

HOUSE OF LAZARUS—ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2017 to MARCH 31, 2018



2245 Simms Street
Mountain ON K0E 1S0
houseoflazarus.com

A Message from Executive Director

Cathy Ashby

House of Lazarus has had an exceptional year building community through new community partnerships and sharing hope through the new programs that we have been able to offer. Our Dinner on the House program, a weekly community meal, is a great example of building community with more than 3,500 meals served in our first year.



A partnership with Ken Boje from BMR Winchester increased our Project Warmth program, where we handed out window insulation kits to more than 100 families, and saw the establishment of the Heat for the Holidays program, where we distributed one month's supply of compressed wood logs to 9 food bank families. A new partnership with the Kemptville Snowmobile Klub brought food and donations to our food bank.

The community continues to bless our clients during the Christmas season: more than 121 families/ seniors were adopted and provided with gifts for each member of the family as well as a Christmas dinner. In partnership with Health Links, 18 of their families were given Christmas meals, mittens, toques, and blankets. And, 105 angel tree gifts were given to our food bank children.

I have enjoyed presenting the work of HOL to several community groups, including the Community Christian Reform Church in Dixon's Corners, Knox Presbyterian Church in Mountain, Seaway Valley UCW Presbyterial, Seaway Valley UC Presbytery, St John's United Church in Kemptville, Ottawa UCW Presbyterial in Vernon, and for Grade 10 students of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario.

Sandy Casselman presented to Cornwall Housing and Social Services, Mountain Lions Club and area senior day programs.

Connecting with the community is valuable as more people become aware of our programs, donate to our stores, become regular shoppers and refer those in need. Several community minded people have come forward to offer their services to those in need, resulting in our Neighbours Helping Neighbours program.



Our Linking Hands program continues to advocate for those in need in our community. This year we hosted a Basic Income Forum, established a Welcome Dundas program, and reviewed several housing models. We are ready to bring a new affordable housing project to our community: Places for People Dundas County. Our Green Food Box program is the largest of its kind in SDG and Prescott-Russell.

The HOL team, which includes 18 employees, 9 board members and more than 100 volunteers, is the driving force behind it all. I witness the passion and the dedication of the HOL team daily. Their commitment to this community is commendable. Their efforts ensure that programs continue and gaps in service are filled. I look forward to the coming year and its promises.



A Message from HOL Board Chair

Mark vanDelst

First off I would like to thank all of our amazing staff and wonderful volunteers for another successful and blessed year! It is inspiring, encouraging, and humbling to see the extraordinary efforts of those in our community who have taken on the mission supporting our neighbours, strengthening our community relationships, and bringing hope to those in need.

Three new board members have joined us this year: Diane Langton, Rilla Seward-McShane, and Valerie Ardron. We happily welcome them to the team. Also in 2018, our past chair, Gayle Hewton will reach the end of her second term on the board. We thank her for her dedication to House of Lazarus and wish her well. Hopefully we may see her around again soon!

The community's support for House of Lazarus is the driving force for our continued success and for that, the entire team would like to thank you all! Through your support, we are empowered to take action where the needs of the community exist. Born several years ago with support from a Trillium grant, Linking Hands has developed into a leading advocacy in community and helped to bring citizens, governments, and agencies together towards sustainable and affordable services to the delivery of our area. A little over a year ago the idea of a community meal began. Dinner on the House has been running for over a year every Thursday; filling a need for connection and fellowship! We are excited to help develop the Places for People initiative to bring community based affordable housing and support to our area. We are looking forward to another exciting year.

HOL Board of Directors

- Valerie Ardron
- Ross Bennett, treasurer
- Gayle Hewton
- Diane Langton
- Rev. Blair Paterson, vice chair
- Rev. Debbie Poirier
- Rilla Seward-McShane
- Mike Turcotte
- Mark vanDelst, chair



Hunger Awareness Champions



Dinner on the House Volunteers



Sandy Sharkey Photo Donation



2017 Walkathon Participants



Above: Ottawa Senators Defenseman Fredrik Claesson signed autographs during HOL's November 2017 sports-themed fundraising event. Claesson was on hand during the Friday night portion of the event to meet and greet fans.

