

2022

HelpingHands
STREET MISSION

HELPING
HANDS

IMPACT
REPORT

HelpingHands
STREET MISSION

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Table of Contents

01

Who Are We?

02

Meet Our Team

03

Friendship-based Support

04

Stories of Impact from Friends

05

Financials

06

Key Milestones This Year

07

Thank you

08

Looking Ahead

09

Call to Action

10

Contact Us

Dear community,
Friendship – it’s something we all need and long for. Coming out of a pandemic, with “social distancing” and “self-isolation” as two main recommendations for protection, we all experienced varying degrees of isolation and loss of friendship-based support.

Friendship is multi-faceted. True friends care about each other as whole people. Friendship means caring about each other’s physical needs, but also about each other’s social needs. And, as a Christian organization, at Helping Hands Street Mission we know that our spiritual needs are tightly connected with everything else about us.

Ecclesiastes 3 is a chapter in the Bible that deals with the basics of everything. A key statement in the middle of that chapter is that “God has set eternity in every human heart”. We all have needs and longings: longings for the physical things we need, longings for being known and loved, and longings for hope beyond this life.

Right before that statement is another amazing one: “God has made everything beautiful in its time”. Sharing our closets is beautiful. Sharing a cup of coffee is beautiful. Connecting in conversation is beautiful. Having a friend walk alongside us in the joys and sorrows of life is beautiful. Praying for and with each other is beautiful.

I am grateful to have beautiful friends at Helping Hands Street Mission. You are welcome to be part of this beautiful community as well.



Check out what is happening here, and feel welcomed to join in!

Alice Plug-Buist
Executive Director

Who Are We?

OUR PROGRAMS



CAFE
- we offer free snacks and drinks



MEN'S SOCIAL
WOMEN'S SOCIAL



CLOTHING BANK/STORE



INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



PROJECT HOPE
- drop-in safe space for women in the sex industry



BOARD GAME CAFE

***All programs are free to anyone in need in the Hamilton community!
We welcome people from all walks of life to come together in this space.**

Our Mission

Reaching out together, with love and respect, in Jesus' name.

Our Vision

Through friendship-based support we will seek opportunities for every person dealing with social, financial and spiritual poverty to develop relationships, share in resources and feel welcomed into God's family.

Our Values

As a Christian organization we believe:

- That each person is made in God's image, and as such has intrinsic value and dignity
- That each person has something to contribute and is needed in community
- That God cares equally for all people and wants to welcome each person into relationship.



Meet Our Team



Samantha Togeretz
Friendship Coordinator

As the Friendship Coordinator, my job is to facilitate friendships at Helping Hands. I lead our team of volunteers in meeting new friends, engaging in conversation, and supporting people to access services here and in the community. I am particularly excited to have been able to work alongside community members as they have become Helping Hands volunteers, as well as working with others to support their own personal goals. In addition, I get to lead our community in prayer for all of our programs and for the friends who make up our community.

As the Hospitality Coordinator, my role includes maintaining a clean, organized and welcoming space for our community. I keep our café and store stocked, I connect with donors regarding clothing and personal hygiene item donations, and I support friendships in our community. I love that Helping Hands is a safe haven for friends who otherwise lack social support, and I celebrate the friendships and community that begin here and carry on beyond our walls. Listening to our friends, hearing their stories and getting to know them on a personal level has taught me so much!

Kristina Ivanovic
Hospitality
Coordinator



Lisette Sayes
Community Engagement
Manager &
Project Hope Lead

As the Community Engagement Manager, my role is to develop and strengthen relationships with community groups, churches and donation partners, organize fundraising efforts and manage Helping Hands Street Mission's social media presence. I was excited to be on the organizing team for our Coldest Night of the Year event, connecting walkers, volunteers and sponsors with our work here on Barton Street. As Project Hope Lead, I am eager to begin organizing and managing Project Hope, a night time drop-in time for women involved in the sex industry on Barton Street.

In my position as Executive Projects Assistant, I get to work on projects that are more behind the scenes that help us grow in our capacity as an organization. I have been proud to be able to help with specific projects like re-envisioning our upcoming new website, help plan our first Gala in nearly 3 years, and to make space to tell meaningful stories from our friends through videography. These opportunities help us to tell our story and also help our friends to share theirs. Helping Hands Street Mission is a place that continually inspires me to push into meaningful community.

Lauren Galenkamp
Executive Projects
Assistant



Why 'friendship-based' support?

At Helping Hands Street Mission, we are all about friendship. Relationships are vital to the health of our society, yet many of us in our community lack stable connections.

We recognize that our community members come to us, at least initially, for help to meet needs they are conscious of and that they know that we can assist with: free clothing, personal hygiene items, shoes, blankets, tents, a free cup of coffee and a snack. Our supporters are conscious of the needs they perceive around us as well, and encourage us to engage in addictions support, food provision, and Christian words of hope. These are all good and beautiful things. However, as we get to know each other at Helping Hands, we have been finding a deep underlying need – the need for faithful, consistent, trustworthy friendship.

