

**A volunteer inspired venture that
seeks to give access to tools and
opportunities to build community**

What is The Working Centre?

started in
1982

12
commercial
buildings
and houses

60+
residents
In TWC
supportive
housing

150+
workers

1500
people a day
walk through
TWC projects

35+
projects

500+
volunteers

The Working Centre: an Interconnected Community



... as neighbourhoods are in a city or town, our projects are distinct yet connected through various programs, services, and people

Job Search Resource Centre



Adult and Youth
Job Development

Youth
Skills

Arabic
Employment
Project

Phone
Message
Service

Community
Voice Mail

Entrepreneurial
Supports

Co-Working
Café

Co-Working
Underground

Computer
Training Classes

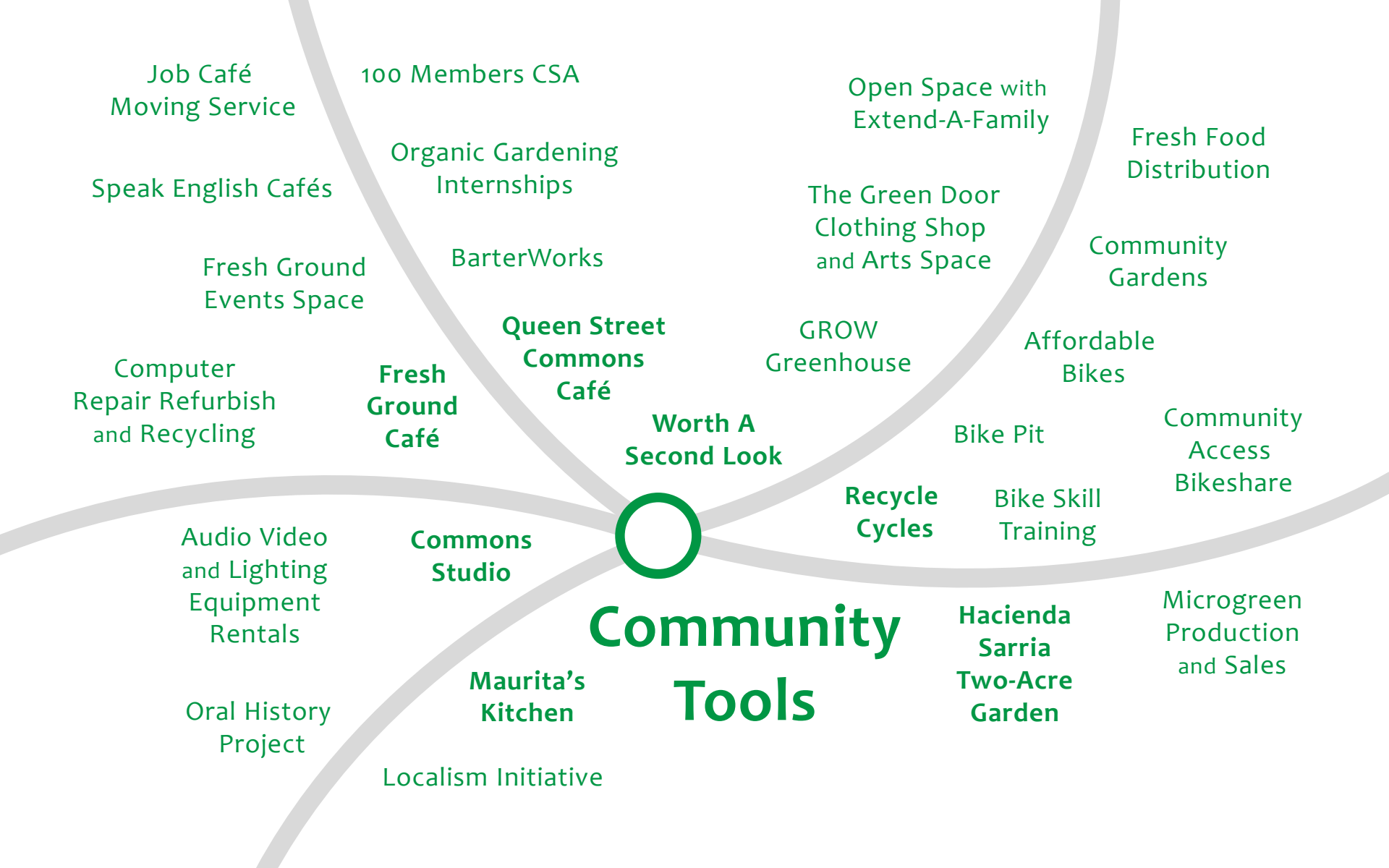
Resume
Support

Public Access
Computers

Computer Assessment
and Certification

Livelihood
Exploration

Employment
Counselling



Philosophies of The Working Centre

“People need not only to obtain things, they need above all the freedom to make things among which they can live, to give shape to them according to their own tastes and to put them to use in caring for and about others.”

- Ivan Illich, *Tools for Conviviality*





work opportunities



work opportunities

A three-story brick house with a dark roof and white trim. The house features a front porch with white railings and a second-floor balcony with white railings. Several windows are illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. A bare tree stands in the foreground on the left, and a purple car is parked on the street to the right. The sky is a clear blue with a small crescent moon visible in the upper right.

