

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

# SANCTUARY MINISTRIES OF TORONTO

30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



PAINTING BY KENDALL G. W.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

The last few years have been marked by unprecedented change. We've almost become immune to what "unprecedented" means and what rapid change means for all of us – for our community, for our team, for our neighbours, and for us as whole persons, created in the image of God, with physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

In the aftermath of the pandemic, our community is seeing the collision of three crises: a worsening opioid overdose crisis, an accelerating housing crisis, and a deepening food affordability crisis. More folks are being pushed onto the streets by unjust circumstances and forces that are out of their control. Our friends, both housed and unhoused, are telling us it's getting harder to make life work.

This year we celebrated our 30th anniversary, and we found ourselves returning to our roots in many ways: in-person church services started back up, arts drop-in resumed, and we welcomed our friends back indoors to eat a meal together for the first time since March 2020. While not quite back to "normal," it has felt like a blessing to return to the communal practices that have sustained us for so long: worshiping together, breaking bread together, creating together.



**SIMON BECK**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our 30th anniversary also marked some big changes. Alan Beattie, our Executive Director of 10 years and a member of the leadership team for over 20 years, felt God calling him away from the staff team and into a period of reflection. We are grateful for his steady shepherding and love for our community. After a period of interim leadership, to whom we also owe a debt of gratitude, Simon was appointed.

The Board also recognized the need for a new leadership structure and appointed Tanja Futter and Rachel Tulloch as joint Pastoral Directors to provide the staff with greater support and pastoral care, along with a sharper ministry vision.

In addition, in late 2022, the Board and the staff embarked on a multi-phase journey to lean further into conversations about racial justice in order to ensure we create an equitable community, addressing systemic barriers to diversity.

Through all of this, God has remained faithful. Our donors, supporters, staff members, and community members have remained steadfast. We are immensely grateful for the ongoing commitment to the simple vision that has guided us for the last 30 years.

With gratitude and hope,



**ALISON MARTHINSEN**

CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# ABOUT US

At Sanctuary we are becoming a healthy, welcoming community in which people who are poor and excluded are particularly valued. We believe this is an expression of the good news embodied in Jesus Christ.

Together, we strive to offer the love, dignity, stability and resources that all of us need to flourish. Sanctuary's model is relationship-based. We offer people the opportunity to develop genuine, supportive friendships and become engaged in our community.

The relationships that people build at Sanctuary are empowering and life-giving, and they are frequently the deciding factor that enables many of us to make positive changes in our lives.

We commit ourselves to seeking to live out the Good Way, which encompasses both love and humility, as we bravely journey towards the justice which Jesus proclaimed with his words, life, death and resurrection.

***Sanctuary acknowledges the history, spirituality, culture, and ancestral stewardship of the land on which we meet from the Haudenosaunee, and more recently from the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, who are Anishnaabe people.***

***We are grateful that our community includes both First Nations and settler peoples.***



# WEEKLY SCHEDULE



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## MONDAY

STREET OUTREACH

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## TUESDAY

MEAL DROP-IN: LUNCH

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## WEDNESDAY

ARTS DROP-IN  
STREET OUTREACH

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## THURSDAY

MEAL DROP-IN: DINNER

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## FRIDAY

COMMUNITY CARE

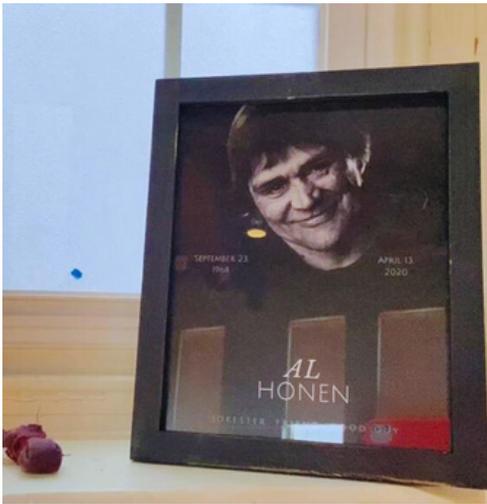
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## SUNDAY

CHURCH SERVICE

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# KEY MOMENTS OF 2022



# 01

## ART IS BACK

WE KICKED OFF THE YEAR BY INVITING PEOPLE BACK INDOORS FOR OUR WEEKLY ARTS DROP-IN. BECAUSE THE ARTS DROP-IN IS A SMALLER CROWD, THEIR CAMARADERIE WARMS OUR BASEMENT SPACE LIKE RAYS OF SUNSHINE.

