

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

# The Shepherd

**“It’s not just a place to sleep.  
It’s a place to belong.”**

**INSIDE:** How you’ve given some of our most vulnerable neighbours a brand-new place that goes far beyond shelter.

## A note from Cathy

Dear caring neighbour,

This edition of *The Shepherd* features Good Shepherd’s involvement in a project that is receiving a lot of publicity. This innovative program provides housing tailored support to former encampment residents, helping them rebuild their lives.



Homelessness takes a devastating toll on individuals and communities. The Barton-Tiffany Temporary Shelter offers safe accommodations and housing-focused services, guiding residents toward permanent, stable homes. Since February, we’ve welcomed individuals into this program, working to create a supportive community of 80 people.

At the City of Hamilton’s request, we’ve taken on this vital responsibility. Rooted in our core value of Hospitality, we welcome people with compassion and generosity, creating opportunities for transformation.

As the saying goes, “it takes a village.” Our work depends on the generosity of supporters who believe in combining innovation with compassion to build stronger communities. Your financial assistance helps us to continue this essential work.

We’re grateful for your continuing support of and the people who need it most.

God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy'.

Cathy Wellwood,  
Development Officer  
Good Shepherd

## Your gifts in action



### A warm meal for those in need

You help us provide **over 16,584** nutritious meals a month for neighbours facing hunger.



### Supporting neighbours with basic necessities

**Over 8,700** people rely on us for groceries, clothing, and essentials to take care of themselves and their families.



### A refuge for those in crisis

Your support allows us to offer **over 630** safe, warm beds for youth, men, women, and families at our emergency shelters.



### New beginnings for parents and children

**40+** young parents and their children are getting a fresh start at Regina's Place.

# A place to belong

With your generous support, the Barton-Tiffany outdoor shelter has opened its doors, providing a safe, secure, and welcoming haven for many who have felt left behind.



Ella\* smiles as she opens the door to the spare but cozy cabin. Light streams in from the window, hitting the bed with its soft blanket and pillow. Her bag, holding all of her worldly belongings, is hung neatly on the wall.

**“This door means so much,” she says softly. When her nights were spent on the streets, she struggled to sleep, not just because of the discomfort, but because she feared for herself and her belongings if she ever let her guard down.** Ella was one of the first residents welcomed to the new Barton-Tiffany Shelter Site in February, thanks to your caring support.

“All of our emergency shelters have been at or above capacity for years,” shares Katherine Kalinowski, Good

Shepherd’s Chief Operating Officer. “It’s heartbreaking, when you have to tell someone there isn’t enough space for them. These cabins mean 80 more people now have somewhere to stay.” But Barton-Tiffany is about much more than additional shelter beds. “It’s not just a place to sleep,” Katherine says. “It’s a place to belong.”

“Some people aren’t ready or able to stay in a traditional shelter,” she shares. “They may be facing severe trauma, or stigma that makes it hard to walk through our doors. Or they’re not comfortable with the structure of shelter life. This place is about meeting them where they are.” The cabins will also keep loved ones together. “In most shelters, couples or family members can’t stay together. And almost no

shelters allow pets. Here, people don’t have to be apart at a time when they need those connections the most.” In the communal building beside the cabins, residents are welcome inside for daily hot meals. They have a place to do their laundry, and take a hot shower in privacy. There’s space to sit down together over a coffee, or to watch tv. “It’s the sense of community that’s most important,” Katherine says.

**“It’s about inviting people to be a part of the community, not in the shadows.”**

Good Shepherd staff are there 24/7, providing one-on-one support and helping people stay safe and well, including on-site health care, in partnership with the Shelter Health Network.

None of this would have been possible without the kindness and generosity of our community,” Katherine says. **“Thank you for showing people they’re not alone or invisible. That they’re part of a community that cares about them.”**

\*Name changed to protect privacy.



**“The love and care you gave my mother is one that I will never forget! Your kindness and support made a significant impact on my life—never have I met such a wonderful group of people who genuinely showed their love every time I walked in! Thank you!”**

– Judith D.





## A place to play, grow, and thrive – thanks to you.

Our incredible community has come together to make a longstanding dream come true for vulnerable kids and their families!

