



For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.  
Matthew 25:35

Yvonne Long  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
115 St Andrews Rd  
Scarborough, ON M1P 4N2

Dear Yvonne,

I'd like you to meet Joe, one of the people who has been helped because of your generosity.

Joe worked hard all his life and held a steady job in construction and renovations. But the decades of wear and tear left his aging body stricken with pain and ailments. When he could no longer safely do his job, Joe made ends meet on his disability payments. His lifestyle was modest but he had a safe, warm place to call home, where he lived for over a decade. He was independent and he was happy.

But his life changed overnight. A fire in his neighbour's apartment forced Joe to abandon everything he owned except for a few pieces of clothing. Due to circumstances beyond his control, Joe was unable to return home.

At 60 years of age, Joe found himself homeless.

Joe spent the first few nights sleeping on a friend's couch before he found himself staying at a large emergency shelter downtown. Once there, he struggled to get more than one or two hours of sleep each night. With hundreds of people crowded close together on cots, emergency shelters are physically and mentally difficult for guests, especially for older people like Joe. The noise and stress kept him awake and unsettled. After two weeks of bone-wrenching exhaustion, Joe left the shelter.

Joe spent the next year on the streets. When the weather was cold, he stayed up all night in 24 hour coffee shops, and slept wherever he could find a safe place during the day. For months, he lived under an outdoor stage in a downtown park.

But when Joe was at his lowest, you were there for him.

Joe came to ehm for food, clothing, and showers, then he started to meet with Nigel, one of ehm's Housing Support Workers. When space became available in a nearby rooming house, Nigel made arrangements for Joe to visit.

Today, Joe calls it home.

Because you were there for Joe, he no longer has to live on the street. He's safe. He's warm. And he's enjoying the freedom and independence that comes from having his own home once again. His housemates all look out for one another, too.

Joe still visits ehm most days. He relies on the nutritious meals to stay as healthy as possible, and sometimes he comes in for a pair of jeans or running shoes. But he also comes to ehm for the compassionate community he's found here. "I like ehm. It's quiet. There are all kinds of people here I can talk to. And the staff has always been good."

Your support gave Joe his life back. Because of you, he has a caring community to help him get back on his feet with dignity and respect. Your gift today will help other seniors like Joe to build a brighter future for themselves, too.

ehm is a Christian ministry following the principle of loving one's neighbor. During my tenure on the Board of Directors, I have seen how the staff and volunteers, many of whom are from the Presbyterian community, welcome people daily into the warmth and safety of the Drop-In Centre and Residence. This is a place of refuge from the many hardships found on the streets.

Since Evangel Hall Mission opened its doors in 1913, thousands of people like Joe have found life-changing assistance through our services. I'm proud that the Presbyterian Church in Canada has made such a profound impact on so many lives by supporting this ministry.

You, the churches and church organizations that support local missions work, are a big part of the donor community that makes sure Evangel Hall Mission's doors are open to serve people like Joe. Through your financial gifts and gifts of time, food and clothing, you provide the resources needed for all our services. You are a big part of the miracles that happen here every day.

I cannot thank you enough for allowing us to be your hands in the community.

Will you please continue your commitment to serving poor, homeless and marginalized people in downtown Toronto? Your financial gifts in 2019 will bring hope and compassion to the hundreds of homeless and marginalized people who come to Evangel Hall Mission daily for assistance.

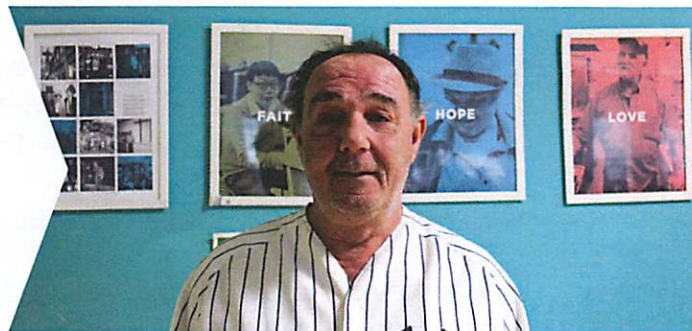
Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your commitment to treating those in need with dignity. Thank you for being there for Joe and others like him who come to us seeking a better tomorrow.

Yours in gratitude,

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**Rev. Wes Denyer**

President, Board of Directors



P.S. With the growing housing crisis, we need your help more than ever. Please make your donation today so we can help seniors and other people in need to find safe refuge.