*"The art drop-in gives me a sense of belonging. It gives me a sense of purpose, and it's social. I know the people here. I like how people care here. Painting in this space distracts me from the harsh reality of life." —Caroline*

## MEMORIAL NIGHT

One of the most significant events of the year was the Memorial Night we held at the end of March. On one Thursday night we honoured a long list of loved ones who had died within the past three years. We welcomed people inside to spend time with photos and biographies of our friends. People grieved loudly and quietly as we expressed our sadness, fondness and memories of our friends.

*"It killed me when Tim read the list of 41 names of the people who had died. I recognized two names. Those two people were my friends, my family. But they are not really gone as long as I keep them alive in my heart." —Richard*



# 03

## RETURN TO IN-PERSON CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY MARKED THE RETURN OF WORSHIPPING TOGETHER IN-PERSON. EVERYONE WHO CAME ENJOYED SINGING AND PRAYING TOGETHER. THE REQUESTS FOR SONGS WERE SO PLENTIFUL THAT THE SERVICE LASTED A JOYOUS TWO HOURS.

*"I think there are a lot of people in different situations and backgrounds that come, but there's something that draws us all. I think it's the love of God, actually, and the love of neighbour. I don't want to get too sentimental or anything, but it's like hearts joining hearts. When we're together there's a warmth and an excitement in seeing each other." —Janice*

# 04

## BEACH BBQ

WHO DOESN'T LOVE A FIELD TRIP? WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE SEPTEMBER WARMTH BY PLANNING A BBQ AT WOODBINE BEACH. COMMUNITY MEMBERS BOARDED A RENTED BUS AND HEADED TO THE BEACH FOR A PICNIC.

*"It was fun. I liked the hamburgers and the location. Would have been even better if there had been a frog or a toad around to love!" —Froggie*

# 05

## THANKSGIVING DINNER

THE WEATHER WAS MILD AND THE CHEF WAS INSPIRED: RIBS! DONALD ALWAYS COOKS UP A FEAST FOR THANKSGIVING, AND THIS YEAR HIS SAUCY RIBS AND MASHED POTATOES EXCEEDED OUR HIGH EXPECTATIONS. IT WAS A DINNER TO REMEMBER!

*“Thanksgiving is important for me because of the way it was in my family. My mom made Thanksgiving special and we really celebrated. And it’s about family here too. We do this because we want people to feel part of the family and valued.” —Donald*



## PAINTING PARTY

This turned out to be one of the highlights of the year. Over three very long days, community members scraped, stripped, primed, and painted the basement, which was long overdue for a new paint job. Diligence and hard work met with the unmatched satisfaction of working on a big project that can only be accomplished by a team.

*“It was amazing. It was a huge opportunity for me to stay out of trouble and find something positive to do with my life. I hadn’t had a chance to feel like a worthwhile human being in such a long time. I hadn’t been in such a positive environment around people. They were just easy to be around. Nobody was competing. Nobody was saying ‘don’t do this; don’t do that.’ It was a team thing.” —Andrew*

# 07

## ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

THIS YEAR MARKED OUR 10TH BREAKFAST, AND DONORS RESPONDED TO THIS BENCHMARK BY GIVING MORE THAN EVER BEFORE. IT WAS AN IMPACTFUL MORNING OF HEARING HOW LIVES HAVE CHANGED AS A RESULT OF MAKING LASTING RELATIONSHIPS AT SANCTUARY.

*“I like this event because I wake up nervous, very nervous. I’m meeting people that others consider ‘higher calibre.’ I start off nervous because they are intimidating, but by the end of the day I don’t even feel like there’s one penny difference between us. I feel like we’re friends.” —Angel*

# 08

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

OUR FIRST MEAL SERVED INDOORS SINCE BEFORE THE PANDEMIC WAS OUR MUCH-ANTICIPATED CHRISTMAS DINNER! DONALD AND THE KITCHEN CREW WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR TWO FULL DAYS PREPARING ROAST BEEF, MASHED POTATOES, AND GALLONS OF GRAVY. WE HAD LIVE MUSIC AND CAROL SINGING, AND GAVE OUT HUNDREDS OF WARM SWEATERS AND PAIRS OF GLOVES. THE WEATHER WAS TERRIBLE THAT NIGHT, AND WE WERE OVERJOYED TO WELCOME PEOPLE INSIDE TO EAT AT TABLES SET UP BOTH IN THE BASEMENT AND UPSTAIRS IN THE SANCTUARY. THE EVENING WAS CHAOTIC, LOUD, AND BOISTEROUS—JUST THE WAY WE LIKE IT.



