

Celebration and challenge.

The theme for this Impact Report is CELEBRATION.

We are not sugar-coating current realities - there are very real challenges for our community. At the same time, there are feelings of easing and optimism. At St. Matthew's House we have so much to be excited about. The opportunity to celebrate has been fostered through a lot of great work by truly good people. For us at St. Matthew's House, we are celebrating what we've built, the impact we've had and the important milestones to come.

We invite you to celebrate with us!



To learn more about St. Matthew's House and our programs, please visit www.stmatthewshouse.ca

Let's *celebrate.*

The theme of the year is **CELEBRATION**. Just reading or saying this word feels good right now. We are emerging from challenging years feeling grateful, optimistic, and finally, celebratory. Although there is tough work ahead, there is so much good happening. We will dig in for the challenges and celebrate the wins.

C. S. Lewis said that “there are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind”. As St. Matthew’s House is where hope lives, we see this evolution on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis.

We have seen the expansion of our seniors’ programs, including a paralegal program and anti-hoarding initiatives. The ground is about to break for 412 Barton construction. Our partnership with Green Cities Foundation has resulted in a refreshed and enhanced children’s playground, raised planting beds, hardscaping and beautiful trees and flowers that will shade and beautify our corner of the world on Barton Street. The Children’s Centre is expanded and now offers three locations for our youngest citizens to have supportive and engaging care. Most importantly, we are fostering community through all of these accomplishments.

The impact of St. Matthew’s House is growing through thoughtful and strategic expansion and the commitment of its staff, committee members, volunteers, funders and donors. Please join us in celebrating all that we are today, and the better things ahead.

In celebration,

Renée Wetselaar
Executive Director

Mary Burnett
Chair of the Board



To learn more about our vision and values, please visit www.stmatthewshouse.ca/about-us



An Elvis celebration!

More than 500 people got ‘all shook up’ at an epic evening of Elvis tribute featuring tribute artist Steve Michaels — showcasing two of his most celebrated events ever and in support of the 412 Barton Project at St. Matthew’s House. The audience couldn’t help falling in love with the iconic performances — the Comeback Special (black leather suit, y’all) and Aloha from Hawaii, the first live satellite concert ever broadcast in all of its tropical glory. Hosted by local business leader Jeffrey Holk, the event was a happy celebration of all things Elvis.

From the raucous joy of *Heartbreak Hotel* and *Jailhouse Rock* and tenderness of *If I Can Dream* carrying through the spectacle in Hawaii and all of its *Suspicious Minds* and *Burning Love*, the respect, joy and excitement of Steve Michaels as Elvis is an experience the audience will remember always.

Celebrating with *Abundance.*

Celebration was in the air in November and December of 2022. The Adopt A Family/Senior Program is one of the most durable of St. Matthew's House and the community stepped up yet again, showing love and generosity for its neighbours. The program this year had the gift of donated space through the Sons and Daughters of Italy. We are so grateful for this.

The premise of Adopt A Family/Senior is elegantly simple. It matches low-income families and seniors within the Hamilton area with individuals, families or groups. Sponsors connect with our agency and ask for a family or senior to "adopt" and staff pair them with a family and/or senior in need. The identity of the families and seniors are kept confidential and a number system allows staff to identify the sponsored family. Families and seniors in need have reasons to celebrate. Sponsors can be individuals, families, church groups, workplace teams or a group of friends. Rumour has it that the sponsors are as excited about the process as the recipients! Thank you to all who made this year such a success.



Long-time sponsor, Talia's Christmas Magic, making their annual toy donation.

Adopt A Family Holiday Program Highlights



2,271

Total Individuals Supported



1,200

Children



421

Families



426

Seniors



5

Emergency Christmas Eve Appointments

Green is the colour of celebration

The new Community Green Space and Children's Play Area at St. Matthews House, created by the Green Cities Foundation, had its grand opening on June 3 and celebrated with a community planting day. The site is on a visible corner location of Barton Street East and Leeming Avenue, and the space has been made welcoming, colourful, usable and is revitalized for the entire community to enjoy. The area is now a gathering place with a healthy, sustainable space complete with a green playground, community garden, log structures, creative and active spaces and lots of greenery.

St. Matthew's House was chosen by the Green Cities Foundation to be the FIRST #GreenMyCity project in Hamilton. The Green Cities Foundation exists to connect plants and people for a greener, healthier urban climate. Huge thanks to project partners RBC Insurance, Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, Hamilton Community Foundation, The City of Hamilton, The Golden Horseshoe Chapter of Landscape Ontario and the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association membership.