supportive housing



supportive housing



community enterprise







employment support



employment support



serving others



sustainable ecology



Hacienda Sarria
Market Garden



urban agriculture



GROW
Greenhouse





skills development



skills development





open social spaces



open social spaces



downtown revitalization



downtown revitalization



256 King Street East

Fresh Ground

THE
WORKING
CENTRE

Coffee Bar

256A

256

Resources for Filmmaking & Storytelling

Commons
Studio

Lighthouse
EQUIPMENT INC.
Grip & Lighting Rental

downtown revitalization



building relationships



healthy food



QUEEN STREET
COMMONS
CAFE





Speak English Cafés





engaging discussions







diploma in local democracy



community partnership

The Working Centre Community Spaces

97 Victoria St N
St. John's Kitchen

-  Parking Garage
-  Parking Lot
-  LRT Stop
-  Community Access
Bikeshare

Downtown
Kitchener

**Job Search
Resource Centre**
58 Queen St S

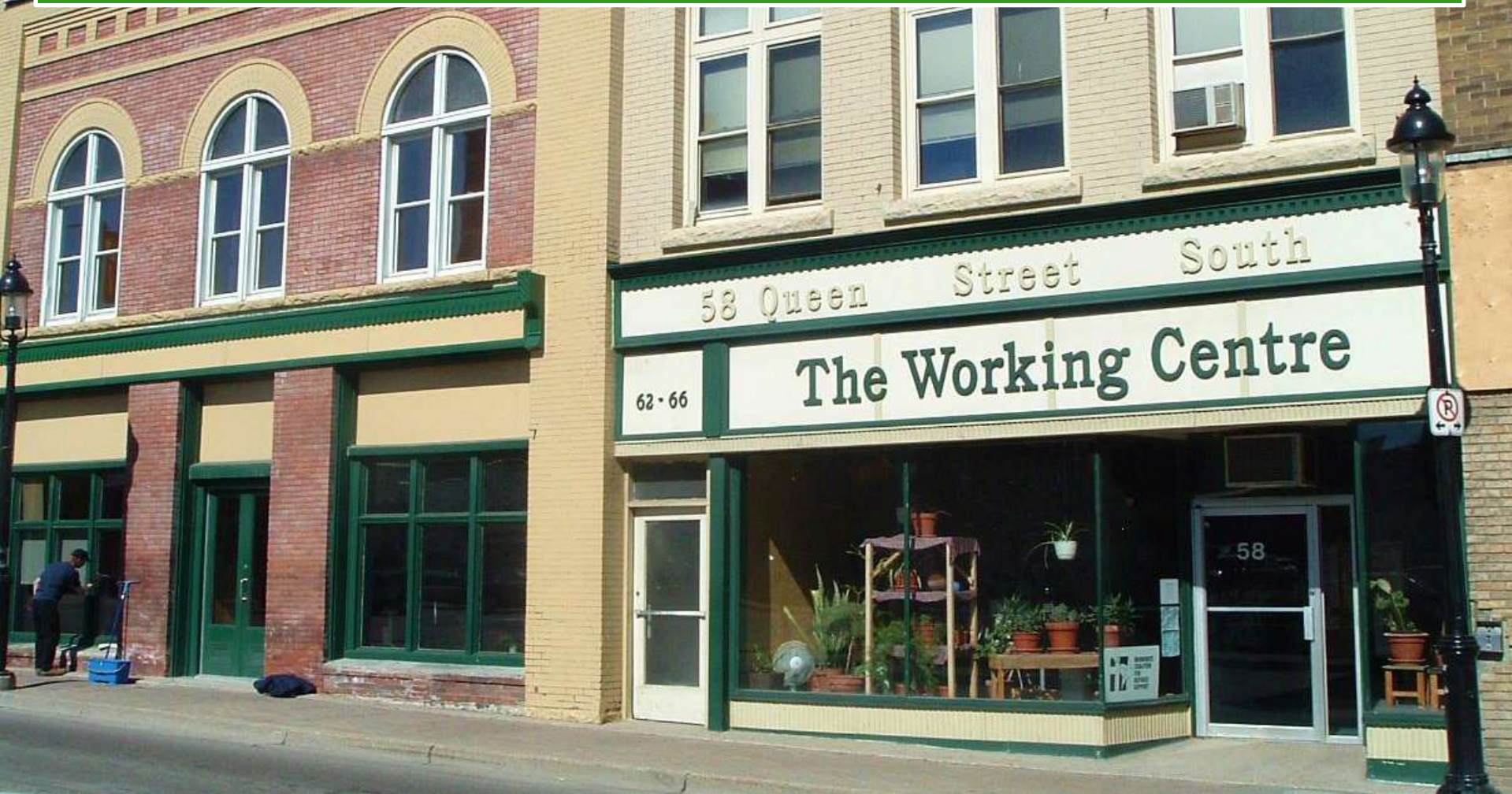
**Queen Street
Commons Cafe**
43 Queen St S

Fresh Ground
256 King St E

37 Market Lane
Market Lane



58-66 Queen St. S (at Charles)



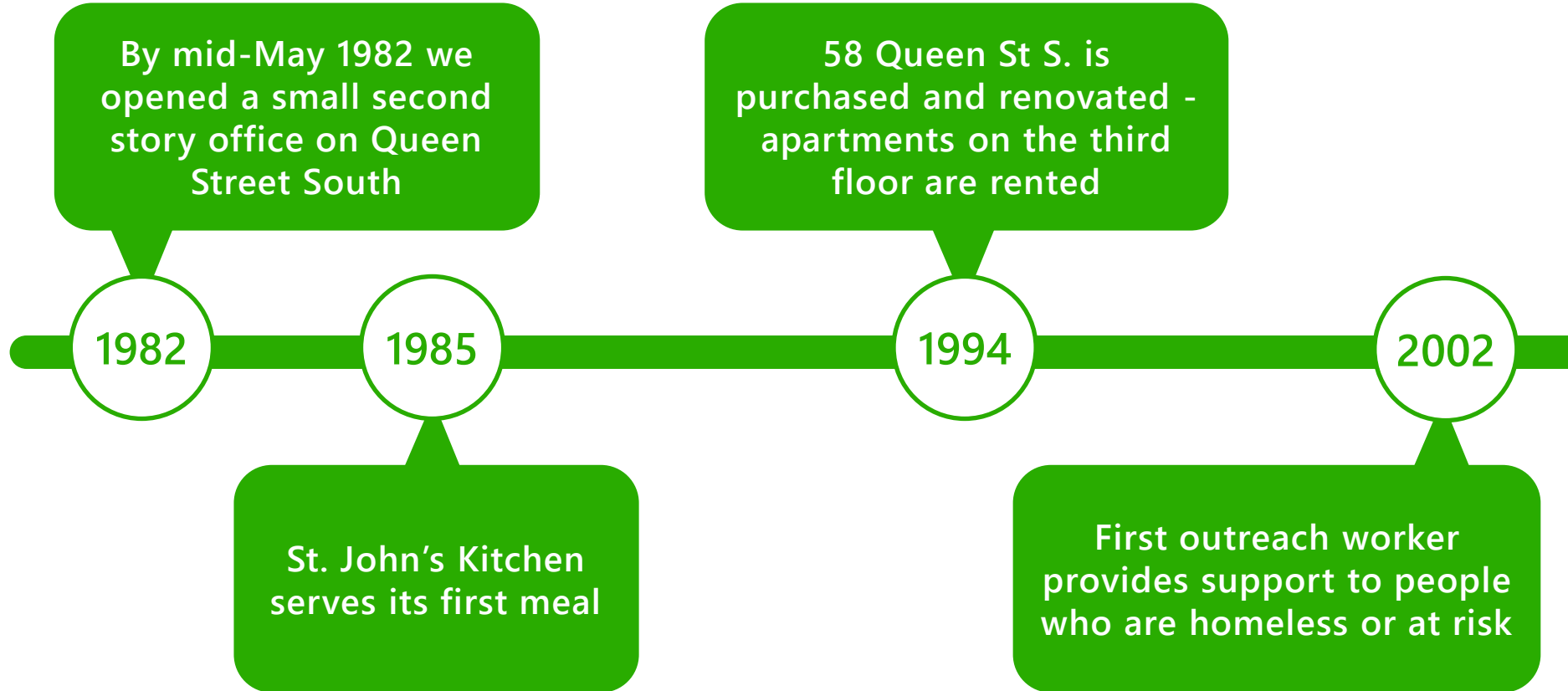
97 Victoria St. N (at Weber)