Highlights from the Year:

- Chili Dinner, April 22
- First Dinner on the House, May
- Walkathon/Family Fun, May 27
- Every Plate Full, May 23 to June 9
- Basic Income Forum, June 9
- Live Auction, June 15
- Annual General Meeting, June 21
- Summer Yard Sales, July & August
- Fill the Bus, August
- Hunger Awareness Champions, September
- Book Sale, October 20 & 21
- Project Warmth, Fall 2017
- Sports Event, November 3 and 4
- Christmas Programs, November
- Volunteer Dinner, December 3
- Kids' Christmas Party, December
- Heat for Holidays, December 23
- Ladies' Night Out, February 24
- EXPO 2018, March 13 & 14

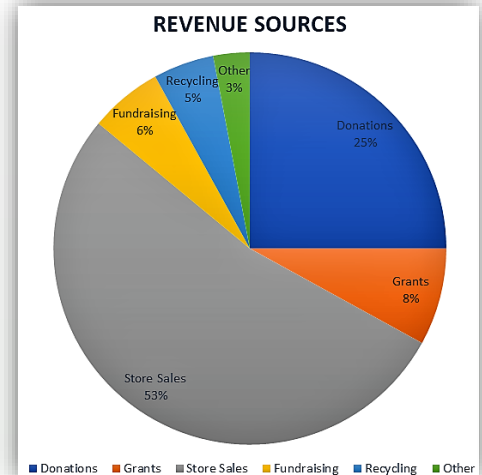
Funding the Mission: How it Works

The majority of the funding for House of Lazarus comes from our social enterprise business, HOL Boutique and Mountain Treasures.

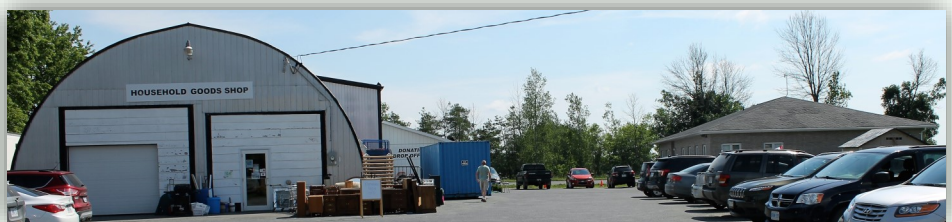
Community donations of goods are sorted, organized and then stored in our warehouse until they are sold in our stores.

People from our food bank, as well as those from Food for All, Community Food Share, and from other community agencies are able to shop in our stores at no cost.

This past year, monetary donations to HOL have risen significantly. More people are using the Canada Helps feature on



our website to donate online. Last year, our Ladies' Night Out fundraiser and the Every Plate Full campaign brought in the most money. Also, more than \$30,000 of our revenue came from recycled clothes and electronics.



DID YOU KNOW, last year...

145 people participated in some capacity at HOL (volunteers & employees)

600 people were fed through our food bank

2,630 people were provided with food, clothing, furniture, and household goods through Outreach

Last year's administrative costs were only 5% of our total revenue.



Advocacy: Extending our reach

Linking Hands is an initiative created to reduce poverty in Dundas County by listening to and addressing the needs of the people throughout the county's communities.

While House of Lazarus is the "parent" organization behind Linking Hands, the program is guided by a steering committee comprised of members of various agencies, as well as from the community.

The steering committee sets the course, but it's the seven working groups that make things happen.

These groups are also comprised of agency and community members.

The working groups include: community connectivity, financial health, healthy living, housing, lunch & learn, seniors, and transportation.



a voice for poverty reduction in Dundas County

Guiding Principle: Resilient and sustainable rural communities improve the quality of life for everyone

Vision: Act as a voice for people living in poverty in our communities by raising awareness, networking, empowering, and supporting.