Celebrating a *flourishing union.*

The union of St. Matthew's House and St. Peter's children's centres is a year old – and is thriving. At a time when many childcare programs are experiencing low enrolment, our programs have flourished. We attribute this success to the dedication and commitment of every member of the childcare team, who have worked tirelessly to ensure children have the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe and loving environment. We have enrolled in the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Program to ensure that parents' child care fees are lowered over the next two years to about \$12 per day.

We have engaged in important development, for Equity/Diversity/Inclusion expansion and in Truth and Reconciliation training. This learning is very important for our community and for our centres, so we can be as progressive as possible. Having the tools and funding to be supported through this professional learning and having an organization that supports them has been key in enhancing our practice.



Liz, a single parent, explained that she was quite nervous at first about leaving her child with us for a few reasons. First, until bringing him here, she and Xavier had never spent any significant time apart since he was born. Second, Xavier is on the autism spectrum and still struggling with verbal language, (although he reads like a champ) so she wasn't sure how he would adapt to his new surroundings.

Now Liz says, "coming to SMCC changed my life." She goes on to say the Centre has come to mean, "a familiar face, a safe place." It provides her with some "relief, reassurance and consistency."

Childcare Program Highlights



202

Children Enrolled



780

Meals Served
per child, per year



426

Educator Hours (FT)
per educator, per year



Supporting seniors is worth *Celebrating.*

St. Matthew's House Seniors Support Services Team is a beacon for vulnerable seniors (55+) living in Hamilton.

Our Seniors Crisis Worker is on the job responding to the influx of crises identified through the emergency food program, gleaning issues around food, income and social supports in order to better understand and address the root cause(s) of each individual's food insecurity. The Seniors in Kitchens team (SinKs) continued the mobile market and food bank program, with its delivery van bringing much needed food, including fresh fruits and vegetables, directly to City Housing Hamilton seniors' buildings in the lower city. Our partnerships with Food For Life continues to flourish as they bring us produce and other goodies from grocery stores twice a week.

The Outreach Team uses relationships built within the neighbourhoods to connect with people on the verge of becoming or who are homeless. Isolation can be as dangerous as food shortages and these experienced workers ensure that people who are struggling are seen, respected, and supported. Our community partners at the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre (HRIC) operate a Mobile Street Outreach van which provides relief to our unhoused neighbours by providing coffee, water, sandwiches, medical supplies, and more. Facing staffing issues, we had amazing tri-agency cooperation between the HRIC, ourselves, and the City of Hamilton.

The HOPES Program is all about eviction prevention for those who are struggling with their current dwellings. An exciting enhancement this year was implementing paralegal resources as part of the HOPES Program. Through funding from the Federal Government via the City of Hamilton, the Paralegal Support Worker works with the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic to offer clients guidance and support to face challenges such as income support, tax support, affidavits, and liaising with the Landlord and Tenant Board. A Seniors System Navigator added to the roster allows enhanced care for clients.

One example: the seniors team helped prevent an eviction where the landlord claimed the client owed more than \$10,000 in arrears and had locked her out of her apartment. Our team's support over six weeks resulted in a completion of the client's taxes, a reversal of 85% of the rental arrears, and moving the resident back into her home. Many issues are manageable or preventable and through maintaining housing, the HOPES program supports seniors' dignity, their health, and perhaps even their lives.

Seniors Highlights



36

Safe housing interventions



2,916

Seniors in Kitchens (SinKs) visits



307

Connections made for vulnerable seniors
127 financial/180 food



3,684

Seniors served

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412 Barton

A PLACE TO THRIVE

What was once derelict dwelling will be safe, welcoming homes.

The 412 Barton Project by St. Matthew's House will soon exist where an empty lot awaits. These homes – a place to thrive – will offer support and targeted programs to seniors who struggle with isolation, homelessness, and other vulnerabilities.

The property at 412 Barton, next door to St. Matthew's House Children's Centre, will be converted to deeply affordable apartments, 15 in all. They are intended for homeless or near-homeless people, as well as low-income seniors who identify as women, Indigenous peoples, racialized groups including Black Canadians and people with disabilities. Residents will be calling 412 Barton home in early 2024.

Treasurer's Report

Our goal at St. Matthews House is to ensure the public and donated funds we are entrusted with are used to provide the highest quality services and supports possible.