256 King St. E (at Eby)



The Working Centre Timeline



The Working Centre Timeline

Purchase 66 Queen St S. to add housing and integrate employment resources on one floor | purchase 97 Victoria St. N as new home for St. John's Kitchen

2003

2008

Purchase houses at 87 and 91 Victoria St. N (next to St. John's Kitchen) to create Hospitality House

Work begins on the two-acre Hacienda Garden

2011

Purchase 256 King St. E and begin renovations for project space (Fresh Ground) and housing

2014

The Virtues



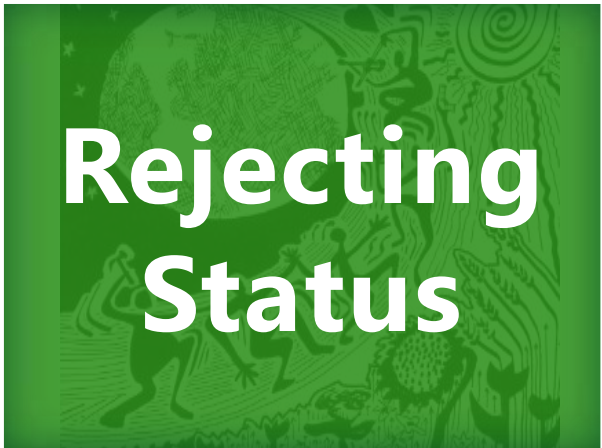
**Work
as Gift**



**Living
Simply**



**Serving
Others**



**Rejecting
Status**



**Building
Community**



**Creating
Community
Tools**

Philosophies of The Working Centre

“The crisis can only be solved if we invert the present deep structure of tools; if we give people tools that guarantee their right to work with high, independent efficiency, thus simultaneously eliminating the need for either slaves or masters and enhancing each person's range of freedom.”



