

Christmas greetings from all of us at CCM,

With gratitude, we can share that our canteen window enabled us to stay open and connected to our neighbours without losing a day to the pandemic. And renting a second unit last winter enabled us to have some indoor visitation during the coldest months of the year. But, finally, the transition back into our own space has been a great source of relief in our community. For all of us, it is a homecoming.

As regulations lifted, we were soon able to do puzzles and play cards again, two community favourites. We're still waiting to be able to eat together inside. But we know that the time for that will come, and we know that with each sign of returning back to what life at the corner was like before COVID-19, the cohesiveness of our community grows deeper and deeper.

Playfully heckling at each other while playing cards, sharing one's own pain and grief with trusted neighbours, friends helping friends up the stairs, long conversations, the sound of coffee being poured, and people finding some rest in our chairs...these are the sights and sounds of our community finding a space of safety and home at our corner of Rideau Street.

For twenty-one years we have been a place that feels like home to hundreds of people in our city. This is what makes us more than a drop-in, more than a place to grab a sandwich. Our founder, Timothy, rooted our purpose in God's Incarnation. Simply put, what we do is rooted in the knowledge that God, who came to us in Jesus, came that he might fully identify with our humanity - with all its grit and joy. God showed up and moved into the neighbourhood. This is the good news of Christmas, and the good news we share each day.



We are a home for so many because we believe that simply being with people over the long haul, and in just about any situation of life, is the best gift that we can give to others. Each day we show up and are present to our friends in Lowertown. The fruit of this friendship is homecoming.

We are home to everybody - not just one group. We are home to OCH residents, home to the man who sleeps rough and comes to use the washroom each morning. We are home to a man who drives in from the south of Ottawa to feel community. We are home to many living in shelters and looking for a meaningful place of connection in their day. We are home to men in group homes who need a safe place to be accepted and welcomed. We are home to the older woman who reminds others of our 'house rules'. We are home to the man who came in each day last winter for his only hours of warmth in a 24 hour period. We are home to the staff who show up each day to live in relationship with their neighbour.

We are a physical home, an emotional home, and a spiritual home for those in our city. If you want to explore more about what this means to us, please visit our website.

We are a place of home because everyone needs a place to belong.

Merry Christmas and thank you for the many ways you continue to support us.

Peace to you,  
Keltie Davidson  
Executive Director



A PLACE TO FIND FRIENDSHIP  
A PLACE TO FIND HELP



## COMMUNITY UPDATES

### *The Ottawa Mission Food Truck*

This year we began partnering with the Ottawa Mission to have their food truck park at our location on Sunday afternoons. This innovative way of tackling food insecurity has been an encouragement for our community as many of our neighbours receive a hot meal each Sunday.

### *Equator Coffee*

Equator Coffee richly blessed us this year. We received a coffee donation from Equator in August that will likely sustain us through most of the winter - that's a lot of coffee. We love being able to serve their great quality coffee at the Drop-In. The only problem is, our staff can't stop drinking it too!

### *Hosting an indoor space in the winter months*

To keep our food services separate from indoor visiting when quarantining was still in full force, we were able to rent a building 3 doors West of us to facilitate indoor visiting. It was very needed for us all to be able to gather and visit again, especially in the winter months.

### *Growing through the window*

Having to pivot our services by offering our sandwiches and coffee through our window onto Rideau Street has changed how we do things and who we interact with. Because of its accessibility and visibility, we have met hundreds of new people through the window. We're now serving up to 700 sandwiches a week!

### *Coldest Night of the Year 2021: a huge success*

Many of you were a part of last year's Coldest Night of the Year. It has always been our largest annual fundraiser, but last year we far surpassed our financial goal! We raised nearly \$150,000 in support of CCM and our event partner, Jericho Road! Thank you to all who participated and donated. We're looking forward to another great event this year!

### *Homemade Cookies*

This year, several high schoolers from our neighbourhood came up with the idea to bake cookies weekly for us to be able to give out to our community. It has been such a joy to receive from them, and to see the joy homemade cookies bring to us all here at the Drop-In.

### *Podcast: The Recovery Connection*

Our friends at Jericho Road started a new podcast this year - The Recovery Connection - and they interviewed our very own Keltie Davidson. They chatted about isolation, addiction, and the myth of loitering. Check it out wherever you listen to your podcasts - or from our blog at [www.capitalcitymission.com/blog](http://www.capitalcitymission.com/blog).



Capital City Mission

*"I look forward to coming here everyday to see my family. The staff and some of my very good friends are like family. It's just home." - Merry*



GET INVOLVED!

## COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

Our biggest fundraiser of the year, Coldest Night of the Year, is approaching quickly! In February, our community and supporters will be walking through our neighbourhood to raise money for the work we do. To have a successful event, we need energized team captains who understand our mission, support our vision, and want to invite others to be a part of what we do.

We think that all of you would make amazing team captains!

What do you do as a team captain? You gather a group of people to walk with you at Coldest Night of the Year, set a team fundraising goal, and encourage your team to meet it. Sign up today!

Go to [cnoy.org](http://cnoy.org) and click register to join the Ottawa LOWERTOWN walk in support of us and Jericho Road. If you have any questions don't hesitate to email us at [keltie@capitalcitymission.com](mailto:keltie@capitalcitymission.com).

## Support Capital City Mission Today

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