

2017 Annual Report

Where Hope Lives



Message from the **Board Chair**

This year has brought tremendous change to St. Matthew's House. Despite the closing of our largest program and a change in leadership while weathering financial challenges, we are ending the year with hope and aspirations for a strong future.

In December 2016, we said good bye to many long time and loyal staff of our Early Childhood Integration Support Services program. We sent them off with our thanks for their years of service to the children and families of Hamilton and are pleased that so many of them continue to serve the same children with their new agency. In order to manage the financial realities facing us due to the loss of funding and the cost of severances, the Board decided to sell a property that was standing empty and which, at this time, we lack the funds to develop. After some difficult decisions to restructure the organization and trim the management team, we find ourselves now planning for a revitalized future in serving our community.

Despite the changes we have experienced this year we have remained focused on our core programs: emergency food services, crisis intervention and outreach to seniors, supportive housing for those at risk of homelessness, child care and our Christmas Adopt-a-Family program. Together, these programs reflect our commitment to serve individuals from infants and children, to families, adults and seniors. Collaborating with others including The Alzheimer's Society, Centre3, Hamilton Food Share, the Senior Support Officers and Community Paramedic program, has enriched the programs we can offer. We are grateful for their willingness to work with us.

St. Matthew's House has been fortunate to have many donors who have given generously to us over the years through annual donations, by bequests or memorial giving.

Without the forward thinking of these members of our community we would not be able to continue our work. Although we are appreciative of government funding for each of our programs, the reality is that it is the donations from our community friends that allow us to fulfill our mission of being a place of hope that supports people in need. Thank you to all who support us.

As well as our donors, our thanks goes to our staff. It has been a difficult transition to say good bye to many longtime friends and co-workers. Despite grieving this loss our staff have remained committed to our clients. People choose to work at St. Matthew's House because they believe in making a difference. Thank you to all the staff who make a difference in the lives of our clients and community.

Alongside staff are many volunteers who give their time and talents to make St. Matthew's House a better place. Some join us on site, but many work in the network of churches and community venues to ensure that we can deliver on our commitments to our clients. Thank you all for supporting our efforts.

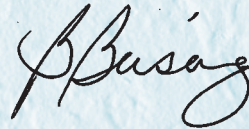
To my fellow board members, thank you. To Mike Rehill, our past board chair, and retiring



member Sara Collyer, thank you for your time and work on behalf of St. Matthew's House. We appreciate the knowledge and skills you brought to the table during your tenure on the board. To Elizabeth Wensley and Dr. John Watts, we are pleased that you have joined us to enrich our conversations and help make difficult decisions to ensure the ongoing viability of St. Matthew's House. As well, Bishop Bird's ongoing support for our efforts is gratefully acknowledged.

The Board is very appreciative of the work of our two management staff who have agreed to jointly co-manage the organization for the foreseeable future. Angela Dauda has been the longtime manager of our child care centre, and in recent years Karen Randell has managed our social service programs. Together, their commitment to the organization and to our clients has ensured a smooth transition in the day-to-day operations after the departure of Steve Leighfield, our former Executive Director.

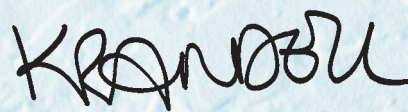
As I finish my first Annual Report as Chair of the Board since May, I look forward to the years ahead. Under the leadership of retiring board member Sara Collyer we are undertaking a strategic planning effort to revitalize our mission of supporting people in our community to reach their full potential and lead fulfilling lives. I am optimistic that we will determine a meaningful role for a renewed St. Matthew's House in the years ahead.



Barbara Busing
Board Chair

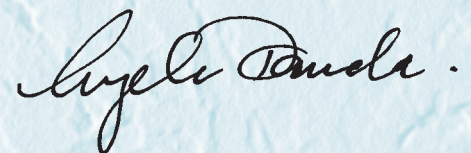
Message from **Executive Directors**

As our Board Chair mentioned, this year has brought many changes to St. Matthew's House. Despite all the challenges, we are thrilled to work together in our new role as Interim Co-Executive Directors. Together, we have a great deal of knowledge in child care and social service best practices. Our combined strengths will help us progress as we look forward to expanding the role St. Matthew's House plays in our community. We thank the Board for giving us this opportunity and trusting us to lead this agency at this important time in its history.



Interim Co-Executive Directors

Karen Randell



Angela Dauda



the **STATS**

CHRISTMAS

At Christmas, St. Matthew's House was able to provide hampers filled with toys, clothes and food vouchers to over **500** families. This included **1,846** individuals, of which **1,117** were children and **84** were vulnerable seniors.

FOOD

Throughout the year **35,115** people received emergency food at St. Matthew's House food banks. This number is up by over **10,000** visits from last year, in part because our Barton Food Bank resumed its regular hours after our 2015 renovations, as well as, a growth in the need for emergency food in our community.

Our Seniors' Centre provided **8,453** nutritious meals to seniors in our community, while a new partnership with Hamilton Food Share allowed us to hand out **1,071** weekend food care packages to ensure seniors are receiving proper nutrition when our Seniors' Centre is closed.

SENIORS

63 seniors who were at imminent risk of homelessness were able to stay housed as a result of interventions provided by our Home2Stay Program. **121** seniors who were experiencing crisis received intensive case management supports, and as a result returned to a state of stability. While, **47** homeless seniors were moved into safe, permanent housing.

KIDS

St. Matthew's Children's Centre provided care to **71** children from **56** different families last year. In 2016, **13** kids were able to attend Canterbury Hills Camp thanks to donors.



Growing through, what we're going through

"The Bonnie that I knew before was so lively and I lost her. It was just like losing a friend."

