

This letter reaches a large number of people with volunteer help. If you have already received this letter, perhaps you could pass it on to a friend or relative.

www.theworkingcentre.org

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58 Queen St. S.,
Kitchener, ON N2G 1V6

The Working Centre



**Creativity, Practicality,
Generosity, Community**

Help support
the projects of



Every month over 10,000 people use Working Centre services and projects.

The Working Centre is an integrated community where people can find assistance and supports like job searching, a daily meal, bicycle repair, public access computers, used furniture, and transitional housing.

Communities of support grow from each project as people help each other through the struggles and opportunities they face.

St. John's Kitchen

For 25 years St. John's Kitchen has made a hot lunch available each weekday. We open each morning at 8:00 am offering coffee and breads. When you walk up the stairs to St. John's Kitchen around lunch time, you are immediately greeted with the buzz of activity. There are people everywhere, some are entering the medical clinic where the psychiatric outreach project has open hours, others are scraping and piling dishes to take to the dishwasher, the serving line stretches past the closet where two washing machines and dryers are constantly at work and where a few people are waiting their turn to

use one of the two shower rooms. The work of St. John's Kitchen includes volunteers from the community and patrons who together pitch in to prepare and cook the donated food, serve lunch, wash dishes, mop the floor and clean up after each meal.



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The Psychiatric Outreach Project operates out of the medical clinic at St. John's Kitchen. It is a creative, integrated approach that meets the most vulnerable where they are at. It demonstrates the way an integrated and supportive community can help people through the



Access to Housing

The Working Centre has created 35 units of transitional, Integrated Supportive Housing for both men and women. These units directly help individuals who are at risk to build stability and find support. The Housing Desk helps over 400 people per year find housing.





Community Tools

These are productive projects where people get involved to serve a need in the community like recycling, transportation, skill-building, and community building.

Worth a Second Look Furniture and Housewares is Kitchener's largest Furniture & Housewares Recycling Centre. With quick turnover of inventory, there is always something new in stock!

Maurita's Kitchen teaches the art of practical whole food cooking and baking in a commercial kitchen setting and provides food for Maurita's Kitchen.

Queen Street Commons Café offers an affordable vegetarian menu and fair trade coffee. It hosts a range of events from live music to movies to political debates. Books for Sustainable Living are sold here.

The Commons Market is a community shared agriculture project that links members to small local farmers. You can receive fresh produce, meat, cheese and more delivered weekly or bi-weekly.

Recycle Cycles provides affordable refurbished bikes for sale made ready by volunteers, and offers facilities for people to fix their own bikes.

Community Gardening Projects include support for two community gardens, and GROW Herbal gardens and greenhouse that produce microgreens and herbal products like soaps and salves sold at Queen Street Commons.

BarterWorks is a network for local businesses, individuals, and groups to exchange goods and services with a local currency.

The Multicultural Cinema Club is a community filmmaking project offering workshops, videography services, equipment rentals, film festivals, and animation/film camps.

Job Search Resource Centre

The Job Search Resource Centre is constantly overflowing with people from all walks of life and diverse cultures trying to replace a lost job, looking to write a resume, preparing for interviews, accessing resources for food and housing. The labour market is as tough as ever and last year over 3500 individuals used our job search services in their search for work.

A drop in area offers daily newspapers and job leads, resumes, phone/mail/fax message service, and public access computers.

Employment counsellors provide individual assistance to help people update resumes, write cover letters, prepare for interviews, access job leads, and link to other services.

Public Access Computers are available in our resource centre to help people in their job searches.

Job search workshops and networking events help inform people about the job market and offer tips on finding work.

Assistance for New Canadians includes the Speak English Café, support for New Canadian professionals, and the Immigrant Loan Program.

Mature Workers are supported through the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers and the Experienced Workers 45+ project.

Waterloo Region ASSETS+ Project (WRAP) is a 10-week home-business training course that helps entrepreneurs develop a business plan and offers support once their businesses are operating.

Computer Training is available through our Computer Basics class, Microsoft Word and Excel classes, self-directed training, and our certified testing centre.

Computer Recycling offers affordable used computers and training opportunities as volunteers help refurbish donated computers.



Dear Friends,

The Working Centre is made up of people who work cooperatively together on projects that make our communities better places. 400 volunteers provide work to over 30 different community building projects that are part of The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen.

These projects are a hub of activity. Last year, 3500 different individuals used our Job Search Resource Centre. At St. John's Kitchen, a hot lunch meal is served each weekday to 300 people. Both of these core services are community building initiatives that have operated for over 25 years.

The Working Centre offers a community of supports that includes 28 units of transitional housing, a Hospitality House for those who are ill and without shelter, a housing desk, Recycle Cycles Community Bike Shop, and community gardens. Our thrift store Worth a Second Look is a substantial furniture and housewares recycling centre.

We rely on your contributions to make this creative work possible. This work of community, from serving meals, to providing housing, to recycling bikes is primarily supported by volunteers and financial donations.

For your contribution to our work, you will receive our quarterly newspaper Good Work News reporting on community building in downtown Kitchener with articles about community tool projects, simple living, growing diversity, ecology and stories about mutual aid.

Sincerely,

Joe Mancini, Director

Yes, I want to support your work in K-W! Enclosed is my donation for:

\$35 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other: \$ _____

Please direct my donation to:

The Working Centre St. John's Kitchen Where it is needed most

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Please make cheques payable to:

The Working Centre, 58 Queen St. S., Kitchener, ON N2G 1V6

Credit card donations by phone: call (519) 743-1151 x.111



Credit Card:

Visa Mastercard

Amount: \$ _____

Card #: _____

Expires: _____

Signed: _____