St. Matthew's House has a culture of prudent financial management. This has allowed the Board of Directors and the Leadership Team to balance the vision of supporting the goals and dreams of the individuals we support with our financial responsibilities. The results over the past few years demonstrate how difficult it is to maintain this balance in the face of increasing need and costs, particularly those that are out of our direct control, such as rising cost of food.

Ongoing support from our funders, the generosity of individual and corporate donors, the dedication of our volunteers, and the passion of our caring staff make it possible for us to deliver innovative and person-directed services and supports to vulnerable individuals in our community.

We thank our funders and donors for their continued support and confidence in St. Matthew's House. In these challenging and changing times, this support is needed more than ever and is very much appreciated. We thank you for continuing to support St. Matthew's House and look forward to continuing to make a difference in our community.

Kudzie Chasosa, Treasurer



Financial results of St. Matthew's House are prepared by staff and are fairly presented in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. These financial results will be audited by our external auditors Gibb Widdis. Audited financial statements, the Auditor's Report, and notes to financial statements will be available upon completion in the autumn of 2023.

Board of Directors 2022–2023

Bishop Susan Bell (ex-officio)
Brent Bentham
Mary Burnett (Chair)
Kudzana Chasosa (Treasurer)
Tinamarie Jones
Val Kerr (Vice-Chair)

Christine Moon
Bill Mous
David Savage (Past Chair)
Lil Scime
John Watts
Elizabeth Wensley

Staff List for Fiscal Year 2022–2023

Support Team

Renée Wetselaar,
Executive Director
Justin Drury,
Operations Manager
Taniesha Gerrish,
Manager, Childcare
Andrew Matthews,
Manager, Seniors Programs

Madeleine Bond,
Manager, Development & Communications
Shani Doherty,
Executive Coordinator
William Harrison,
Director of Finance
Mark Ronan,
Finance Coordinator

Enza Guddemi,
Childcare Supervisor, SMCC
Ruchika Sehgal,
Childcare Supervisor, SMSP

Seniors' Programs

HOPES Program

Kiana Brown,
HOPES Navigator
Nozwelo Maseko,
HOPES Navigator

Food Security Team

Molly Bozarth,
Seniors First Response Team
Spencer Nosella,
Seniors First Response Team

Navigator

Rhonda Dunphy,
Senior Support Navigator

Paralegal

Sarah Cesar-Hanes,
Paralegal
Jessica Ryan,
Maternity Leave

Outreach Team Workers

Brett Aston
Megan Breznicar
Elizabeth Cronk
Talice Doyle
Noah Gadke
Paolina Tomarchio
Michelle Semonovitch
Outreach Coordinator

St. Matthew's Children's Centre

Cheryl Atkinson, ECA
Deborah Chamatu, RECE
Preschool Program
Andrea Cowan,
Early Childcare Assistant, Non ECE
Brianna Doxtator, ECA
Abiola Faleyimu, RECE

Kisha Joseph, RECE
Azra Khan, RECE
Ivana Kicic, RECE
Clara Muraca, RECE
Elodie Muyobokey, RECE
Vestine, Niyitegeka, RECE

Karlee Northey, RECE Supply
Iwona Piasek, Cook
Bailey Rae-Ashton, ECE Float
Mena Ramm, RECE
Navasha Richards-Nash, RECE
Samuel Saka, ECA

St. Matthew's at St. Peter's

Venessa Badchkam, Non ECE, BASP
Alana Baltzer, ECA, BASP
Mary Cadete, *School Age Program Leader*
Paula Cerone, RECE
Shonna Cooper, Cook

Muna Guraish, RECE
Racheal Hubbert, Non ECE, BASP
Katie Kastelik, RECE
Nicole LeMee, RECE
Lauren MacDonald, BASP, Non ECE

Onyejie Ojo, Supply ECE
Gail Panasiuk, RECE
Kristy VanKeulen, Supply Non ECE
Maria Thring, RECE

Community Committee Members

Angie Armstrong
James Andrew
Barbara Busing

Janet Cannon
Michael Elliott
Robert Gibson

Ellen Morris
Glenna Swing
Steve Swing



Thank you to our funders & partners



R-Hauz



Operation Backpack



Most photography in the SMH 2023 Impact Report graciously taken by Tim McKenna.

Help St. Matthew's House

Consider a donation to help St. Matthew's House foster resilience for our clients and our community.

Online: www.stmatthewshouse.ca/donate

By Mail: 414 Barton St E, Hamilton, ON L8L 2Y3, 905-523-5546 Ext.230

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