



Jubilee Year of Hope
March 2025

Those Who Care for the Poor

HEROES OF HOPE

Heroes of Hope is a monthly newsletter from the Diocese of Hamilton, shining a light on the extraordinary individuals and ministries who inspire hope and transform lives in our communities.

#HEROESOFHOPE

Through a commitment to justice and peace, many in our Diocese become beacons of hope, offering hospitality and compassionate care to those most in need. This hope is rooted in the belief that God's justice and peace are achievable goals, made possible through our united efforts, big and small, to build a more equitable world. Those engaged in social ministries remind us that each act of charity, each moment of love and kindness, sows seeds of hope that accompany us into an uncertain future.

Outreach Ministries



Outreach centres such as the **De Mazenod Door** in Hamilton and **Tiny Home Takeout** in Kitchener, work diligently to provide support to local residents in need throughout the year. In the face of rising demand, an increasingly harsh climate and economy, these Centres, their staff and volunteers provide hundreds of meals each day and ensure crucial assistance programs are delivered in a way that preserves the dignity of every person.



Parishes and schools provide the platforms and outlets to meaningfully engage with their communities and the issues that impact them most. We see youth driving change and having the opportunity to shape the causes they care about through their school initiatives, local organizations, and volunteer hours.



Catholic Service Organizations

Parish groups such as **St. Vincent De Paul**, **Catholic Women's League** and **Knights of Columbus** offer fellowship, volunteer engagement and foster supportive relationships within the community. These parish groups offer a framework through which we can explore our faith and share our individual gifts with those in need.

Good Shepherd Ministries, The Working Centre

Catholic service organizations that operate on the frontlines such as **Good Shepherd Ministries** in Hamilton and the **Working Centre** in Kitchener help us understand the landscape of need within our communities and how to navigate it. They provide life saving care to residents in crisis, and access to basic needs. They accompany residents in finding next steps through training and skill development and create pathways for those on the margins to re-integrate into their community. Their staff and volunteers work tirelessly to provide shelter and create some of the only spaces and moments of respite that residents on the margins ever receive.





Development and Peace and Planting Seeds International

Our International-development partners provide a connection to our global family in need. The **Catholic Organization for Development and Peace [Caritas Canada]**, provides educational resources to educators and parishes while mobilizing support to community partners across the Global South.

Ministry to Migrant Workers, Refugee Settlement

Thanks to the generous support of the *One Heart, One Soul* Campaign, the Diocese provides formal and informal support to migrant workers, ensuring that they find the services and networks they need to thrive. The Diocese of Hamilton works with newcomers and refugees and dioceses across Canada through refugee sponsorship and resettlement programs.

Indigenous Reconciliation Fund

The Diocesan **Indigenous Reconciliation Fund** was established to answer the call for accountability and solidarity along our collective journey to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island. To date, our IRF has distributed over \$750,000 to grassroots projects and organizations supporting Indigenous health, well-being, education, culture, language, and revitalization.

Healthcare

St. Joseph's Health Care System

is a beacon of hope for our community at all stages of life. While we all seek healthcare, the many residents who have no where else to go, often end up in emergency rooms and clinics, looking for respite from illness, violence and the elements.



St. Joseph's Healthcare system was built upon the commitment of compassionate care to all. Healthcare workers, support staff and administrators continue to work tirelessly to uphold that legacy.

These Heroes of Hope represented in the individuals, parishes, schools, groups and institutions across the Diocese of Hamilton demonstrate the power of our faith in uniting our communities. Hope is the sustenance that nourishes our faith through every act of service, work of mercy and moment of advocacy. Every act, big or small, demonstrates that our culture of compassionate care and faithful service is alive, active and continues to grow.



HEROES OF HOPE PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THE POOR

Lord God, by the grace of our baptism, you have given us new life in Christ and called us to serve as pilgrims of hope.

We pray in thanksgiving for those who have responded to your call to respond to the needs of the poor, who provide safe shelter for the homeless, food to those who hunger, counsel to the unemployed, and support to those who live with mental and physical disabilities.

Through their varied ministries, may they touch the hearts of all in our community who long for the hope, born of our Christian faith, that never disappoints.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Join us in making a difference by volunteering with these outreach ministries, serving the poor and those in need!

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