



S.H.I.F.T

SUPPORT AND HOPE

FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES TODAY

VOLUME 1

SPRING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

S.H.I.F.T (Support and Hope for Individuals and Families Today) provides safe, respectful, and welcoming emergency overnight accommodation, meals and supports to those experiencing or at -risk of experiencing homelessness and/or food insecurity in South Simcoe. We are committed to facilitating connection to further services, resources, and community.

We're Moving!

After 5 seasons at 41 Paris St, S.H.I.F.T is officially moving to a new location! We are grateful to Highlands Youth for Christ for offering us a two year lease in their beautiful building at 123 Victoria St West, Alliston . This will give us the time we need to continue our search and secure a more permanent location to house our programs.



We are grateful to Anchor Point Church for housing our shelter all these years and for being supportive of our programs. We look forward to the new ways they will utilize this precious building and are excited about continuing to partner with them on future projects. Thank you!

See you all at our new location this spring!

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From Jeni's Desk:

As we rang in a new year, we were dealing with the aftermath of an unofficial COVID-19 outbreak that resulted in all but our outreach program being shut down for 2 full weeks. Due to quick action and strict adherence to public health recommendations, we were able to contain the spread and resumed regular operations, with renewed enthusiasm. January was a big month for all homeless service providers in the County of Simcoe, with the completion of the bi-annual Homelessness Enumeration survey – a national survey that

helps to provide insight to the experience of homelessness across Canada. S.H.I.F.T.'s Outreach and Intake team participated by completing surveys with our participants and members of the community both in-person and through online methods. Preliminary results have been tabulated and will be available soon, [HERE](#).

In our Emergency Overnight Shelter program, staff have been working diligently with participants to support them in reaching their housing-related goals. To date, we have seen over 10 individuals obtain housing or safe and appropriate housing alternatives (like transitional housing, residential treatment, and temporary housing with loved ones) this operating season. Sadly, though, the program continues to be at or near capacity every night of the week.

Our Outreach team has been enthusiastically working to develop community partnerships that have allowed them the opportunity to connect with more individuals and provide better quality services throughout South Simcoe. In addition, the team continues to play a role in educating the community and advocating on behalf of those we serve, through presentations and professional development opportunities with local organizations all over South Simcoe.

Through our Drop-In Centre and Community Dinner programs we continue to see positive outcomes for our service users. Throughout the day, Participants have been accessing the resources available and making connections to relevant supports to move them forward in their housing journey. In our Community Dinner program, we are seeing some increase in community members (not associated with other S.H.I.F.T. programming) attending meals on a more regular basis.

With lots of BIG changes ahead, S.H.I.F.T is excited about the future. In 2022, we will be moving to a new location, have plans to continue to implement strategies and adapt programming to meet the emerging and ongoing needs of the community and participate in creating and implementing solutions for housing through advocacy and partnership with local service providers. As we navigate these big changes, we want to thank all of our supporters. Whether you gave financially, volunteered, or donated clothes, food, etc., we say "Thank You for partnering with us in making a difference. Together, we are moving forward, making a SHIFT for good!"

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Mark your Calendars!

S.H.I.F.T Annual General Meeting is May 26, 2022 at 7PM
 In person: Knox Presbyterian Church (160 King St. S., Alliston)
 Virtual option: available via Microsoft Teams (contact us for link).
 Annual Impact Report and Financial Statements will be available at the end of April.





THANK YOU LISA NICOL!

Lisa has been an active and committed volunteer of S.H.I.F.T since its first year of operations. For the last 3 years, she has served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the organization and has played an integral role in our organization in multiple capacities. The impact Lisa has had on both the organization and those we serve is immeasurable. Her leadership has helped S.H.I.F.T. to expand its programming to meet the growing needs of the community and change the lives of countless individuals in South Simcoe. Lisa has dedicated well over 4000 hours of her time to S.H.I.F.T over the last 5 years and deserves to be recognized for her contributions to our community. Please join us in congratulating Lisa for a successful and productive term as Chair of the Board of Directors of S.H.I.F.T. and for the contributions she has made to both our organization and the community.

Lisa will be stepping down as Chair of the Board but will continue to serve on the Board and volunteer at S.H.I.F.T.



Coldest Night of the Year 2022

On February 26th, 2022 331 walkers making up 56 teams, along with 10 corporate sponsors came together to raise \$163,361 (surpassing our goal of \$150,000) for S.H.I.F.T by participating in our third annual Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser.

It was an event captured beautifully by the talented [Kristin Peereboom Photography](#). You can view the photo's of the event [HERE](#) and scroll down to the 2022 CNOY Photos section. If you have any photos to share, tag us on social media and add #cnoy22.

We are overwhelmed and indebted to this generous community for your support.

A huge shout out to each and every one of you! Until next year!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

-DARRIN SHANNON-

This is Darrin's second season volunteering with S.H.I.F.T. He often volunteers two days a week during our morning breakfast shifts.

Darrin has become an incredibly dedicated, reliable volunteer, giving of his time even when it's not always convenient for him. Darrin's wife, Sue, and daughter, Ryan, are also generous with their time, making themselves available for us when we need them. If Darrin sees a need in the shelter, he and his family will go above and beyond to try and fill that need.

When asked about his experience volunteering with us, Darrin shared, "After helping the last few years I now realize how much of a demand there is. There are many people in the community who are looking for help in many different ways, whether it's a bed, a hot meal, or some guidance through a difficult time in their life...There are so many people who really could benefit from the help we can all give each other to lighten the load and make life so much better for others around us."

A huge thank you to Darrin and his family for their time, energy, and support!

"A single act of kindness
throws out roots in all
directions, and the roots spring
up and make new trees."

-Amelia Earhart



HOW TO GET INVOLVED AT S.H.I.F.T

Volunteering:

S.H.I.F.T relies heavily on volunteers to assist us in all aspects of programming and operations. There are many different ways you can volunteer with us, be it in the shelter, or behind the scenes. For new and existing volunteers we are currently looking for individuals to help in the following areas:

- ⇒ Support for our new location:
 - Help on moving day—date TBA
 - Gardening/Landscaping
 - General Maintenance, Painting, etc.
- ⇒ Open call for volunteers for our 2022-2023 Emergency Shelter Program (we will be reaching out to existing volunteers mid-summer to re-confirm your availability)
- ⇒ New members for Fundraising Committee

If you are interested please click [HERE](#) or email: Volunteer.Coordinator@shiftforgood.ca

Donate:

Your donations make a HUGE difference, no matter the amount.

If you would like to donate to S.H.I.F.T please click [HERE](#) OR for more information, visit our website.

Thank you!