

#WhereHopeLives

Dear Friends,

As the days grow shorter and the air turns crisp, we're reminded of how much warmth your support has brought to our community. The cold season is on its way, and for many in our community, that means a time of real hardship.



Renée Wetselaar,
Executive Director

With your generosity, we've been able to provide essential resources to those who need it most, offering food, shelter, and meaningful support services to help our neighbours stay safe and warm.

Thanks to supporters like you, we've accomplished so much together, even receiving the Hamilton Spectator Readers' Choice Award this year – a recognition that truly belongs to our entire community.

As we prepare for winter, we know the need will only grow. We invite you to continue standing with us, helping us to ensure everyone has warmth, security, and support they need to face the season ahead. Your partnership makes all the difference.

Thank you for being such an important part of our community. We're so grateful for everything you make possible.

With warm regards,

Renée Wetselaar, Executive Director

St. Matthew's House
Where Hope Lives

Providing unique programs in our community, including:

- Senior Support Services
- Street Outreach Team
- 412 Barton Affordable Housing
- Holiday Hope
- Child Care Centres & Before/After School Care

Thank You

HAMILTON SPECTATOR READERS' CHOICE 2024
DIAMOND WINNER

Hamilton for naming us your Diamond Winner for Professional Services Non-Profit/Foundation.

Connect with Us!

- 📞 905-523-5546
- 🌐 www.stmatthewshouse.ca
- 📘 @SMHhamilton
- 📺 @SMH_Hamilton

Our Impact: Cathedral Café Drop-In

The Cathedral Café Drop-In Program continues to welcome all members of the public, with a primary focus on supporting at-risk residents, including individuals who are housed or unhoused. This program offers free breakfast and lunch daily. Guests have access to seating, warmth, friendly staff & volunteers, washrooms, and access to a variety of support programs and social services.



- Over 44,000** Guests have visited Cathedral Café since January 2024
- Over 56,000** meals have been served since January 2024
- Over 9,200** pieces of clothing/warm weather gear have been given out since January 2024
- Over 1,200** Items given out (hygiene products, bus fare, food bags, etc.) since January 2024

Special thanks to all of our generous Donors, Partners & Funders:



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Holiday Hope
HELPING FAMILIES & SENIORS THRIVE THIS SEASON

3 WAYS TO HELP FAMILIES & SENIORS THRIVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

- Adopt a specific family or senior
- Gift cards or monetary donations
- New clothing and toys

To learn more please visit:
<https://www.stmatthewshouse.ca/holiday-hope>

Our Impact: Eviction Prevention

The HOPES (Housing Outreach Preventing Eviction for Seniors) program assists older adults 55+ who are at risk of eviction or need help navigating complex bureaucratic systems. One of the biggest challenges is assisting seniors who are living in hoarded homes, often facing eviction OR unable to have medical services visit them in home due to the clutter.

This program is part of our solution to work with clients and cleaning agencies to clean the units; thereby preventing evictions, allowing medical services to access the clients home, and generally improving the quality of healthy living for older adults in our community.

Every eviction that we prevent not only keeps a senior housed, but also maintains the unit as part of the affordable housing stock in the city.

By providing cleaning services that attends to the needs of these clients, we are able to keep them in their home and living with dignity, and most importantly, save lives. Thanks to the amazing support we receive from our supporters and donors, we are able to reach more clients needing this service.



82 evictions prevented
over the last 18 months

IMPACT STORY:

A 73-year-old client facing eviction due to hoarding was able to stay in their affordable housing with support from our program. The client's cluttered unit had led to conflict with their landlord and a case with the Landlord and Tenant Board.

Our team arranged cleaning, provided proof of a clutter-free space, and helped prevent eviction. This support not only secured the client's housing but also improved their mental health, allowing them to reconnect with family who had previously been unable to visit

Supported
by:

**HAMILTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**



**Ontario
Health**

Grateful for our Volunteers!

Our programs provide supports and interventions for people living in the City of Hamilton, with a focus on food, housing and income insecurity.

Our volunteers are an essential resource for our organization, and their contributions make a significant difference! They offer their time and skills to help make great things happen and doing the work they are passionate about. Without our volunteers, we wouldn't be able to provide the level of service that we offer.

