

The Sharing Place Toronto Inc.

Newsletter Spring 2011



and it never has been I do not think that anyone who has been involved in the ministry of the Sharing Place would believe that the ministry is still changing lives after 20 years because of anything that we have done. There has been a lot of prayer, tears, hard work and determination but none of us can take credit . I just participated in the University of Toronto Food Assistance Research Program that is being conducted across Canada in partnership with different Universities from each local area. The study will take two years to complete as they interview directors from all the food banks and collect data to help better understand poverty in our nation. Vivian, a young woman I spoke with who is part of the research team, wanted to know where our food comes from; we supply a number of clients as many as most other agencies without any assistance from Daily Bread, Second Harvest or other corporate donors who supply food books. She asked me "How do you get your food?" What do you do when the food runs out? I told her that we never run out food, though we may not always have a lot of different kinds of food on hand, we always have something to share. The supplier of our food is God. We pray and we have many people who also pray for us. We have people in various churches who donate food as well as local neighbours, like the man who came with a trunk load of food collected at his daughter's first birthday celebration; they requested food for TSP instead of gifts. Then there is the neighbour who always leaves a box on her veranda; she thinks of us ever time she shops. "Wow that is amazing" was her reply. Really"?...you never run out?" The Sharing Place is not about any one person giving a lot. People just give what they can and somehow God multiplies it. 'To be honest I told her, I really do not know where all the food comes from and yes there are lean times but our partners always come through for us". She asked if all our donations come from Christians. I told her that we have some donors from different faiths and some of no faith. It is about people helping people. As our conversation continued, she inquired about the boundaries and areas we serve. I informed her we really do not hold to boundaries as we have some clients who travel a long way because they like it here. We have one man who comes almost two hours on foot. During a conversation with him one night, he told me with tears in his eyes "You do not find this everywhere, you don't see tablecloths and flowers on the tables. I feel so welcomed here". We not only have great supporters, we also have great volunteers who make everyone feel welcome. No one is a beggar, we all have needs in our lives at one time or another and in this world we all really need each other. "We are our brothers' keeper. (continued page 2)



Easter Food Drive

Canned fish, meat	Kraft Dinner	juice
brown beans	pasta sauce	cookies
soup	instant coffee	peanut butter
canned fruit , vegetables	cereal	pancake mix

Vivian kept saying, wow throughout our conversation. I told her I was trying to answer her questions honestly and had no other answer to give her than: God loves these people and he speaks to many to provide us with help. She ended our conversation by telling me that what we were doing was truly amazing... I responded by telling her it is not about us it is all about God; he is faithful. Her second part of the interview was about finances. I directed her to Marion our bookkeeper 'now that's another amazing story'.

I want to encourage each one to come and celebrate what God has done on April 16th. Alice Kimmer and her crew from Altona Road COTN will be preparing a wonderful dinner and we will have a great time of fellowship. This night will be an opportunity to give thanks, have fun and enjoy one another's company as we reminisce upon the fond memories and miracles here at TSP.

Thanks to The Sharing Place

In 1996 at the age of 26 years Old I moved from Quebec city to Toronto, I was in need of change in my life after years of drug, alcohol abuse and gang related activities .I got off at downtown bus terminal with only 300 dollars and two bags of clothes, after paying rent for room that I was sharing with cockroaches I had nothing left for food or for household items such as blanket, pillows and cookware. After having a talk with some people and doing some research I discover the Sharing Place at the Grace church of Nazarene.



When I arrived at the sharing place I was welcomed with a little snack and prayer they also provided me with all what I was needed at that time and the most important food!!.

It was a blessing! I also met with those good hearted people there who provided support and love in time of need. I decided to start volunteering there just to give back for what they have provided me, it was the best decisions I've made in a long time. I also accepted back Jesus Christ in my heart since that day my live have been a blessing, of course you still have bad time but with Christ nothing can defeat you!! Today I am bless with a wife and three children. I want to give thanks to pastors Octavio and Gena Torres, later Pastor Tim became director and also all who I forgot their name but have them in my heart. Praise all who have donated to the sharing place because without them all this will not be possible.

God bless all of you, Thank you

Dominic Lemay, Ottawa, Ontario

Dominic is involved with starting an orphanage in Africa

TSP PARTNERS NEEDED
Would you consider becoming a TSP monthly partner, no gift is too small



TSP celebrating 20 years of Ministry

Join us Saturday, April 16th at 5 p.m. for a celebration dinner (no charge). Please RSVP. If you have photos or testimonies please send them to us. Let us come together to celebrate what God has done.

"I have seen violence done to the helpless, and I have heard the groans of the poor.

Now I will rise up to rescue them, as they have longed for me to do" Psalm 12:5