Hamilton is a city full of service provision of various kinds. The friends here at Helping Hands are better than our staff and volunteers at pointing the way to foodbanks or free prepared food locations. There are places for people to receive financial, mental health, addictions and other supports. There are many churches and Christian discipleship opportunities. And many of our friends themselves have heard of Jesus and are happy to share their hope with others on the days that they have the capacity to do so. The gap, however, is a faithful friend that will get there with them. A friend that is waiting for them at Helping Hands Street Mission who will make it worthwhile to get up in the morning. A friend who will complete a housing application with them because there are just so many pages to go through. A friend who will meet them at the doors of a local church so they don't need to step in alone and feel out of place. As Mr. Rogers said: "It always helps to have people we love beside us when we have to do difficult things in life." This faithful, consistent, trustworthy friendship is what's missing for our community members who face ongoing barriers and stigma. Our mission is to be there with each person: reaching out together, with love and respect, in Jesus' name.

Your participation in our mission provides faithful, consistent, trustworthy friendship for anyone who comes to our doors. Thank you for supporting these vital connections in your community.

"I've noticed how much our friends appreciate the staff and our volunteers, whether it's just by sitting and listening and showing them respect or helping them in our clothing store. I recognize those who come Helping Hands as my friends and the fact that they see me the same way makes the time I spend here so very much worth it."

- Kristina Ivanovic
Hospitality
Coordination

Stories of Impact From Friends



WE WALKED TOGETHER WITH:

1000+

FRIENDS INVOLVED IN PROGRAMS

6000+

BASIC PHYSICAL NEEDS MET

**OVER 10,000
CUPS OF COFFEE
SHARED WITH
OUR FRIENDS
THIS YEAR**



How has Helping Hands made an impact on Barton Street?

"Socializing, meeting with new friends. Helping out with events- I made a suggestion and it helped... I help plan upcoming events. I help in whatever way I can, and whatever I am needed as a volunteer."

- **Brian MacDonald**
Helping Hands
Community Member & Volunteer

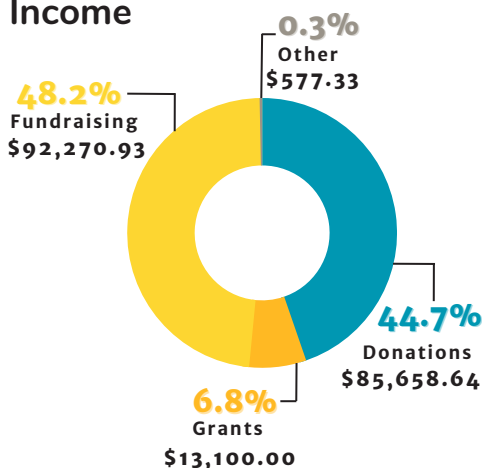
"Coming here makes my headspace clear... You can walk in here and you know it's a safe space."

- **Jody Robinson**
Helping Hands
Community Member

I started coming here ~~and~~ 1-2 weeks after it opened
When I lost all my stuff it was hard for me
to get back up onto my feet. My mind happy
wiser, I'm still here.
I was going through a rough time, hidden secrets
I didn't know was affecting my health, my mind, my
spiritual.
Helping Hands kept me motivated.
Dawn Zerk

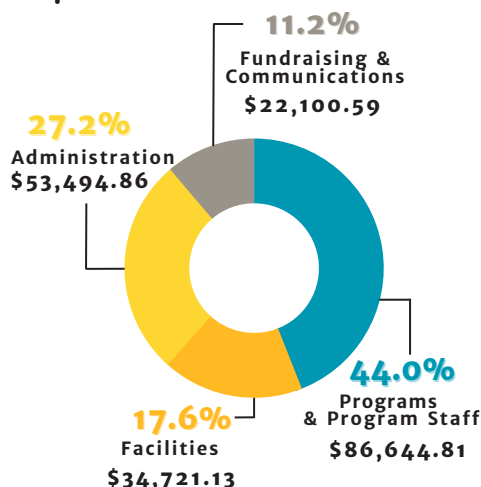
Financials

Income



Total Income: \$192,722

Expenses



Total Expenses: \$197,536

The Bread and Fish

Financial Reports are often either the first thing someone looks at, or the last thing, depending on your perspective. At Helping Hands Street Mission, we want it to definitely be one of the things you look at – because how we are able to keep things running is through your financial support. But understanding the Financial Report (our “Bread and Fish”) appropriately is complicated.

God has been very good to Helping Hands over the past year. We had a very successful Fundraising Gala as well as Coldest Night of the Year, both events raising a lot of funds as well as awareness for our ongoing work and the growth of new programs such as Project Hope. We also received ongoing support from monthly donors, each giving at various levels, between \$15-\$500/month, in addition to other financial support from individuals, businesses, foundations, community and church groups.