- **Ivan Illich**, *Tools for Conviviality*





St. John's Kitchen

Victoria Street North at Weber



HEIT LANE

WEBER ST WEST

DUKE ST WEST

St. John's Kitchen & Worth A Second Look

97 Victoria Street North



VICTORIA ST NORTH

HEIT LANE

WEBER ST WEST

Hospitality House

87 Victoria Street North

DUKE ST WEST

VICTORIA ST NORTH

HEIT LANE

Community Dental

83 Victoria Street North

VICTORIA ST NORTH

WEBER ST WEST

DUKE ST WEST

ST. JOHN'S KITCHEN

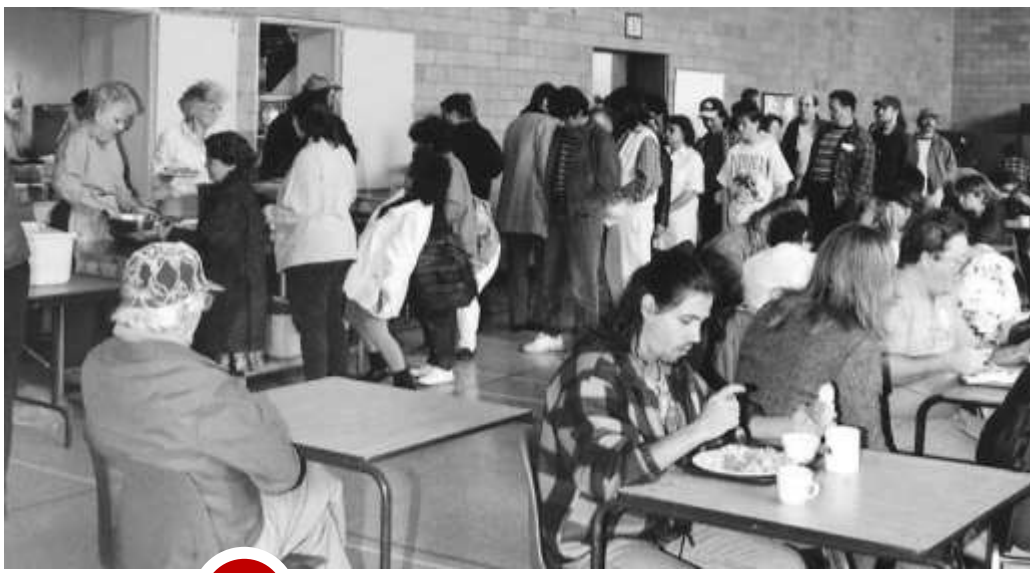


A TIMELINE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

JANUARY 1985

First meal is served
at St. John's Church





1989

250 people per day are
served – 60 000 a year

1990

Gretchen starts volunteering,
and is hired soon after





1991

Establishes it's own funding for
providing a daily meal and supports

1999

**Arleen retires after 11 years of
being co-ordinator; Jennifer starts**





2006

**Move to newly renovated
97 Victoria Street North**

2018

Each day over 400 meals are served; with shower, laundry, medical, and basic needs provided





**There are currently 130+
volunteers supporting the
St. John's Kitchen community**

“ St. John’s Kitchen is a place where the intent is unconditional respect ”

