

# Outreach Projects at The Working Centre

## St. John's Kitchen

St. John's Kitchen is a gathering place, providing a daily lunch-time meal, drop-in, a marketplace of food items, showers and laundry facilities, and links to a nurse-practitioner clinic (run by Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre) and



a psychiatric outreach clinic (see below). St. John's Kitchen

serves as a base in down-town Kitchener to an extensive network of outreach activities and resources.

**Call Tom at 519-501-7929 for more information.**

## Street Outreach Workers

By building relationships with people in the downtown, we work to respond to individual needs and work to build a spirit of the common good. Outreach workers support individuals who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness.

Our philosophy is to "walk with" people - outreach workers develop long-term supportive relationships, assist with immediate



needs, work to build overall stability to avoid emergency situations, and provide links to community resources, often accompanying people to appointments where it is helpful. This work is done in collaboration with a broad base of community agencies and services.

As well, outreach workers work closely with downtown businesses, building understanding and a responsiveness to particular concerns as they arise. Street Outreach is present in downtown Kitchener and in Uptown

Waterloo. We have recently established a drop-in centre in Waterloo at Emmanuel United Church.

**Call Ashleigh at 519-575-0669, Joe at 519-575-0457, or Sara at 519-502-2685 for more information.**

## Psychiatric Outreach Project

The Psychiatric Outreach Project (POP) provides a patient-centred, community-based approach to mental health care to people who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. By complementing the Street Outreach activities described above, this project adds access to Psychiatric Outreach nurses, Medical Doctors with a focus on psychiatric services, counselling support, and links to community supports. Services are provided where people are most comfortable - in the clinic at St. John's Kitchen, at local shelters/agencies, at the Queen Street Commons Café or other public spaces, and on the street. Where possible, links are made to existing medical services. POP also works with people who have concurrent issues of mental health and addiction.



**Call Tracey at 519-342-1616 for more information**

## Housing Desk

Supports people through the process of finding, establishing and outfitting affordable housing. A formal desk is located at The Working Centre, and a floating role is available through St. John's Kitchen.

**Call Chad at 519-743-1151 x117 for more information.**

## Streets to Housing Stability

Serves people who are experiencing persistent homelessness to find and remain in safe and affordable housing. Available only to

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a core group, this is a highly relational approach, providing assistance with finding housing, navigating income support issues, and problem-solving to help maintain housing. Assistance is also offered to landlords for problem-solving as challenges arise.

**Call Michael at 519-575-2133 for more information**

## **Integrated Supportive Housing**

We provide up to 25 units of integrated supportive housing to assist those at risk of homelessness and those facing a significant transition in their lives. People come to us primarily for the concrete supports we provide and the housing is the framework that supports and stabilizes the challenges. We offer integrated formal support services within the context of a teaching model that builds coping skills and life skills to assist in the journey towards longer term stability.



**Call Chad at 519-743-1151 x117 for more information.**

## **Hospitality House**

Our Hospitality House on Victoria Street provides a family/home setting for people who do not have stable housing and who are experiencing debilitating health issues. We will assist with access to medical services such as Community Care Access Centre. The House will operate as a home and staff will serve in the role that family often plays in such circumstances.

**Call Barb at 519-575-1506 for more information**

## **At-Home Outreach**

This project provides an At-Home Outreach Worker who can accompany and support safe access to WW-CCAC professionals to ensure after-hospital care, preventive sup-

ports and timely attention to health issues, where access is currently compromised. The Project is designed to assist prematurely aged people who are at risk of homelessness.

**Call Brad at 519-503-8926 for more information**

## **Job Café**

The Job Café offers paid casual labour to those who are unable to participate in the formal labour market. Jobs include downtown street sweeping (done in cooperation with the Kitchener Downtown Business Association), snow shoveling, renovations, landscaping, and a wide range of casual jobs through local businesses and home owners.



**Call 519-515-9225 for more information**

## **Links to Other Working Centre projects**

Other Working Centre projects and activities are intricately woven into the above projects. By following the needs of the individual, other community resources and Working Centre projects are linked in at an appropriate time. These activities include the Job Search Resource Centre, and a wide range of Community Tools projects including Worth A Second Look Housewares and Furniture, Recycle Cycles, Second Floor Arts Space, Computer Recycling, Maurita's Kitchen, Queen Street Commons Café, and the Multicultural Cinema Club. These projects combine a range of practical supports, opportunities for skill building, and active community involvement.

**Call 519-743-1151 for more information**

