

Curb Notes

Ambition, Pervserance, and Grandchildren

Jessica Gowers, Communications and Public Realtions Coordinator



James' Story:

In 2020, after moving their granddaughter into their home, James and his wife received worrying news: "We lived in our home for 10 years until our granddaughter moved in, and shortly after, we received an eviction notice from our landlord," James shared.

With their move-out date approaching, the increasing rental prices became a growing challenge. "We didn't know what to do. We kept on getting eviction notices from our landlord. We were fortunate that my granddaughter was able to go to the same school when we temporarily moved to a motel," James added.

Their only hope was to seek help from Rotholme Family Shelter, known to be London's only family shelter.

When asked why they sought Rotholme's help, James said: "There was nowhere else to go. We tried other resources, but it was Rotholme who helped us in the most difficult time."

It was Mary Feeley, their Housing Diversion Worker, who assisted them with their situation.

With Rotholme's help, James and his family were able to find stable housing for their family.

"I'm very glad we went to Rotholme and we met Mary. It may take a while to find a solution, but you need to be patient and work with them so they can help you out," James said.

Rotholme Family Shelter is one of Mission Services' emergency and shelter diversion programs. Rotholme can accommodate up to 20 families at a time.



The Prevention of Homelessness Among Families (PHAF) program is directed by Rotholme, and aims to connect with families who are very close to experiencing homelessness. PHAF works to either keep the family housed where they are or find housing for them so they can avoid coming into the Rotholme Family Shelter.

Visit missionservices.ca to learn more.

Mary Feeley:

"I started working at Mission Services of London three years ago but it was in another position; when the Housing Diversion Worker position opened in April 2022, I applied right away because I have always wanted to help out families," Mary Feeley said.

With the housing market problem in Canada, it has been really challenging to find stable housing.

"Sometimes I feel like my hands are tied because I can't change the prices of rental units available to people in London," she added. Mary explained that every family's situation looks very different; sometimes she assists families with eviction processes and helps advocate for them at hearings with Tribunals Ontario. "I believe that housing is a right for everyone, especially affordable housing which is a big barrier right now for many people," Mary shared.

Helping families is the best part of Mary's job. "It's always a team effort working alongside families in the community. I have seen many success stories and that really warms my heart. I can say that the meaningful relationships that I have built with many families has made a positive impact on my life and theirs," she said.

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Sydney and Chase Brown's Stay at Rotholme Family Shelter

*Nisa Rigets,
Communications and Public Relations Coordinator*

Mission Services of London had the pleasure of being part of Sydney and Chase Brown's documentary produced by *The Sports Network (TSN)*. Their mother, Raechel Brown, visited Rotholme Family Shelter and recounted the challenges she and her family faced while providing for her family.

Sydney and Chase were born two minutes apart on March 21, 2000. The identical twins did everything together, including their love for football. Despite the struggles their family faced, Raechel did everything she could to help them pursue their dreams.

The twins had to move to Florida on their own to make this happen – which was heartbreaking to Raechel because she would be miles apart from them. However, Raechel knew this was a great opportunity for her sons. The twins admitted they were initially homesick, but eventually settled in and got to work on their dreams of playing in the NFL.

Huge congratulations to Sydney for being drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles, while Chase was drafted by the Cincinnati Bengals. Your Mission Services of London family is rooting for you!

Watch the *Staring Back* documentary at *The Sports Network*:
<https://www.tsn.ca/tsn-originals/video/tsn-original-staring-back-2675618>



*Chase (L), Sydney (R), with their mother, Raechel Brown
Source: ESPN, Courtesy of Raechel Brown*

Your chance to support the children in Rotholme!

UPCOMING EVENT:

Fill Up the Bus!

Back-to-School Donation Drive for the Children at Rotholme Family Shelter

Come Celebrate with Us on
SATURDAY,
AUGUST 26, 2023
from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
at 737 York Street, in the Mission Store Parking Lot

Families in the community are preparing for back-to-school time, but many are struggling to secure the necessary supplies. Through our annual Fill Up the Bus event, you can help by donating funds to children in need at Rotholme Family Shelter.

Donate online between August 1- September 30, and check in everyday to view exciting updates on the campaign results at: www.missionsofLondon.ca

Special Acknowledgements

Wes Suchard:

MSL would like to recognize Wes Suchard for his seven decades of service to Mission Services of London. Wes has been volunteering in a variety of capacities from being an integral part of the 1988 and 2002-2003 capital campaigns to expand/renovate Men's Mission to founding the Mission Services of London Foundation Board.

He is now stepping down from his role with the Foundation Board.

Thank you, Wes for your incredible legacy of a servant's heart. May God bless you for all you have given and invested in MSL. May we continue to build on the foundation you have helped to lay. We look forward to the harvest to come.



Wes Suchard and other participants of the musical program at London Rescue Mission (later Mission Services of London)

Erma Kropf:

Erma Kropf was a young Mennonite woman from the Tavistock area when she became the first employee to join the Mission Services (then Goodwill Rescue Mission) family. Erma first shared the responsibility with Alvin and Madeline, the founders of Goodwill Rescue Mission, in cooking and cleaning, then later became involved in establishing the Sunday School and family evangelism. Erma was a pioneer and heroine in the development and growth of the Mission, and it's with great sympathy and tribute that we acknowledge her passing on July 3, 2023. We thank Erma for her contribution to Mission Services of London, and for all the families and individuals she helped throughout her meaningful life.



