On July 25th 2006, St. John’s Kitchen served its first meal at 97 Victoria, capping a 13 month renovation process that reconstructed an old warehouse into thriving community space. The renovation of 97 Victoria St. N. has added integrated supports that we call Community Tools. These projects combine work experience, skill building, use of recycled materials, and opportunities to positively contribute to the community.

**St. John’s Kitchen**

St. John’s Kitchen is a thriving community of hundreds of people who work together for a common goal: the redistribution of food that would have been otherwise wasted. Most of the work of St. John’s lies outside of the economy and completely within the community. This unique model allows people to measure goodness in themselves and each other without monetary influence. A place where time is not money.

**St. John’s Kitchen provides:**

- Each morning up to 100 people come to St. John’s Kitchen to meet others, read the paper, play chess and games, and for a simple breakfast of muffins, breads, and coffee.
- At noon, a hot dinner is served to almost 300 people five days a week. These meals consist of donated and surplus food that is turned into hardy full course meals with dessert and coffee.
- A marketplace provides fresh food items for people to take home to prepare.
- **Downtown Street Outreach** supports over 600 individuals per year providing immediate crisis support in the downtown, assisting with housing, access to health services, and advocacy. Over the last five years, Downtown Outreach has developed as a significant way to support those facing homelessness through building relationships.
- **Psychiatric Outreach Project**, working with over 400 people per year, provides a person-centred, community-based approach to helping individuals experiencing mental health problems.
- A **medical clinic** is offered on Tuesdays through the Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre.
- **Showers and laundry facilities** are on location at St. John’s Kitchen.
- **Job Café** provides income enhancement and a way to participate in a broader network of community involvement for those unable to work in the full-time labour market, resulting in over 500 placements totalling 3500 hours of work. Job Café is an essential first link connecting individuals with hundreds of part-time work opportunities.

**Worth a Second Look Furniture and Housewares**

Worth a Second Look Furniture and Housewares has become Kitchener’s largest furniture and housewares recycling centre, moving over 150,000 items per year and is primarily supported by 50 volunteers per month who sort, price, and stock good quality merchandise. Worth a Second Look is a community effort aimed at recycling household goods at affordable prices.