Tea & Talk—Christmas Wreath

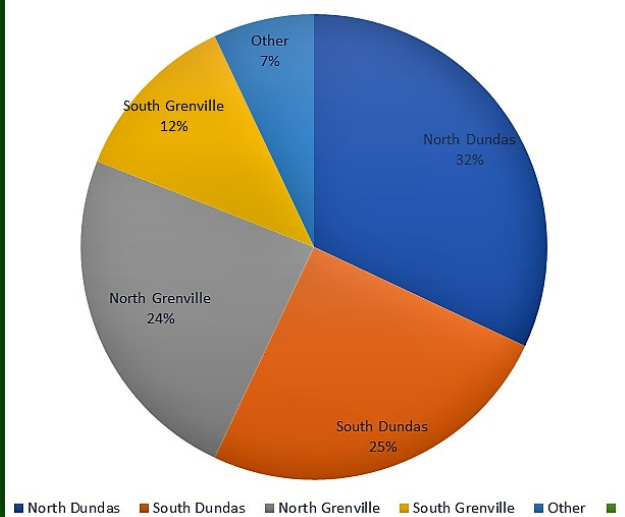
Linking Hands: What does it do?

- Spreads awareness on poverty – its definition, the many forms it can take, the unique way it makes itself known in rural communities, and more;
- Provides opportunities for people and communities to work, play, and 'be' together, encouraging connection and neighbourliness;
- Creates activities, programs, events, and projects to help resolve issues of poverty in the county;
- Strives to provide a comprehensive summary of the information (available services, programs, events, etc.) the community wants and needs.



Lunch & Learn—Transplanting

FOOD BANK CLIENTS



DID YOU KNOW, last year...

94%

of HOL's food bank clients had a household income of less than \$30,000

79%

of HOL's food bank clients had a household income of less than \$18,000

Pictured below: Kim Merkley (left) with co-op student Josh Mason



Bringing the Community Together

Dinner on the House

Dinner on the House began May 18, 2017 with roughly 30 diners attending the HOL's first-ever free community meal. Within that first year, the weekly attendance average rose to 76.

"It's one night a week when you don't have to worry about making dinner or cleaning up afterward," HOL client services manager Kim Merkley said.

Most weeks, it is HOL's chefs who prepare the meals and serve it alongside a regular set of dedicated and generous volunteers. However, more and more, individuals and groups are stepping up to fund and/or serve a meal.

**Thursdays from 4 to 7 pm
at
Knox Presbyterian Church
on
Simms St. in Mountain**



Pictured left: HOL Volunteer Jack Hicks, HOL's Jen Westendorp and June Lamoureux, Ovens Berry Farm Strawberry Donation.

What does HOL's food bank do?

Last year's food bank programs helped a lot of people:

- Giving Garden brought in 940 pounds of produce
- School Supplies program served 40 children
- Clothing program served 189 adults and 96 children
- Medical Supplies program served 13 individuals
- Heat for the Holidays saw 6 families receive a month's supply of hardwood logs for heating their homes
- Kids' Christmas Party saw 45 children celebrate
- Adopt-a-Family program served 103 families
- Adopt-a-Senior program served 18 seniors
- Angel Tree program provided gifts for 105 children

More than a Food Bank—Outreach

Through our various Outreach programs, HOL provides an array of services and products, including household goods, furniture, clothing & food.

Last year, there were 2,630 people served through our Outreach programs.

Through our **Food with Friends** initiative, we were able to help 719 kids and youth.

We helped 45 adults complete tax forms through our **CRA Income Tax** program.

We gave away \$25,691 worth of **clothing and household goods** to those in need, through our food bank, as well as through both Community Food Share and Food For All food banks.

Through our **Starting Over** program, we helped two victims of fire, 40 women from Naomi's Family Resource Centre, and the North Dundas Syrian Family.

Our **Giving Garden** brought in more than 940 pounds of produce, which supported our food bank clients, as well as a few of our other programs, including Dinner on the House, Food with Friends, and Lunch & Learn.

The **Linking Hands Lunch & Learn** program provided lunch and

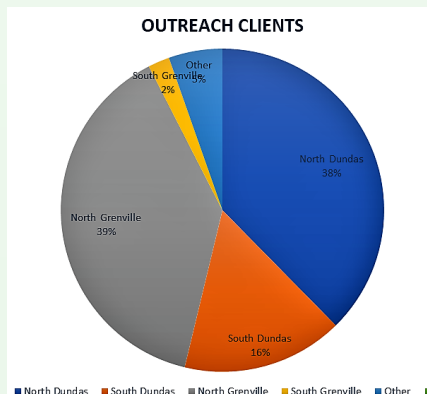
entertainment to 194 people, last year, while Dinner on the House fed 795 people 3,044 meals.

