

A COMMUNITY OF COMPASSION. A PLACE OF HOPE.

TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION

FALL 2020



Drop-In staff Virginia provides takeout lunches to ehm clients through our newly configured takeout window.

STORIES OF RESILIENCE

COVID-19 and the resulting economic shift have most drastically impacted those experiencing poverty and homelessness in Toronto. Daily Bread Food Bank reports a 200% increase in new food bank clients and Toronto Public Health data shows disproportionately high negative health outcomes in racialized and lower income groups.

ehm is thankful to stand as a safe space during all this uncertainty, providing meals and spiritual and emotional care, helping at-risk residents to shelter in place, and

connecting vulnerable individuals to financial and community resources.

In this newsletter, we celebrate resilience and responsiveness: clients overcoming difficult circumstances to achieve financial independence, and staff and volunteers going above and beyond to meet critical community needs. And we celebrate you, our donors, providing us with much-needed resources in the midst of your own challenges!



Evangel Hall Mission

INSIDE

Read about Thomas, a long-time client celebrating his hard-won sobriety and financial independence.

"I am so happy with myself, and it's been many years since I could say this! ehm helped me to budget my money, and showed me that there is hope for me. I found that hope. You guys taught me that I can do this."





PEACE OF MIND AND A FRESH START: THE VOLUNTARY TRUSTEESHIP PROGRAM

ehm's Voluntary Trusteeship Program has long been a client favourite, helping clients manage money effectively so rent is paid and finances are stretched over the course of each month. Ultimately, the goal is to help each client achieve and maintain safe, stable housing.

Clients come from all walks of life. Some are precariously housed, and some are experiencing homelessness. Some are new to saving, requiring guidance on a weekly basis, while some have been using the program for years and only need a monthly check-in.

Stephen and Kristen take care to understand each client's complex story and build strong relationships that help clients achieve their goals.

With more people facing lost income, food insecurity, and housing instability due to the pandemic, Kristen and Stephen have seen a marked increase in people asking for assistance, often meeting with up to 25 clients each day, remotely and in person.

Because of your generosity, we're able to help more clients find peace of mind and financial stability.

The Voluntary Trusteeship Program is supported, in part, by the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

“Money is a sensitive thing, and saving can be difficult. I see a change in their overall spirit, and they seem more calm and confident once they start.”

Kristen
Trustee Worker



Stephen (top) and Kristen (bottom), ehm's Trustee Workers, help clients achieve financial independence and housing.

DONATIONS IN ACTION: A GENEROUS GIFT OF PPE

When the number of COVID cases started to rise in Toronto earlier this year, we had to figure out how to offer our essential services without putting clients and staff at undue risk. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was critical and largely unavailable.

Then we learned that a shipment was being sent to us from the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan! Their gift of disposable aprons, isolation gowns, and face masks, along with a generous financial gift, allowed ehm to expand programming and re-open the Drop-In for sit-down service.

We are so touched by the care and assistance that came from such a distance.



Executive Director, Ainsley, with boxes of PPE freshly arrived from Taiwan; Support Worker, Lizza, modelling the donation.



“I can’t thank Evangel Hall enough. [You] helped me to budget my money, and showed me that there is hope for me. I found that hope. You guys taught me that I can do this.”

Thomas
ehm client

Thomas is celebrating six years of sobriety and achieving financial stability.

MEET THOMAS, A VOLUNTARY TRUSTEESHIP PROGRAM GRADUATE!

When his wife suddenly passed from a medical condition, Thomas’s devastation plunged him back into addictions, undoing four years of sobriety. Thomas lost his business and his home.

Thomas vividly recalls his first experience at ehm 15 years ago. “When I walked into Evangel Hall, I was torn to pieces. I had no place to live, and I was totally devastated over this. The first thing that happened was someone came and welcomed me, then asked me if I wanted something to eat. I was starving: I hadn’t eaten in two or three days. The next thing I noticed on the door was a sign for the Voluntary Trusteeship Program. So I went in and asked, ‘How do I sign up for this? Because I can’t manage my money.’ And that’s how the whole thing started.”

