

A COMMUNITY OF COMPASSION. A PLACE OF HOPE.

TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION

Summer 2020



Rev. Dale Henry, ehm Spiritual Care Provider.

CONNECTION. CARE. HOPE.

"I'm so glad you're here."

Be it from a 6-foot distance or over the phone, our clients and tenants take comfort in hearing a familiar voice. For many, ehm's staff are a constant in a time of immense change.

Each interaction assures clients and residents that they are surrounded by a community of care.

As an essential service provider, ehm has found ways to offer services and stand with people facing the pandemic while experiencing homelessness, poverty, and mental and physical health challenges. In this newsletter, you'll learn more about how food programming, tenant supports, and spiritual care are all adapting and, in many cases, expanding.

This is all possible because of the generosity of ehm's supporters. Thank you for your care!



Evangel Hall Mission

"In this time of physical distancing, masks, and gloves, it can feel like we've lost a part of our humanity. But, we can adapt with caring eyes, open ears, and kind words."

– Rev. Dale Henry, ehm Spiritual Care Provider



FILLING THE FOOD GAP

Pandemic or no pandemic, addressing hunger is an ongoing part of ehm's work.

ehm is providing 150 take-out meals a day. Each meal is deliberately over-sized and nutrient-dense because it may be someone's only substantial meal for the day. Each meal comes with a drink and snacks. Oftentimes, the snacks serve as a second meal later in the day.

Take-out meals are also delivered to residents at ehm's Residence and a nearby social housing provider, Portland Place, assisting at-risk individuals and families to shelter safely in place.

The take-out program is ehm's response to the food security gap, helping people stay as nourished and healthy as possible.

Top: Ian, ehm Chef, delighted to prepare nutritious meals for ehm clients.

Bottom: Gomo, ehm Support Worker lovingly packing take-out lunches.



FACING THE HEAT

This summer, providing respite from the heat will be more important than ever.

The Drop-In Centre will be opening its doors as a cooling space, providing respite from the elements as well as access to washrooms. Bottled water, cold refreshments, sunscreen, and insect repellent will be provided to help clients stay hydrated and safe.

Many public places where individuals experiencing homelessness usually find relief from the heat and sun continue to be closed or operate with reduced capacities. Extreme heat and sun exposure pose great risks to the people ehm serves, many of whom live with underlying medical challenges. In fact, the City of Toronto's studies show that as many, or more, individuals experiencing homelessness pass away in the summer months than in the winter.

As clients face both the summer heat and the pandemic, ehm is grateful to provide a safe space for our community.



The garden in our laneway is a labour of love for ehm clients.



Ariana (top) and Nigel (bottom), ehm Tenant Support Workers, have been helping tenants shelter in place.

SHELTERING IN PLACE

Staying home is a public health mandate but poses significant challenges for many.

ehm has been delivering meals to residents four days a week, in addition to providing an emergency pantry. We have provided phones to residents who could not afford them. Residents have also been delivered care kits to help them weather the pandemic. Staff are assisting tenants to access community resources, understand public health directives, and maintain a sense of connection and hope through this unsettling time.

Roughly half of ehm’s residents are 50 years of age or older and many live with health issues that place them at high-risk during the pandemic. This makes sheltering in place and avoiding public spaces such as grocery stores and pharmacies critical to maintaining health.

At the same time, many residents also have limited financial resources. Luxuries that facilitate sheltering in place such as deliveries of food and supplies as well as phones and data plans to stay informed and connected are hard to afford when living with limited income.

ehm is committed to helping our residents stay home and stay safe.

THANK YOU!

Providing services during the pandemic has come with unusual costs. Take-out supplies, bulk food purchases, personal protective equipment, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, increased cleaning protocols, and phones for tenants are all costs directly related to the pandemic. While some items have been donated, the majority have been purchased.

Your generosity has helped ehm bear these increased costs. And as we continue to adapt and serve vulnerable and marginalized people, we know you’ll continue to stand with us.

“Thank you to our donors for being a lifeline during this crisis.”

Philomena Lee
Drop-In Manager



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When can I donate urgently needed items?

ehm is planning a gradual approach to accepting deliveries. For the immediate future, ehm continues to put a pause on receiving donations at our doors.

How will I know when to bring items again?

Please check our website, www.evangelhall.ca, where we will announce all our new processes.

What will we need when we start accepting donation drop-offs again?

A complete list will be posted to our website. We're anticipating a need for sturdy shoes, underwear, small bottles of sunscreen, small bottles of insect repellent, bottled water, granola bars, freezies, and popsicles.

When can I volunteer? What about community meal groups?

Like the reopening of our donation drop-off processes, we will reintroduce on-site volunteering gradually. ehm will post updates to our website when opportunities arise.

THREE WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- 1 SEND YOUR FINANCIAL GIFT TODAY**
Your generosity helps ehm continue to adapt and provide essential community services through this crisis.
- 2 SEND A MESSAGE OF HOPE**
Drawings and messages encourage everyone who sees them in the Drop-In and Residence.
- 3 LEAVE YOUR LEGACY**
Include Evangel Hall Mission in your estate plan today and give the gift of hope in the future. Contact Cindy at 416.504.3563 ext 301 or cindy.han@evangelhall.ca.





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

EVANGEL HALL MISSION

552 Adelaide St. W.
Toronto, ON M5V 3W8

416.504.3563
information@evangelhall.ca

www.evangelhall.ca

 [evangelhallmission](https://www.facebook.com/evangelhallmission)
 [@ehm_1913](https://twitter.com/ehm_1913)

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.

Charitable Registration #11890 3129 RR0001