## FINANCIAL AND GIVING UPDATE

In community there is a real sense of dignified mutuality: we are all imbued with the dignity to give and receive from each other—and everyone has something to offer. We seek to walk alongside one another and share our lives, both giving and receiving care and valuing each person's gifts. As we walk together, we encounter opportunities to honour and bear witness to each others' stories.

*The gifts we offer each other are what have sustained us for the past 30 years.*

No matter how big or how small, in the economy of God the gifts we offer each other are all part of what has sustained us for the past 30 years.

Our donors are important members of our community, and they have remained incredibly faithful to us throughout 2022, as we slowly emerge from the pandemic. Sanctuary remains in a strong financial position, and this is cause for gratitude and celebration!

**135**

**NEW  
DONORS  
IN 2022**

**96%**

**OF OUR BUDGET  
SPENT ON  
COMMUNITY  
PROGRAMS &  
SUPPORT**

**185+**

**REGULAR  
MONTHLY  
CONTRIBUTORS**

**\$1.9M**

**TOTAL  
DONATIONS**

**90%**

**OF OUR INCOME  
CAME FROM  
PRIVATE  
DONORS**

WE ARE INDEPENDENTLY AUDITED BY PETER W. HOGG, CPA

# FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

## BETH BROWN, LONGEST-SERVING SUPPORTER

Beth is one of our longest-serving financial donors, giving money every month to Sanctuary for over 25 years. Beth has been part of our community since almost the beginning, and was an integral part of launching our Health Clinic.

***"I spent a lot of time at Sanctuary in the past, first of all as a volunteer and then later with Humber College nursing students doing a community placement. Although I haven't visited in a number of years, the folks from Sanctuary are still in my heart." —Beth Brown***



## ALEX HERD, LONGEST-SERVING VOLUNTEER

Alex began volunteering in our kitchen in 2008, and he has been a faithful presence to this day. Thursday night dinners would not be the same without his contagious energy, love for conversation, care for others, and fine sense of fashion.

***"I've met so many different wonderful people. And it's about the people. I've seen a lot of people come and go over the years. Sometimes when things get a little hectic or frustrating, I just need to cool down. I'm not a machine, I'm a human being. And then I get back to doing things one step at a time. And the people here have always been here for me, when I broke my leg, when I got beaten up, many other things." —Alex Herd***



## KENDALL G. W., ARTISTIC SUPPORTER

Kendall has contributed creatively to our community life for a number of years. Along with his sharp wit, Kendall brings his artistic talent to our community and shares it in ways that benefit us all: he mentors fellow artists, he makes art to use as gifts for Sanctuary supporters, and he donates handmade decorations for our special events and gatherings. Kendall just makes everything more special!

***"If you decorate a space, it gives a sense of home. That's why I do it. So people can have a home away from home." —Kendall G. W.***

## TIM GRIFFIN, BREAKFAST CO-CHAIR

Ever since Tim first got to know the unique place Sanctuary holds in the city, he has been a tireless champion and advocate, volunteering his time to fundraise within his professional networks.

***"The whole family atmosphere that's created at Sanctuary is outstanding. Sanctuary is grassroots in a sense – it's small, it's nimble, and it's immediate. Whether I'm finding a new donor or giving funds myself, when you give to Sanctuary it feels very immediate, like your donation is going right to work." —Tim Griffin***

# OUR TEAM

## STAFF

### Leadership

Simon Beck  
Rachel Tulloch  
Tanja Futter

### Outreach

Simon Beairsto  
Greg Cook  
Mark Lewis  
Jay Barton  
Aylish

### Health Clinic

Aindrea  
Rikki Martin  
Sheryl M

### Arts

Alejandra Adarve  
Natasha Sudenis

### Drop-in Support

Donald Sturrock  
Ronald Cockburn  
Tim Vickery

### Sundays & Pastoral

Sam Sundar-Singh  
Greg Paul

### Administration

Debra  
Devin Lundrigan  
Kelliann Robinson

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Angie Hocking, Director  
Michael Blair, Director  
Frank Hull, Director  
Marnie Smith, Director  
Cindy Quinton, Director  
Sylvia Keesmaat, Secretary  
Angel LeBar, Community Officer  
Viva Zhou, Treasurer  
Alison Marthinsen, Chair





*Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the skies.  
Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,  
your justice like the great deep.*

*~Psalm 36:5-6*

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