

The Shepherd

“Thank you for helping me believe in myself.”

INSIDE: How you're helping young parents gain the confidence to build a bright future for their families.

A note from Cathy

Dear caring neighbour,

I'm happy to share this latest issue of The Shepherd with you. I hope you'll take a few moments to read about the difference you're making in our community.

We often talk about the new beginnings that you make possible. The determined young parents you'll read about inside are shining examples. Your caring support gives these young parents the precious opportunity to build a better life for their babies, and for that, I can't thank you enough.

There are many other things to thank you for. Here are a few that stand out from the past few months.

Thank you for ensuring that neighbours experiencing homelessness had relief from the summer heat. Thank you for ensuring that kids didn't go hungry when school meal programs shut down for the summer.

And through all the uncertainties we're navigating, thank you for ensuring we can provide care and hope to those most in need.

We couldn't do this work without you. So once again, thank you, and God bless you.



Cathy Wellwood,
Chief Development
Officer
Good Shepherd

Your gifts in action

84

Families experiencing homelessness found a safe, supportive place to stay at the Good Shepherd Family Centre

133

Vulnerable youth sheltered and supported at Notre Dame House.

9,555

visits for vital healthcare at Good Shepherd Health Clinics.

86

people cared for during their end-of-life journey with dignity, comfort, and support at Emmanuel House.



“They helped me turn my life around. I never thought I’d graduate high school. Now I’m thinking of going to college.”

– Ella*, Jeanne Scott student

*Name changed to protect privacy

Your belief in them brought them to this moment

Thanks to your caring support, young parents walked across the graduation stage this past June, creating a bright future for themselves and their little ones.



The little boy smiles, reaching for the tassel on his mom’s graduation cap.

“He’s the whole reason I did this. I wouldn’t be here without him,” his mom says, tears shining in her eyes.

Welcome to graduation day at the Jeanne Scott School. There’s barely a dry eye in the house, as tears of pride and joy flow for the young parents who are walking across the stage.

“This day wouldn’t be possible without our community, who hold these young people and their babies close,” says Norma Joaquim, director of Youth Services at Good Shepherd. “Thank you for helping them believe in themselves.”

When a young parent first arrives at the Jeanne Scott School, they’re often scared and uncertain. “They’re just children themselves. They’ve never had to think about budgeting, or grocery shopping, or how to find a family doctor. Many have no one to turn to for support. You can imagine how scary that is,” says Jennifer Jewer, manager

of the Jeanne Scott Parent & Child Resource Centre.

Each of their stories is different. But every one of these young parents has one thing in common: a fierce resolve to be the best parent they can be for their kids. And thanks to good people like you, they get the care and support they need to make that a reality.

At the Jeanne Scott School, each young parent receives one-on-one support and the resources they need to succeed. And they don’t just learn algebra or English. They learn personal and parenting skills, from how to budget, to how to look out for their kids’ developmental milestones. “It’s

about setting these young parents up for success on every front,” shares Jennifer. And while the young parents are working hard in the school space downstairs, their little ones are being cared for by staff and volunteers upstairs, free of charge.

“The parents can come up to breastfeed, or to comfort their child if they’re fussy. The team takes photos of their little ones and sends them to the moms and dads, to show them how their day is going.”

Progress isn’t always a straight line. “It’s not easy. Some days, they don’t know if they can make it through,” says Jennifer. “But we’re there on those hard days, telling them they can do it, holding their crying baby. And then, we get to graduation day, and it was all worth it.”

“Yeah, we all bring tissues,” she laughs. “It’s incredible, watching the parents with their caps and gowns on. They’re going, ‘Is this for real? Did I really do this?’”

“I want you to know you’re not just helping one person. You’re changing these families’ lives for generations to come. So, with all my heart, thank you.”

Heartfelt thanks from our grateful community

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From finances to housing to food, whatever you need, they will do their best to help. And they are so dedicated to making sure you are in a safe, fun environment you can graduate in.

- Jeanne Scott, student

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“

Thank you for all the help of clothing, shelter, and prayers you have provided and continue to provide for so many people. One of them is my son Carlos.

- Natasha Rodriguez

”

“

The love and care you guys 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.

- Judith Davidson

”

Enza and Renato: Compassion rooted in faith and family



“Helping others has always been a part of who we are,” says Enza. She and her husband, Renato, grew up and raised their family in Hamilton, guided by faith and family values rooted in compassion and community service.

“As kids, we took part in school food drives for Good Shepherd,” Enza recalls. “Our whole lives, we’ve seen the difference they’re making, and knew we wanted to help.”



“A young father getting formula for his baby at the Venture Centre... Someone who is ill, treated with such dignity at Emmanuel House... A young mom graduating to build a better future for her child. We’re proud to be part of that.”

As members of the Shepherds of Change, their monthly gift makes a lasting difference. “We know how much steady, predictable funding matters,” says Renato. “And it makes giving easy.”

“It gives us peace of mind,” adds Enza. **“We know it’s taken care of—and so are our neighbours.”**

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, or email us at volunteer@gsch.ca.

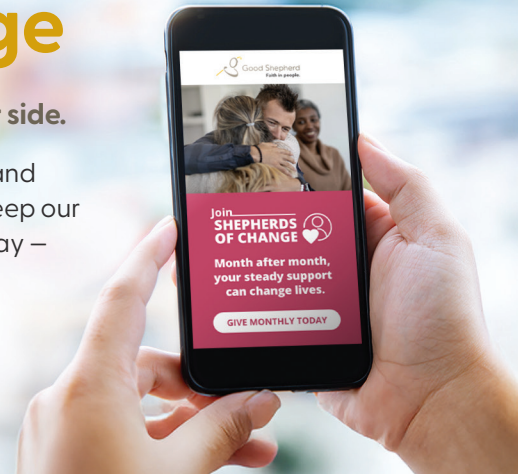


Join the Shepherds of Change

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.



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.



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