

THE WORKING CENTRE

VOLUNTEER INSPIRED
AND COMMUNITY
FOCUSED FOR
40 YEARS



SERVING OTHERS • WORK AS GIFT • REJECTING STATUS • LIVING SIMPLY • BUILDING COMMUNITY • CREATING COMMUNITY TOOLS

400+
People a day
at St. John's
Kitchen

St. John's Kitchen & Outreach

St. John's Kitchen welcomes 400 people a day to access meals, both inside and outside at the garage. St. John's Kitchen serves all day as a place of rest and meals, along with public washrooms, showers, laundry, outreach supports, medical and dental care. It is especially a place of belonging.

Since the pandemic, St. John's Kitchen distributes take-out and pantry food through the garage each weekday.



700
Meals
prepared,
delivered,
and served
each day

Meal Preparation & Delivery

Our commissary kitchen on Queen Street prepares 700 meals each day for distribution to St. John's Kitchen, and community based housing projects, plus hampers to motel rooms.



Employment & Financial Supports

Our *Job Search Resource Centre* helps support job seekers through Job postings, resume support, employment counselling, links to employers, programs for New Canadians, and connections to community resources.

Our *Money Matters Hub* connects people with a Financial Inclusion Outreach Worker for assistance with income tax, budgeting, community resources, government support programs, and problem solving.



2000
Job seekers
supported
annually

Building Affordable & Safe Housing

Housing acts as a foundation. When people have a home, they can live their lives more fully in community. When renovations to our Queen Street and Victoria Street properties are completed, we will add 65 units of safe and affordable housing.



Interim Shelter

Since 2020, the University Avenue Dorms have provided housing for 80 people which includes meals, outreach, medical and staff support. This year we have provided an ongoing Emergency Shelter each night, in partnership with the Region of Waterloo. This winter the former Schwaben Club site will provide up to 60 beds of shelter.



Access to Community Tools

Our community tools projects invite people to build skills, grow work experience, connect with others, and promote sustainability.

All projects are open inclusive spaces that welcome anyone wanting to work, volunteer, shop, or visit. Projects this year include *Worth A Second Look Furniture and Housewares*, *Computer Recycling*, and *Recycle Cycles Community Bike Shop*. Look for the re-opening of the *Queen Street Commons Cafe*, *Fresh Ground Cafe* and *Green Door Used Clothing Boutique* in the new year.



Making Home at 97 Victoria

In 2023, work will begin to renovate and re-envision our 97 Victoria Street North location:



44 units of interim housing
A new modern building
for St. John's Kitchen

Medical clinic and
expanded outreach
supports

Learn more about the project:
www.97victoria.theworkingcentre.org

WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY

Your generous
support helps to continue
our community building efforts

donate.theworkingcentre.org



Housing & Shelter at
The Working Centre



60+ People
currently with housing at
Working Centre properties



21 Affordable Units
added after renovations
at 54 Queen St. South



80 People
supported at
motel rooms



80 People
supported at University
Avenue (UA) Dorms



60+ Beds
available at the
Emergency Shelter



44 Interim Units
to be built as part of
the renovation project
at 97 Victoria St. North

Dear Friends,

The Working Centre has been on a journey to address growing homelessness as the numbers of people who are homeless, unwell, and vulnerable to a toxic drug supply are growing. In November 2019, it became clear that over 250 people were without shelter and action was needed to address this reality. For three years now, our focus has been to prioritize those unsheltered through community projects.

St. John's Kitchen continues to be a vital response, having remained open throughout the pandemic. St. John's Kitchen is a primary place for the unsheltered providing access to meals, showers, laundry, public washrooms, outreach and medical supports. From the garage at St. John's Kitchen we distribute take-out meals and items from the pantry. Each day, St. John's Kitchen welcomes 400+ people to access meals and multiple services.

Back in August 2020, we converted our kitchen on Queen Street into a commissary kitchen where with the help of food donations and volunteers we produce over 700 meals each day that are served at St. John's Kitchen, the University Avenue Dorms and the Emergency Shelter.

The Shelter work now comprises three projects that support up to 230 people each night.

The University Avenue Dorms ensures 80 people have had housing and a place to build on new opportunities. The supports, meals and housing have made tremendous differences in the lives of many residents.

Since December 2021, we have supported a nightly emergency shelter of about 60 beds first at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, then at the former EdithMac daycare and now at King East. Every night there are up to twenty more people waiting outside than we can accommodate because of capacity limits. The new shelter will allow for more beds as the need is greater than ever.


The Working Centre, through the Region of Waterloo has also provided 60 motel rooms, supporting 80 people who were unsheltered with medical needs.

This year, we started construction at 54 Queen South to build 21 loft units for new Canadian single parents. We also announced the Making Home project that will be a major renovation of the 97 Victoria North property to build 44 single units of housing for the long-term homeless.

On Queen Street, the Job Search Resource Centre continues to be a support over 100 different people per day who are job searching or navigating income support. Our Job Café projects in downtown Kitchener have continued street sweeping, evening garbage pickup, and downtown Outreach. Our Community Tool projects provide important supports at Recycle Cycles Community Bike Shop, Computer Recycling and Worth A Second Look Furniture and Housewares thrift store.

Your donations have helped us resource and act on creative projects to serve the growing homelessness issues. Supporters of The Working Centre have proven, year after year, that community donations are vital to respond to local issues. We are grateful for your ongoing support in building our community of support.

Sincerely,



Joe Mancini,
Director

We share our quarterly newspaper Good Work News with our contributors. Learn more about our community-based initiatives by visiting our website at www.theworkingcentre.org

Donate to support
The Working Centre

Total Gift Amount

☐ \$50

☐ \$100

☐ \$250

☐ \$500

☐ Other:

Please direct my donation to:

☐ The Working Centre

☐ St. John's Kitchen

☐ Where it is needed most

Payment Method:

☐ Cheque (payable to The Working Centre)

To make a credit card donation please:

Visit online at: donate.theworkingcentre.org

or call: 519.743.1151 x111

Would you like to donate through e-transfer?

Please call us at 519.743.1151 x111 to set it up.

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City:

Province:

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Incorporated as

K-W Working Centre for the Unemployed

Charitable Registration No. 13092 9 607 RR001