Thomas learned how to budget, track his spending, and make responsible financial choices, something he’d struggled with even before becoming homeless. He fought the temptation to walk away from the program and give up on his sobriety. He secured housing.

Now, this summer, Thomas marked two huge milestones: he celebrated six years of sobriety, and achieved enough confidence and financial stability to graduate from the program.

“What Evangel Hall did for me was teach me that I can do this. They showed me the faith I need in myself, and they had the love to give to me while I was doing this. I can’t express any more how great this has been for me. I am so happy with myself, and it’s been many years since I could say this! I’m just so grateful.”

STANDING AGAINST HATE AND RACISM: WHAT IT MEANS AT ehm

Recent events have starkly shown that anti-Black racism, be it overt or systemic, remains a dangerous and violent reality.

ehm strives to be a safe space for all clients, volunteers, staff, and donors. Inclusivity and loving our neighbours as ourselves are guiding principles of our practice.

But we acknowledge there’s still room to learn more, to look at our practice deliberately through an anti-Black racism lens. Addressing racism means standing up against hate and asking uncomfortable questions to reach for deeper truths.

How does an organization search its proverbial soul? Over the next year, we will be hosting experts and advocates in a series of educational sessions for our staff, in order to examine ehm’s culture and practice through an anti-oppressive lens. On our journey towards becoming a stronger, anti-racist agency, we’ve also been looking to resources such as the Presbyterian Church in Canada’s guide, “Speaking out Against Racism and Hate in Canada,” and the expertise of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour authors and public figures. We encourage you, our readers, to take a look at these resources as well.



Janet and Ken, committed to community

THE CAMPBELL FAMILY: A LEGACY OF CARE

ehm is blessed by the care of families like the Campbells. Janet and Ken are long-term supporters, with Janet even serving on the Board for six years. The relationship goes back far enough that Janet recalls carrying meals down the rickety old stairs at ehm's former site on Queen Street West!

Now, Janet and Ken are looking towards the future, naming ehm as a beneficiary of their estate. With this decision, Janet and Ken are helping build ehm's future success and ensuring their care continues to reach marginalized and vulnerable individuals years from now.

If you'd like more information about planned giving, please contact Cindy Han, Director of Resource Development, at cindy.han@evangelhall.ca or ext 246.

VOLUNTEERING AND DELIVERIES: UPDATE

We're welcoming donation deliveries and volunteers again on a limited basis, ensuring that the most urgent needs are met and that the safety of clients and volunteers is maintained.

Volunteer opportunity: Sunday meals are back!

Groups of up to eight volunteers are needed to provide takeout dinners on Sundays. For more information or to request a date, contact Tyler at ext 231 or tyler.flynn@evangelhall.ca.

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS

- Adult underwear, pants, t-shirts, sweatshirts, fall jackets, durable boots, and running shoes
- Bottled water, coffee grounds, tea bags

New delivery times and locations!

Drop-offs are by appointment, Tuesday to Friday, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Call 416.504.3563 to make arrangements. Items will now be dropped off at the front of the building, at the main entrance on Adelaide Street.

THREE WAYS TO HELP

- 1 BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR** Your consistent generosity helps ehm continue to adapt and provide essential community services through this crisis.
- 2 LEAVE YOUR LEGACY** Include Evangel Hall Mission in your estate plan today and give the gift of hope in the future. Contact Cindy at ext 246 or cindy.han@evangelhall.ca.
- 3 JOIN US IN THE VIRTUAL 2020 SCOTIABANK TORONTO WATERFRONT MARATHON!** Raise funds and get some exercise! Run or walk anytime, anywhere October 1-25, or join us at ehm on October 24 for a socially distanced 5K run along the lakeshore. Visit evangelhall.ca/events or contact Tyler at tyler.flynn@evangelhall.ca or ext 231!

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

EVANGEL HALL MISSION

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 [evangelhallmission](http://evangelhallmission.com)
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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. Charitable Registration #11890 3129 RR0001

