

A COMMUNITY OF COMPASSION. A PLACE OF HOPE.

TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION

Easter Update 2019

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT MEN'S GROUP



The warmth of home isn't just in having a place to sleep, cook, and eat. It's also having a place to enjoy a good movie, good conversation, or simply to unwind after a hard day. That's something that's often missing for our neighbours who struggle with homelessness and poverty.

Every Thursday afternoon, ehm becomes the living room for members of the Men's Group. It's a welcoming place where men can take off their backpack, enjoy friendly company, and just be. They can create their own refreshing sundae on a hot

summer day, or kick back with a bowl of popcorn and watch a movie together. It's a chance to enjoy the small pleasures that many of us take for granted — with safety and dignity.

It's this added refuge from the constant stress of their daily lives that is so appreciated by group members. People like John, a regular visitor at our Drop-In, who attends the Men's Group to relax in the company of friends.

For many, living on the streets or living in poverty means being invisible. No one looks at you when they walk past. No one listens when you speak. But at ehm, everyone is welcomed. Staff get to know clients and greet them by name. As clients grow more comfortable, they can begin to identify goals with staff, whether it's seeking better housing or improving their health.

But it all starts with a conversation, and a warm, welcoming place to catch your breath and unwind. A place like the Men's Group.



Evangel Hall Mission





MEET JOHN

John is a familiar face around our Drop-In Centre. You can often find him enjoying a delicious lunch or unwinding with his friends in the Men's Group. He speaks with great pride about having his own place to live, and the Trustee Program helps him to budget his money so he can maintain his housing and his independence.

John particularly appreciates the Sunday evening worship service. "You can write down what's bothering you, and talk about it," he says. John is thankful when, at his request, the Spiritual Care Coordinator prays for his family members who have passed away. This, he says, is the best part of ehm.

*John with Roger,
ehm Client Support Worker*

DAILY MIRACLES THANKS TO YOU

Thank you for making the Christmas Matching Gift campaign such a success. Your donations were doubled by two generous families and together you raised \$200,000 for programs and services.

Your generosity couldn't come at a better time. Over the last few years, demand for ehm's services has continued to rise as clients struggle with the increased cost of food, utilities, and housing. Yet at the same time, ehm has been grappling with our own rising costs. But because you rallied behind us, we were able to make ends meet for the first time in years.

Year round, your generosity is performing miracles in our community. Many readers will be familiar with Jesus' miracle commonly known as "Feeding the Five Thousand." Jesus took the lunch basket of one little boy, containing fives loaves of bread and two fish, and was able to feed thousands of people who'd gathered to hear His message. Jesus took what He had available and turned it into something to feed multitudes. It was the ultimate multiplication effect!

Every day, we see multiplication effects that help change lives. Every day, we feed hundreds of people in the Drop-In hot, delicious, nutritious meals. People enjoy cups of coffee and tea while enjoying fellowship. Sandwiches are shared with a smile. Community meals are served by volunteer groups. Relationships are built with clients. All of these activities are planting seeds that can grow into something much bigger: brighter futures.

The miracle here? You — our donors. Your generosity makes this all happen. Dollars are fundraised, food and supplies purchased, casseroles delivered and served, sandwiches lovingly made and packed. So many labours of love. So many lives touched.

With the growing housing crisis, we're still bracing for an ever increasing demand for services, but with your continued support we can meet the challenge head on. So thank you for being part of the abundance of grace that is experienced here every day at ehm.



MEET CRYSTAL SPIRITUAL CARE COORDINATOR

We are pleased to introduce Crystal Cotter, ehm's new Spiritual Care Coordinator. Crystal spent seven years performing mission work, and is active in her local church. At ehm, she will be providing one-on-one and group support to clients and residents, and will be our staff lead at Sunday Community Dinners.

You can reach her at crystal.cotter@evangelhall.ca or **416.504.3563 ext 228**. Welcome, Crystal!

SKILL BUILDING FOR CLIENTS



This winter, we offered training sessions to clients and tenants to become volunteers at ehm. Volunteering gives practical skills combined with a sense of accomplishment, and builds stronger relationships in the community. Whether helping in the kitchen, sorting clothing donations, or giving out shampoo and towels to Drop-In clients, our volunteers take pride in giving back to their community, and we take pride in them.

COFFEE, TEA, AND COMMUNITY

Meeting a friend for coffee or tea — it's a familiar activity for many of us. You could be celebrating a milestone, sharing a loss, or simply getting caught up on life. The coffee and tea help but really, it's about spending time with someone who cares.

That's why we're so thankful for the congregations at Riverdale Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church for their donation of over 40kg of coffee, tea, sugar and milk. Their donated coffee and tea provides an invitation to our Drop-In clients to find someone to share their challenges and their joys. It's a



Thank you to Riverdale and Westminster Presbyterian Churches!

shelter from the violence of living on the streets. It's a place of belonging for those that struggle with loneliness and mental health.

Riverdale and Westminster Presbyterian Churches are small congregations but they're mighty. From their Easter Egg-A-Thon to this winter's coffee drive, they're building community, one coffee and one meal at a time. Thank you!

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS FOR SPRING

FOOD

Tea bags and ground coffee
Powdered milk
Salad dressing



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

Sleeping bags
Small shampoo and conditioner
Toothpaste and toothbrushes
Individual packets of tissues



ADULT CLOTHING

New underwear
New socks
Running shoes
Jeans
Long-sleeved t-shirts



DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED:

Monday to Friday: 9:30AM–3:00PM

Saturday: 9:30AM–1:30PM

Sunday: 1:30PM–5:00PM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

FOUR WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- 1 JOIN US AT THE 17TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT.** We're back again this year for a fabulous day at Pheasant Run Golf Club. Join us on June 11th and have fun while raising funds to support those in need. Full details and registration is available at www.evangelhall.ca/golf, or contact us at golf@evangelhall.ca for more information. We'll see you there!
- 2 BOOK A COMMUNITY LUNCH.** Is your church, company, or family looking for a rewarding experience and a way to help those in need? We're seeking groups of 8-15 to purchase, prepare, and serve lunch Mondays to Saturdays for up to 150 people. Find out more about what ehm does and how your generosity is helping people first hand. Contact Andrea at 416.504.3563 ext 235 or andrea.bussinger@evangelhall.ca.
- 3 OUR DENTAL CLINIC NEEDS YOU!** Are you or someone you know a dental care professional? ehm's Dental Clinic relies entirely on volunteer dental professionals to provide preventative and emergency care to patients who might otherwise be unable to receive essential care. We're in need of dentists and denturists to volunteer a few hours a week. Small commitment but big impact! Contact Leigh at 416.504.3563 ext 231 or leigh.valliere@evangelhall.ca to find out more.
- 4 BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR.** Becoming a monthly donor is one of the best ways you can provide lasting support to those in need. And it's easy to do! Visit www.evangelhall.ca/donate or call us at 416.504.3563 ext 235 to sign up today.

**QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS? WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH?
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

EVANGEL HALL MISSION

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ehm is proud to be a mission of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, under the care of the Presbytery of East Toronto. We have been providing services to those in need since 1913.

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