barton Street. This was tremendous work and well worth the effort.** The development of the Infant Program and the revitalization of the other spaces has made the Child Care Centre a location for other community partners to aspire to be like. With the spaciousness of the redeveloped Food Bank, our ability to provide quality service grows.

The organization has also been moving quickly with our many partners to positively support our transitional housing, seniors programs, homelessness programs and the Child Care Centre.

With the awarding of the Special Needs Resourcing Program through an RFP (request for proposal) to another agency, St. Matthew's House is now dealing with "unintended consequences".

Now is the time to celebrate ECISS (Early Childhood Integration Support Services) and the positive impact that the program has had on the lives of thousands of children in the City of Hamilton. Through the skilled work of staff and managers, children with special needs received the care that they deserve.

I would like to thank our Board Chair, Glenna Swing, and other members of the Board for their leadership, guidance and dedication to St. Matthew's House. **I also express my sincerest thanks to all of our donors and funders who continually support our mission.** Lastly, many thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their substantial investment in our Food Bank.

Now is the time to recognize that there will be an exciting opportunity for the organization to evolve – as a vibrant, focused agency – continuing to be committed to supporting people in need in the City of Hamilton. Whether they are homeless, need child care for their children, or require emergency food to get through the tough periods, we will be there for them. **Hard work and confidence in our abilities will ensure our mission continues – we are limited only by our vision.**

8% of food bank users across Canada are children, but in Hamilton that number jumps to 35%

Hope is ...

St. Matthew's House providing emergency food support to low-income families and individuals looking to make ends meet on a daily basis.

Last year 24,085 people received food at our food banks. At Christmas time St. Matthew's House provided food vouchers and gifts to 2,457 people, 1,424 of those were children, 154 were vulnerable seniors.

In Canada the seniors' poverty rate is 12% but in Hamilton it's 17%

Hope is ...

St. Matthew's House ensuring vulnerable seniors have access to stable housing, food security and crisis management.

In 2015, our Home2Stay Program helped 46 seniors who were at imminent risk of homelessness remain housed. Another 103 seniors received crisis intervention and as a result returned to a state of stability, while 58 homeless seniors were moved into safe, permanent housing. Our Seniors' Centre provided 8,245 meals to seniors who rely on St. Matthew's House to be a safe space for support, food, and companionship daily.

21% of single mothers in Canada raise their children while living in poverty

Hope is ...

St. Matthew's House believing in the value of early childhood education. Our goal is to provide children with the highest quality care in a safe, loving environment.

Last year St. Matthew's Children's Centre worked with 68 families and cared for 78 children. Our ECISS (Early Childhood Integration Support Services) Program supported 300 children with multiple disabilities and transitioned 123 of those into a school environment. Over the summer we send kids to camp to make new friends and enjoy new outdoor experiences. In 2015, 11 kids went to camp at Canterbury Hills.



Providing **HOPE** in the face of uncertainty

Joanna is on her way to St. Matthew's Children's Centre (SMCC). She's already called to let them know she'll be picking up the twins and they may never be coming back.

Her partner has assaulted her and she's taking her babies, Jordan and Joel, and her six-year-old daughter to a safe place.

When she arrives at SMCC the staff have the twins' belongings packed up. Everyone realizes this could be good-bye and tears fill the eyes of those who love and care for the infant boys.

In the days that followed life was chaotic for the entire family. Joanna had taken her children to a shelter and it was stressful. She was dealing with an emotional situation while trying to put her children first. She was overwhelmed and needed help.

Her Children's Aid Society worker reached out to SMCC manager, Angela Dauda. They worked together to secure full-time subsidy for Joanna, giving her a place to send her boys five-days a week. This was a relief for Joanna, a glimmer of *hope*. She was already going through so much and now she knew her boys would be taken care of.

Joanna can see how happy the boys are every day that they attend SMCC. She sees how much they love the staff; how they cuddle them, kiss them good-bye. And she can tell the staff genuinely enjoy working with her boys too. It's not just the care at the Children's Centre that impresses her though, it's the manners the boys bring home. They're listening better, focusing more and eating incredibly. She remembers having to strap her daughter down everywhere they went to eat. Not Jordan and Joel.

You can put them at any table and they'll eat their food. She knows that's thanks to the discipline of SMCC.

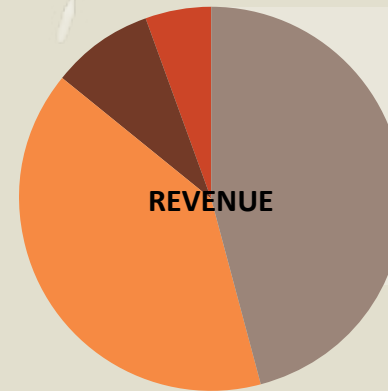
The staff have seen Jordan and Joel grow up over the last nine months. They've witnessed their first steps, heard their first words, and watched them become independent little boys, no longer twins that cling to each other. They smile more. They are more comfortable and engaged with the other children. For staff this is rewarding. Assisting families in crisis, providing advice and loving the children like they're their own, this is all part of their job description.

For Joanna, this is a community of support, not just child care.

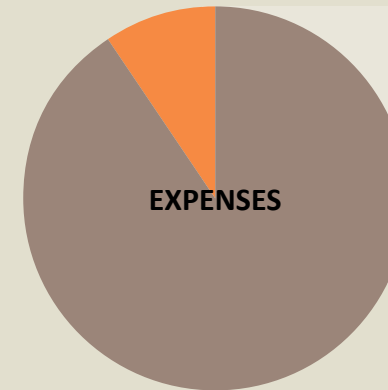
Jordan and Joel started in the infant room, a program that just officially opened in December 2015. The boys will be two this October.

SUMMARY

2015-2016 Financial



Direct Government Funding	\$1,770,633	46%
Indirect Government & Agency Funding	1,536,332	40%
Public Donations	339,463	9%
Other	203,399	5%



Program Expenses	\$3,411,780	91%
Management & Administration	348,061	9%

THANKS

Special

Without the generous financial support of our donors and funders we would not be able to do the work that we do!

Community Builders (\$5,000-\$9,999)

- Christ's Church Cathedral
- Hamilton/Burlington Society of Architects
- St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church
- St. John Anglican Church
- St. Paul's Anglican Church
- The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara

Community Pillars (\$25,000 +)

- Dofasco Employee Donations Fund
- Hamilton Community Foundation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation

Funders

- City of Hamilton
- Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN
- United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton

2015-16

Board of Directors

Glenna Swing, *Chair*

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