“When we were young, you played outdoors until the street lights came on,” says Jennifer Jewer, Program Manager at the Jeanne Scott Parent and Child Resource Centre.

*“It’s so important that kids get that fresh air, watch the seasons change, listen to the birds, feel the mud squishing under their feet. When they’re in nature they learn to explore and to use their imagination. They gain a lifelong love and respect for our world.”*

Sadly, too many kids in our community haven’t had the opportunity to connect with nature, especially when their families are facing poverty, homelessness, or other hardships. But thanks to you, that’s about to change. **In just one day — Giving Tuesday — our community came together to raise an incredible**

**\$105,775 to make a brand-new, natural playground a reality for the kids and families we serve.**

Over the winter, the plans for the playground have taken shape. Now that the snow is gone, the dream is finally becoming a reality.



When it’s complete, the playground will provide a peaceful, natural haven for the young mothers and their children who are staying at Regina’s Place, as well as the young parents at Jeanne Scott who are working to complete their education and build a better future for their families.

“Thank you so much for being part of our village. You’re going to be changing hundreds of kids’ lives, and making them really happy along the way.”

## Sunni Genesco: A voice for neighbours in need



As co-host of Mornings with Sunni & Hayes, Hamilton’s top-rated morning radio show, Sunni Genesco’s voice is a familiar fixture for many of us. And she doesn’t just use her voice to give us a morning smile — as a passionate supporter of our community, she has been partnering with Good Shepherd for over 30 years to raise awareness and funds, and to rally neighbours in support of Hamilton’s most vulnerable.

**“Being involved in the community comes naturally to me,” she says. “Growing up, we didn’t have a lot, but we were happy, and we shared what we had with others.”**

Recently, Sunni made the incredibly meaningful decision to include Good Shepherd in her will. **“When I thought about my legacy, I thought, where can my money be most meaningful? The very first place I thought of was Good Shepherd. Because every day, I see the difference they make in people’s lives.”**

“It also makes a huge difference for me. It helps me stay thankful for the gifts in my life, and it makes me happy to share those gifts.”

***Thank you, Sunni, for everything you do for our community. Now, and for generations to come.***

# Volunteer Opportunities

**Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do.** By sharing your time and your gifts, you can change countless lives, make new friends, and make our community a better place for all. If you'd like to learn more about current volunteer opportunities, please visit: [goodshepherdcentres.ca/volunteer](https://goodshepherdcentres.ca/volunteer), or email us at [volunteer@gsch.ca](mailto:volunteer@gsch.ca).

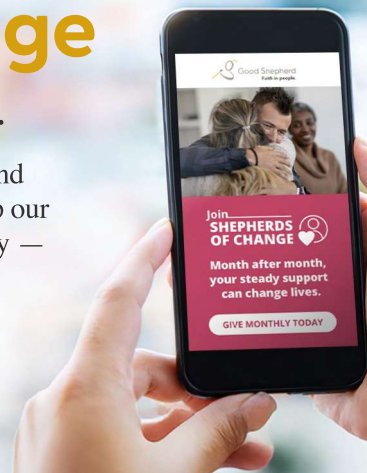


## Join the Shepherds of Change

**Our community depends on us every month, and we invite you to stand by our side.**

By joining our special circle of monthly donors, the Shepherds of Change, your steady and reliable support will be the heartbeat of our mission, helping us plan in advance and keep our programs going strong. You'll be there every month, every day, and every step of the way — providing the security, stability, and support that truly restores lives.

To learn more about joining the Shepherds of Change, visit us at: [www.goodshepherdcentres.ca/campaigns/monthly](https://www.goodshepherdcentres.ca/campaigns/monthly).



## Walk alongside them...

### For Generations To Come.

With every moment of kindness and gesture of generosity, you have walked alongside your neighbours in need. When you make the meaningful decision to include Good Shepherd as part of your legacy, you aren't just supporting someone step-by-step. You're guiding the way forward for countless people who will feel you there beside them for many years to come.

If you would like to learn more about how a gift in your Will can change countless lives in our community for years to come contact Cathy Wellwood at: **905.528.6565 x3338** or email [CWellwood@gsch.ca](mailto:CWellwood@gsch.ca).



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