Linking Hands Project Warmth gave out 180 single window insulation kits and 58 multi-window kits to more than 100 families with the help of our food bank, Community Food Share, Canadian Mental Health Association, and Health Links.

Linking Hands Green Food Box program packed roughly 150 bags of fresh produce each month last year. With two pick up opportunities per month, one in North and one in South Dundas, the program is the largest in SDG & Prescott-Russell. Our program also offers two sizes, small (\$10) and large (\$15), with amazing quality and quantity for the money.

Heat for the Holidays was a new program that allowed HOL and Community Food Share to give a one-month supply of hardwood logs to 9 food bank families in need. Delivered on December 23, it was just in time for Christmas.

Linking Hands Welcome Dundas project received a donation of 250 bags from Happy Face Nursery School to get started, as well as information from various agencies, businesses, as well as both townships.



Food with Friends

Funded through a Monsanto grant from the Ontario Association of Food Banks and the United Church Canada's Gifts with Vision program, HOL partners with Kemptville Youth Centre (KYC) and the Dundas Youth Centre (DYC) to provide funding for their healthy meals programs throughout the year. 199 youth participated in the program.

"Our cook nights provide cooking skills and teamwork skills to each youth who participates," KYC's Pat Henderson said.

"The youth are more excited about healthy eating and the program also opens up discussion about the importance of a well-balanced diet," DYC's Jess Carty said.

Additional funding permitted HOL to help Nationview Public School and South Branch Elementary School's nutrition programs, giving 595 children access to fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as protein items, such as cheese.

The grant also provided our food bank children with meat, cheese, yogurt, yogurt drinks, as well as fresh fruit and vegetables for their school lunches. This program continues through the summer.

HOL Volunteers: Making it Happen

Vicki Cane, volunteer coordinator

The generosity and hard work of our volunteers empowers House of Lazarus to offer programs that are making a real difference in our community. On a daily basis an army of 47 volunteers assist in sorting household goods and clothing donations, evaluating, cleaning, bundling and pricing donations, assisting costumers, displaying and stocking items. All of this hard work keeps our stores, Mountain Treasures and The HOL Boutique, running smoothly.

In our Food Bank garden our plant savvy volunteers prep soil, plant, weed and harvest to help us in offering fresh vegetables to our clients.

At our weekly community

meal, Dinner on the House, a team of volunteers assist in serving dinner, creating a welcoming environment, and cleaning for an average of 75 people.

In the Linking Hands Programs 62 volunteers participate in valuable offerings such as Lunch and Learn, the Green Food Bag program and sit on committees. These hard working volunteers are out in the community each month serving, packing and bringing to life programs to enrich the lives of the people in our community.

We recognize that our successes are in large part due to the continued and valiant efforts of our 118 volunteers.



Pictured above: HOL's Ralph Pulfer and Janet Carkner (right) celebrate HOL & Linking Hands volunteer Lietta Tousaw, winner of 2017 South Dundas Good Neighbour Award.

DID YOU KNOW...

47 volunteers logged more than 5,300 hours working at House of Lazarus

9 volunteers served meals & washed dishes for Dinner on the House

62 volunteers sat on committees or working groups, participated in programs or events for Linking Hands



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Food Bank Hours

Monday to Friday
9 am to 1 pm
plus
Tuesday and Thursday
4 pm to 8 pm



HOL Boutique
(clothing & accessories)

Mountain Treasures
(household goods, furniture)

Store Hours

Monday—9 am to 2 pm
Tuesday—9 am to 8 pm
Wednesday—9 am to 2 pm
Thursday—9 am to 8 pm
Friday—9 am to 2 pm
Saturday—9 am to 3 pm



Donations

Household goods, clothing, & furniture are donated by the community. \$25,691 of goods were given out through our stores to people in need. Our stores are governed by Health Canada and Second Hand Store best practices.

132,489 lbs of clothing were recycled and 45,173 lbs of electronics were recycled.



"Building Community, Sharing Hope"

House of Lazarus adheres to the belief that success is only possible through cooperative partnerships.

In 2017-2018, HOL partnered with 33 agencies and community organizations.