The Daily Meal

Serving
400 meals
each day



Hospitality House

a residence for
those without a
home who are
acutely ill



St. John's Kitchen Medical Clinic

providing on
site primary care
and psychiatric
support for
12 years



Community Dental

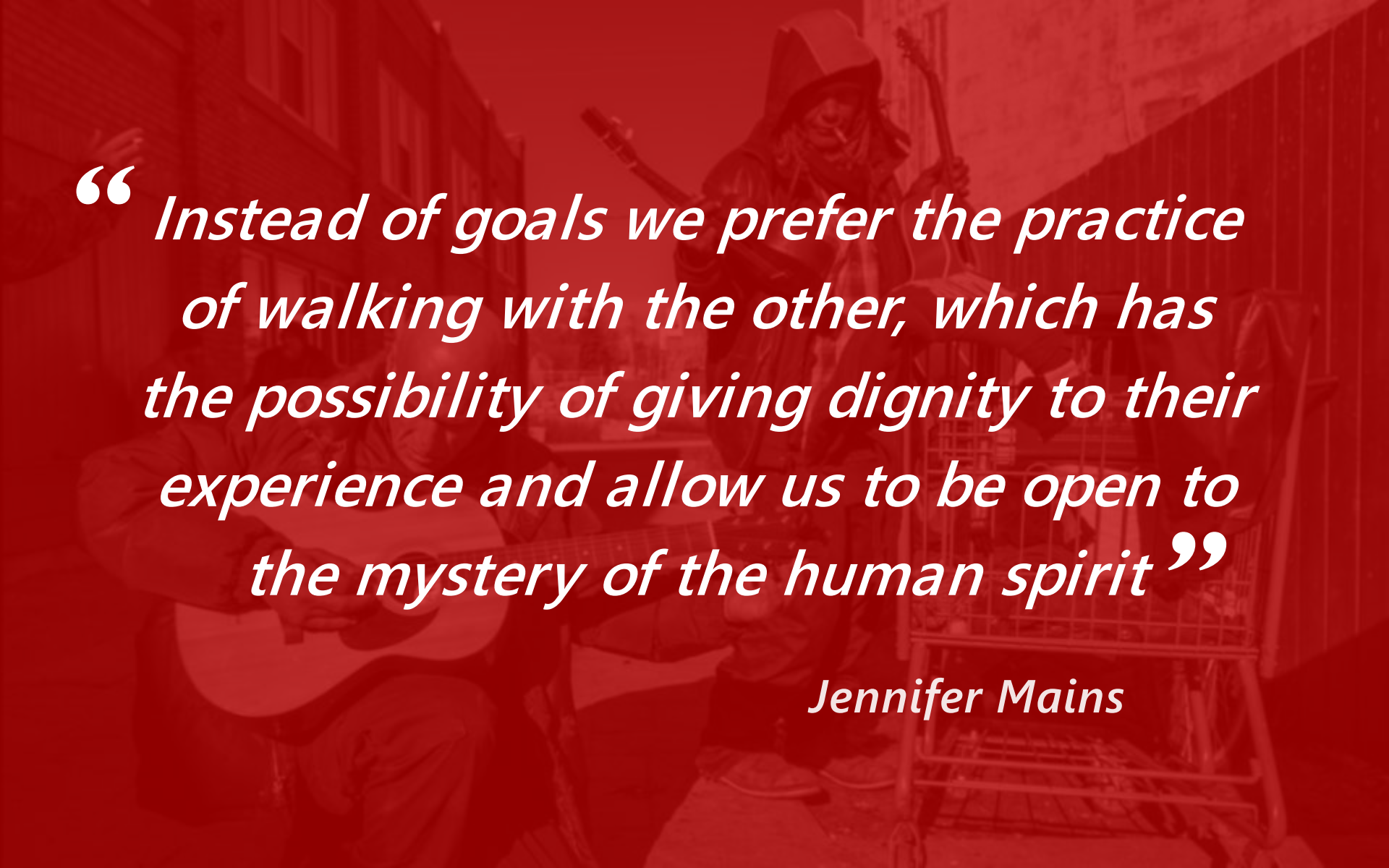
newly established project
providing free dental
care for the most
disadvantaged



Downtown Street Outreach



helps over 1000 individuals
every six months with legal,
housing, income, addiction,
and other basic supports.

A red-tinted photograph of a street scene. In the foreground, a person is playing an acoustic guitar. In the background, another person is playing a double bass. The scene is set on a city street with buildings and a shopping cart visible.

*“ Instead of goals we prefer the practice
of walking with the other, which has
the possibility of giving dignity to their
experience and allow us to be open to
the mystery of the human spirit ”*

Jennifer Mains









“ Grace, dignity, mutuality, and generosity have made St. John’s Kitchen a place of meaningful daily exchanges.

Creating a place of attachment where the community’s effort to produce and serve the daily meal is complimented by relationships that overflow.”











two bunkies for housing



Weekdays 10am – 5pm
Saturdays 9am – 4pm





Discovery Team



*Original photo by
Mathew McCarthy, KW Record*

Collaboration between The Working Centre and the Kitchener Downtown BIA

From 11a – 6p outreach workers and
a job café worker provide support
and assistance on King Street



THE WORKING CENTRE

learn more
about our story

Transition to Common Work

*Building Community at
The Working Centre*

Joe and Stephanie Mancini





You can visit us at:

www.theworkingcentre.org

Connect with us:

58 Queen Street South | Kitchener, ON

519.743.1151 | genmail@theworkingcentre.org