

FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER

The Shepherd



**Because of You,
Hope Has a Home.**

INSIDE: Within the doors of Mary's Place, women are finding their way forward. And you're right there beside them.

You Gave Mia* Shelter in the Storm

At Mary's Place, your support means much more than a roof and a safe bed. Inside, women like Mia find dignity, hope, and a path forward.



At Mary's Place, you are giving women somewhere safe to turn that meets their unique needs.

“Many women couch-surf, sleep in their cars, and exhaust every resource before they seek shelter. Because their need isn't as well-understood, there aren't enough resources to help them.”

“This is for everyone who showed compassion to this little bird with broken wings...” Mia* had arrived at Mary's Place carrying deep pain and uncertainty. Her heartfelt words express what she found there, thanks to caring people like you.

“You gave me shelter during the storm, fed me when I was hungry, comforted me when I was down, and walked with me in the dark moments of my life. I had lost hope and was about to give up. You showed me a glimmer, like a candle in the dark.”

Her words capture what caring people like you make possible every day at Mary's Place. Mary's Place serves women facing homelessness, violence, mental health challenges, and other crises. Many arrive with nowhere else to turn.

“Often, women arrive with nothing but the clothes on their backs,” shares Tessa McFazdean, director of Women's Services.

At Mary's Place, they are met with compassion, and the support they need to heal and begin again.

Meeting the rising need

What started as a small, nine-bed shelter has grown to 25 beds in recent years. And still, every month, Mary's Place operates over capacity. The need for shelter has grown dramatically in recent years, due in part to the rising cost of living and the critical lack of affordable housing in Hamilton. And for women in crisis, it can be even more challenging to find the help they need. “Women's homelessness often looks different,” Tessa shares.

Thanks to your support, women find much more than emergency shelter. Staff work alongside each woman to identify their goals and needs. That may include counselling, medical care, legal assistance, housing support, and help rebuilding life skills and healthy relationships.

With the right supports in place, women like Mia don't just find safety at Mary's Place. They're finding their way forward. And you're right there, walking alongside them.

Mia's words are a heartfelt expression of what your support means to the women at Mary's Place.

“Your combined efforts build courage within me to face life again. I cannot express how grateful I am to all of you. God bless all your hearts.”



“I feel good. When you find yourself, your purpose, you know there's going to be blessings ahead. Good Shepherd helped make me the woman I am today.”

- Lucy*, Good Shepherd Client

*Names changed to protect privacy

Health on Wheels

With the support of generous people like you, the Health on Wheels team crosses Hamilton each day, reaching neighbours who might otherwise go without vital care.



“When you call your doctor’s office, you have to have a phone, a calendar, and a way of getting to your appointment,” says Emily Dakers, director of the Barrett Centre for Crisis Support. “But when you’re living in a tent, just trying to survive day to day, care can feel completely out of reach.”

Imagine getting sick and feeling like there’s no one to help you. Thankfully, care is on its way, in the form of a brightly-painted blue and green van. Welcome to Health on Wheels, Good Shepherd’s mobile mission, fueled by your generosity.

The Health on Wheels team, including two nurses, a mental health worker, an addictions counsellor, and a peer support worker, who work tirelessly to get people the care they need.

Each day, they cross Hamilton to reach those in need of medical and mental health care, nutritious meals,

and essentials like socks, warm clothing, and hygiene supplies. In the past year alone, they cared for over 650 people.

They regularly visit 12 locations across the city, but they also go wherever they’re needed. “If we get a call, we’ll drive right out to make sure they get the care they need,” shares Emily.

For people facing isolation and hardship, the arrival of the Health on Wheels van can feel like hope arriving just in time.

Thanks to your support, care and compassion reach those who might otherwise feel left behind.



Join us at the Harvest Dinner!

Please join us on October 15 at Carmen’s Event Centre for our annual Harvest Dinner, celebrating *The Warmth of Welcome*. Enjoy an evening filled with live music, delicious harvest-inspired dishes, exciting auctions, and heartfelt moments that remind us what community is all about.

All proceeds go towards Good Shepherd’s programs, making a real difference in the lives of our neighbours in need.

We hope to see you there!



Scan the QR Code to register or visit:
goodshepherdcentres.ca/events

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.

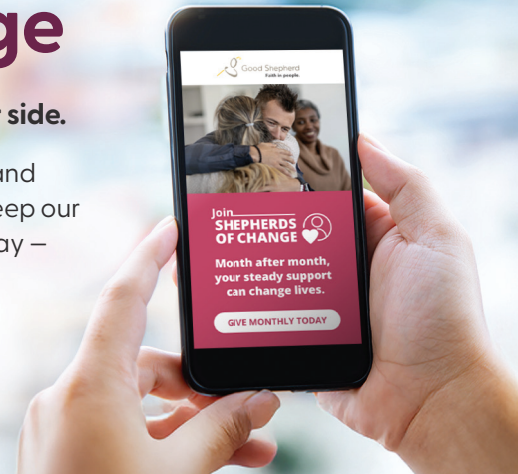


Join the Shepherds of Change

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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