



CCSAC NEWSLETTER

CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

December 2025

Executive:

Chair: Kristine Burr
Vice-Chair: Emmy Verdun
Secretaries: Elizabeth Demaray & Mary Mussell
Treasurer: Emmy Verdun
Communications & Newsletter Editors: Mary Mussell & Lorna Kingston
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Church of the Ascension
Dominion-Chalmers United
Eglise unie St-Marc
First Baptist
Fourth Avenue Baptist
Glebe-St. James United
Knox Presbyterian
Ottawa Quaker Meeting
St. Andrew's Presbyterian
St. Barnabas Anglican
St. Giles Presbyterian
St. John the Evangelist Anglican
St. Matthew's Anglican
St. Patrick's Basilica
St. Peter's Lutheran
St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican
St. Theresa's Roman Catholic
Southminster United
Trinity Anglican

Our Mission:

To unite Christians of all denominations through joint participation in social projects and prayer.

Get in Touch!

We would love to hear from you!
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Bundle Sunday at St. Patrick's Basilica

By: Terence Nelligan

Over the weekend of October 25/26, the Saint Vincent de Paul conference of St. Patrick's Basilica and the parish's Young Adults Group received donations of gently used and new clothing.

The St. Vincent de Paul truck located in the church's parking lot was $\frac{3}{4}$ full after parishioners made their donations before and after each regularly scheduled Mass (on Saturday & Sunday).

The donated clothing collected for the Saint Vincent de Paul stores in Ottawa will be given to neighbours in need or sold to raise funds to support Saint Vincent de Paul's outreach to the vulnerable.



This was the first occasion the Parish organized this event which was a success fostering a spirit of community within the parish while providing an opportunity for many people to declutter their closets and give usable clothing to those in need.

Future "Bundle Sundays" are likely to run again and will be announced in advance to the parish as well as the Centretown Churches community (CCSAC). Many thanks and blessings to all the volunteers and donors who contributed.

Volunteers with St. Patrick's Basilica Saint Vincent de Paul and Young Adults Group.

Restoring Hope Ministries

Jason Pino, the Director and one of the founders of Restoring Hope Ministries, was the guest speaker at the CCSAC meeting on November 17. This ministry, located in First Baptist Church on Laurier Avenue at Elgin Street, opened in 2013. It offers drop-in and overnight accommodation for youth ages 16-24 and is currently open five nights a week, Fridays to Tuesday. It can accommodate up to 20 men and women in this age group with the goal being to get youth out of the shelter system.

Prior to initiating Restoring Hope Ministries, Jason was working as a youth outreach worker. Through this experience, he found that emergency shelter for homeless youth was sorely needed in Ottawa. So began the journey. The First Baptist Church offered the use of space in the basement free of charge and the city allowed it to be open 1 night a week. After the first year, the city did a survey that was overwhelmingly positive and gradually the number of nights increased as funding and volunteers increased.

Restoring Hope Ministries operates as a minimal-barrier structure without a formal intake process, which allows youth to access the shelter even if they have lost ID or are otherwise in distress.

Jason provided answers to questions such as how the ministry is funded (only donations and grants) and its budget; the average length of time a young person uses the shelter; and what happens to youth under the age of 16. While Restoring Hope Ministries is a Christian organization, it is not affiliated with any denomination. For more information about Restoring Hope Ministries, visit their website at: www.restoringhope.ca.



Jason Pino

Successful 10th Anniversary Walk

In total, \$55,000 was raised this year for the Walk for the Centre 2025! The Chair of the Walkathon Committee, Elizabeth Kent, delivered the cheque for funds raised at the Walkathon to Dennis Hansen, the [Centretown Community Food Centre](#) Manager. We've come a long way under Elizabeth's leadership during these 10 years. (For context, the first Walk raised around \$10,000.)

Thanks are due to the Walkathon Committee, CCSAC reps from the 22 churches, Canadian Martyrs Church, business sponsors from the community, participants, and the very generous donors!



Dennis Hansen and Elizabeth Kent