When you look at our expenses, you see that our programs are run on a tight budget. This is because we are serious about “friendship-based support”. Friendship doesn’t cost money. It does cost time. In fact, if we were to even pay simply a living wage to all of our front-line volunteers for the friendship-based support they provide, our expenses would increase by over \$77,000.00. And that doesn’t even begin to quantify the ripple effect of friendship-based support into the community, as we reach out together with love and respect in Jesus’ name. Together with our support community, we are filling an incredible gap here in our small corner on Barton Street, and with God’s help we are seeing the “bread and fish” multiply.

Please keep praying with us for provision. Keep praying for miraculous multiplication of the bread and fish we are given to work with in our Helping Hands Street Mission budget.

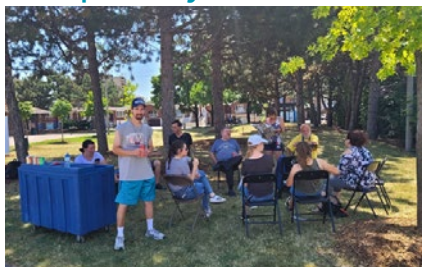
Key Milestones This Year

Our 1st Coldest Night of the Year



For our 1st Coldest Night of the Year, 216 walkers joined us in raising over \$60,000 to support people in our community dealing with hurt, hunger and homelessness.

Park Sports Day Event



We all love a fun day at the park. Staff, volunteers and friends enjoyed some kick ball and just relaxing in the sunshine together.

Celebration Gala Fundraiser



An incredible evening of celebration, an opportunity to share some stories, and a chance to receive the encouragement and financial support of 256 guests.

Return to In-Person Programming



COVID was hard on everyone, but especially on those who didn't have safe places to shelter. Being able to consistently open our doors for regular programming and indoor connection was a time of relief and celebration.

Thanksgiving Community Building Event at the Park



This event was community building, fundraising and just a lot of family friendly engagement all rolled into one.

Christmas Day Soup Fest



A smorgasbord of 25 varieties of soups along with delicious sandwiches, Christmas gifts and lots of cheer made for real family-style community on Christmas Day.

Thank you!

Dear friends,

The Helping Hands Street Mission support community includes many people from Barton Street and beyond, and we're grateful for all the different kinds of support we receive:

- Volunteers and students
 - Spend numerous hours offering friendship, coffee, sorting clothes, leading social groups and Bible study, organizing fundraisers and events, cleaning, driving, and so much more
- Donors
 - Invest financially into the work of Helping Hands
 - Supporters who share their closets, provide personal hygiene items, or food for programs
 - Community groups, churches, and schools that organize donation drives
 - Collecting clothes, bedding, shoes, and hygiene items for our friends
 - Coffee, creamer, and sugar for our café
- Hamilton community service providers
 - Work with our friends to meet their needs and access services
- Prayer partners
 - Committed to praying for the needs of Helping Hands and our friends



We thank you for your generous gifts of time, finances, and care. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our work this year. Your contribution increases our friendship-based support for the members of the Barton Street Community who are facing financial, social, and spiritual poverty.

Sincerely,
Helping Hands Street Mission



Looking Ahead...

Our theme at Helping Hands Street Mission this passed year has been **hope**. As we go into another year of engaging our community, we will continue to be hopeful in the work that we do and to share hope with those whom we are privileged to call our friends. This coming year, we are hopeful that we can expand and grow in our community in the following ways:



PROJECT HOPE

Project Hope provides a safe space for women working in the sex industry on Barton Street. We offer presence, friendship, prayer, a drink and a snack. We are currently designing a sustainable model and training more volunteers so that we can run this program every Saturday morning from 1am-6am.

OUR NEW WEBSITE

We are in the process of redesigning our website to make it more accessible and user-friendly. Our website is used regularly by friends, service providers, potential volunteers, donors and others looking to support or engage with Helping Hands Street Mission.

WORKING TOWARDS A NEW SPACE

We are dreaming of a new space for Helping Hands. At this stage we are conducting research and acquiring funding to support our plans for a space that will more adequately serve the needs of our community on Barton Street.

A Call to Action

"Dear God, What are you up to today and how can I help with that?"

Financial Support

- Support our long-term sustainability by becoming a monthly donor at any amount each month.
- Consider a one-time donation towards our dream of a new, accessible space

*annual tax receipt for all financial donations

Volunteer with Us

- Volunteer your time and skills to provide front-line friendship-based support or background assistance

Share your closet

- Donate your gently used clothing, bedding and shoes
- Collect new underwear, socks or personal hygiene items through your church, school, work or community group.

**TO HELP TODAY
DONATE HERE**





We thank you for your continued support as we walk alongside people dealing with social, financial and spiritual poverty in Hamilton, and particularly on Barton Street.

- Visit our website to donate
- Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter
- Follow us on social media to keep up to date on our needs and events
- Become a monthly donor - join our Giving Calendar
- Support our growth plans with a one-time donation



Contact Us

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