Working together with Church Christ's Cathedral and Cathedral Café Drop-In, there are now over 100 volunteers that support our staff team and work collaboratively to meet people where they are at, every day.



"St. Matthews brings more than a sense of belonging to the community, it transcends hope and positivity to the people that need the help."

"Volunteering with SMH is a life-giving experience for me. Not only do I feel I am making an important contribution to my community, but I am also personally benefitting from the learning opportunities this organization has provided me over the years."

"I find St. Matthew's a very welcoming and open environment. Volunteering with them continues to be a very gratifying experience."

"The staff are helpful and resourceful. I have great respect for Chef(s) who cook nutritious lunches for over 100 people. The other volunteers are fantastic, I've made a few new friends. The majority of the people are regulars, I usually serve the coffee, keep the cookies and bananas coming. You get to know their names. Because for me it's personal. I couldn't ask for a better place to spend my time."



Thank you to our incredible volunteers for their commitment and impact—they make all the difference in our community. Opportunities are currently available for volunteer engagement in the drop-in program, providing warehouse supports, packing and delivering food, making care baskets and hosting food drives, and more! For more information, and to sign up as a volunteer, please visit us at www.stmatthewshouse.ca/help-us/volunteer.

Sign up as a SMH Volunteer: <https://stmatthewshouse.ca/help-us/volunteer/>

412 Barton

A PLACE TO THRIVE

Together with the Afro-Caribbean Association (ACCA) and the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre (HRIC), St. Matthew's House is developing 15 permanent units of deeply affordably housing to support Indigenous and Black seniors 55+ who have been experiencing chronic or episodic homelessness.

People who identify Black or Indigenous face higher rates of housing, food, income and health insecurity than their white/settler counterparts. The 412 Barton Neighbours Together Program will be a connection for residents of the 412 to culturally relevant and spiritual services and programs with these partners.

We have seen a great deal of progress with this development since the summer...the walls are up and the roof is now on the 412 Barton. We will be celebrating the last stage of work later this month, with plans to officially open in March 2025!

If you wish to contribute by donating, please visit us at www.stmatthewshouse.ca/help-us/donate-funds-2. Your support will be put towards the 412 Barton Neighbours Together Program.

We wish to thank all those who have contributed towards making this a reality, and special thanks to our partners and funders:



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GREATER GOLDEN HORSESHOE DIVERSITY AWARDS

On October 30th, staff and board members from St. Matthew's House attended the Greater Golden Horseshoe Diversity Awards and Luncheon. Surrounded by fantastic and exceptional community members and friends, we celebrated all the nominations and winners!



We are so thrilled to share that our executive director, Renée Wetselaar, won for Senior Leader Diversity Champion.

Congratulations, Renée!

SMH 50♥50 FUNDRAISER

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNER, Kelly N.!!



And THANK YOU to all participants for your support!

The first 50/50 fundraiser took place this Fall! Ticket sales began on September 13, and the winning ticket was pulled on October 18th, 2024. The winner, Kelly N., took home \$925!

Thank you to everyone who participated by purchasing tickets and making donations - together, we raised \$1,300 for St. Matthew's House!

Visit www.stmatthewshouse.ca to learn more!



Join us to Build Hope

Join our Monthly Giving Program

An affordable, effective and convenient way to give and help build hope - knowing that every dollar you contribute is having maximum impact!

\$10/MONTH

Supplies a senior in need with 5 days of healthy and nutritious food through the Seniors' First Response Team Program.

\$20/MONTH

Provides a single parent with one child with a grocery gift card and gifts for the holiday season through the Holiday Hope program.

\$50/MONTH

Assists a senior with housing & cleaning supports to help prevent eviction through the HOPES (Housing Eviction Prevention Eviction for Seniors) program.

Three Ways to Donate

IN PERSON

Drop off or mail a donation to:
414 Barton St. E.
Hamilton, ON L8L 2Y3

ONLINE

Make an online donation
via credit card.
www.stmatthewshouse.ca

BY PHONE

Call us:
(905) 523-5546

Many thanks to our supporters:



Thank You to all of our donors & supporters!

CONTACT INFO

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
8:30AM - 4:30PM



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