Bonnie's life was slowly stripping away after her quadruple bypass surgery. She contracted flesh eating disease while in the hospital and this uprooted her life completely. She spent years as a shut-in in her apartment, unable to do anything for herself, barely able to walk. However, last summer Bonnie started attending St. Matthew's House Senior Drop-In Centre and she credits the centre for changing her life, for the better.

"The Bonnie before the accident, before the heart and the leg, was a party. She wanted to go out. The Bonnie that developed from staying in the house, this Bonnie was afraid of every single thing."

The first day she visited the Senior Drop-In Centre she was nervous. She wasn't sure how she would fit in, if she should talk to people, if she should sit quietly by herself. The senior centre staff told her if there was anything she needed, they would be there for her. It took a couple days but slowly the Bonnie she knew started coming back.

"I couldn't believe this person came alive."

Bonnie started attending the drop-in centre every day and as time went on she started to see improvements in her life. She became more social, she lost weight, and she went from a wheelchair, to a walker and eventually was able to leave her walker at the door and walk around the centre on her own.

"I come down the stairs without my walker, I walk up the stairs without my walker. [The centre] gave me the strength to do that. Courage. That's the word I'm looking for."



The centre is now a second home to Bonnie. She loves working in the garden, doing crafts, creating things and spending time with her new "family", as she puts it.

"When you walk through the door you're getting warmth, you're getting friendship, you're getting a good meal. This was the best thing that ever happened to me."

The St. Matthew's House Senior Drop-In Centre offers breakfast and lunch, Monday through Friday, and through a partnership with Hamilton Food Share, seniors receive weekend food care packages. Seniors also have access to case management, with an emphasis on low income seniors who are vulnerable, potentially isolated and living in at-risk conditions. Social and recreational activities are also a daily part of the program.



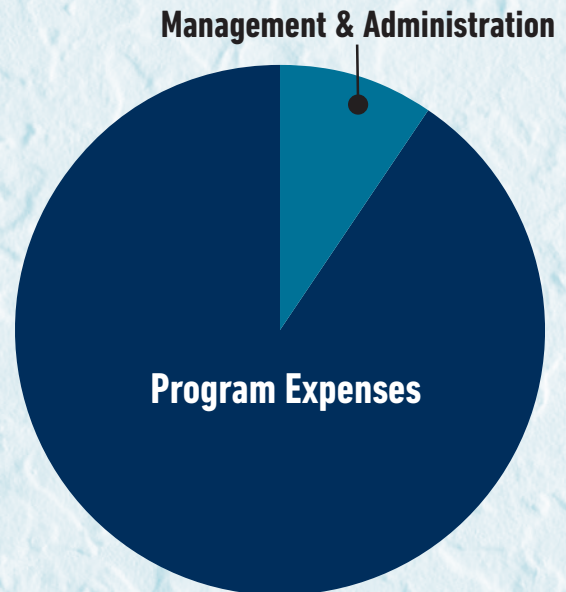
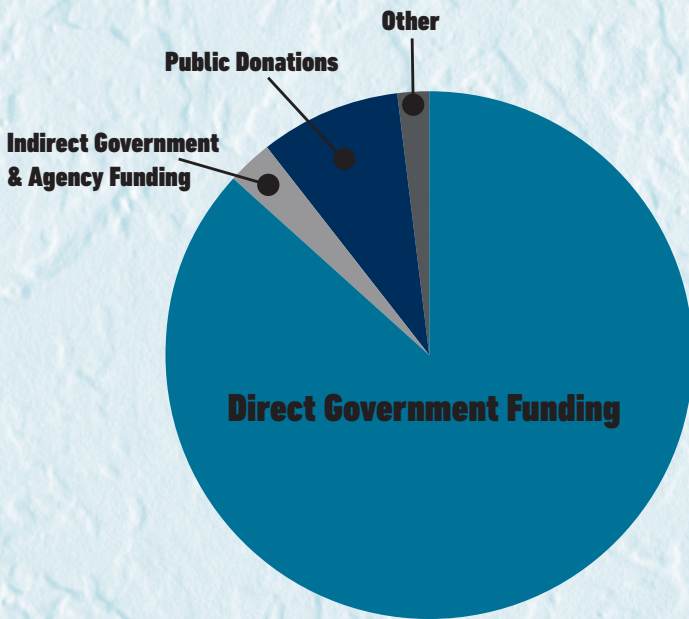
Financial Summary

REVENUE

Direct Government Funding	\$3,024,941
Indirect Government & Agency Funding	\$101,848
Public Donations.....	\$294,637
Other.....	\$65,557

EXPENSES

Management & Administration	\$370,365
Program Expenses.....	\$3,495,808



Special Thanks

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

- Construction Specifications Canada – Hamilton – Niagara Chapter
- Knights Hospitaller Foundation Inc.
- Christ's Church Cathedral
- Bob and Fran Taylor
- The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara

Community Leaders **(\$10,000-\$24,999)**

- Rick and Anne Browne
- St. John's Anglican Church

Community Pillars **(\$25,000+)**

- Dofasco Employee Donations Fund
- Hamilton Community Foundation

Funders

- City of Hamilton
- Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN
- United Way Halton & Hamilton



2016/2017 St. Matthew's House Board of Directors

Barbara Busing, Chair

Bryan Powell, Vice-Chair

Glenna Swing, Past Chair

James Andrew, Treasurer

Sara Collyer, Board Member

The Rev. Bill Mous, Board Member

Andrew Poustie, Board Member

Mike Rehill, Chair*

Dr. John Watts, Board Member

Elizabeth Wensley, Board Member

Bishop Michael Bird, Ex Officio Board Member

Angela Dauda, Interim Co-Executive Director

Karen Randell, Interim Co-Executive Director

**resigned during this year*



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