Erma Kropf
Source: From Golden Grain Grows a Mission, Roger Smith

Welcoming our Chaplain, Harry Soedarmasto

At the last Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors introduced Mission Services of London's latest Strategic Plan. Within that plan, MSL made the commitment to "refine our core identity and celebrate the faith-based values that inform the work of MSL". In November 2022, Mission Services of London hired Harry Soedarmasto to fulfill the role of Chaplain.

Harry Soedarmasto grew up in a Christian family in New York City. After finishing university with an Aerospace Engineering degree, he worked for two airlines. Harry is married to Cherry and has two beautiful daughters, Yunesta and Yunike.

Harry moved to London, Ontario, in April 2004. While working for a nursing home, God wanted a closer relationship with Him. God called Harry to a pastoral ministry and chaplaincy environment.



He went to Tyndale University and graduated with a Master of Divinity degree. A short time later, Harry became an English Ministry Pastor in a local multicultural church. While there, he was called to Mission Services of London to serve as a Chaplain, which he loves.

With God's help, Pastor Harry has been dividing his time, providing spiritual care to all Mission Services of London sites. He has been helping MSL's staff team and participants with worship and devotional services, foundational biblical teachings, and spiritual care programming that is in alignment with our mission and values.

The Chaplain's Challenge

The Chaplain's Challenge is designed to help put different components into place to offer spiritual care and support to anyone who comes through our doors and wants a listening ear, the opportunity to ask questions, or attend one of our weekly and voluntary chapel services. Mission Services of London has a full-time, trauma-informed chaplain who visits all of our locations and is available, if required, to our participants, staff or volunteers.

This is part of our strategic initiative to offer a more holistic approach to our programming and care for each person's mind, body and spirit.

Sustaining

This is an opportunity to become a Beacon of Hope Sustainer and direct your monthly gift to the spiritual care fund or make a one time gift that helps cover our operating expenses.

Equipping

These are special projects identified to help establish and support spiritual care programming. Our voluntary chapel services would be greatly enhanced with a full complement of musical instruments and sound equipment.

Sowing

A program that has the hope of taking root and lasting for many years and generations to come requires a sustaining investment to ensure its longevity. A legacy gift can help transform someone's life outwardly but also help with a transformation of the heart.

Annual Operating Expenses:
\$100,000

Project Costs:
\$15,000

I'm up for the challenge!
Please email Genia to donate:
gcarter@missionservices.ca

Impacting LIVES through five branches:

Men's Mission
459 York Street
519-672-8500

**Community Mental
Health Programs**
4-797 York Street
519-439-7700 (Streetscape)

Rotholme Family Shelter
42 Stanley Street
519-673-4114

Quintin Warner House
457 York Street
519-434-8041

Mission Store
4-797 York Street
519-438-3056

**Mission Services of
London Foundation**
4-797 York Street
519-433-2807

Administration Office
4-797 York Street
519-433-2807

Visit missionservices.ca

Find us on Twitter: @Mission1951
Facebook, Linked, and
Instagram: @missionserviceslondon

Newsletter contact:
jgowers@missionservices.ca

Charitable Registration
#119302578RR0001

Thank you to our
government funders:



Saying "Thank You"

A Generous Contribution to the Men's Mission: 1st CAV Ortona Motorcycle Unit:

Cheques presented to the Men's Mission from 1st CAV Ortona Motorcycle Unit from their annual Veterans Appreciation Ride. (The ride takes place every year on the second Saturday in May).



*1st CAV Ortona Motorcycle Unit presenting cheques to
Kelley Thomson, Senior Development Officer*

Making Summer Camp Possible for the Children at Rotholme

Summer camp is special, memorable, and beneficial for all children. Camp increases their capacities for learning, teamwork, friendship, problem solving, knowledge and self-awareness. Mission Services of London extends our greatest thanks to the following seven organizations for their generous contributions to 2023 Rotholme Summer Camp:

- Kids Mental Health Optimist Club of Canada
- Kiwanis Club of Middlesex
- Knights of Columbus Council 12996
- London Police Association
- TD Bank Group
- The May Court Club of London
- Ursuline Sisters of Chatham

Thanks to the aforementioned groups, Rotholme is able to host summer camp for the residing children.



*Knights of Columbus Yard Sale
Organizers, Jennifer and Chad,
presenting a cheque to Mission
Services of London*

Get Ready for Back-to-School Shopping at the Mission Store!



Going back to school can be hard for everyone. Start your shopping with us and take advantage of the Mission Store's affordable everyday prices! No matter if its clothing and shoes for your child's first day, or dorm room décor for college or university, we've got you covered.

By shopping in our store you are helping to generate needed funds to support programs such as the Emergency Voucher Program, Men's Mission, Rotholme Family Shelter, Quintin Warner House, and Community Mental Health Programs.

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