

Annual Report 2020



Changing Lives With YOUR Care and Support



Our Mission

Helping People

As a multi-cultural Christian outreach and community centre, The Lighthouse demonstrates God's love by offering unconditional hospitality, by sharing our resources and by helping people in need.

We offer an atmosphere of respect, dignity and security in order to address spiritual, emotional and physical needs, all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Vision

Changing Lives

To establish and maintain well-being, safety, dignity and community for individuals and families affected by poverty, migration stress, injustice and violence.

The Lighthouse during COVID-19

In light of Ontario's state of emergency in response to the Covid-19 global pandemic, we as The Lighthouse Community Centre, are dedicated to the continued service of those in need. We have modified our programs to run essential services safely and in adherence to changing laws and the advice of the Government of Canada.

Currently, The Lighthouse continues to run a modified food bank hamper program, digitally modified psychotherapy, as well as a modified income tax clinic (no in person appointments). In light of this change, we recognize that things look different in regards to our 2021 plan and so we are trusting in God for provision, protection and peace while also maintaining necessary safety measures. Please continue to support and hold The Lighthouse, it's clients, volunteers, partners and staff in prayer. Thank you.

Front cover image: Food Bank

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Ways to Get Involved

- Get a team together to help do repairs at The Lighthouse
- Organize your own fundraising event
- Find out how to be a Lighthouse Keeper
- Invite someone from The Lighthouse to talk about a ministry
- Organize a food drive for the food bank
- Invite someone to facilitate a workshop
- Organize a group visit to a LH program or seasonal event
- Join the Board of Directors

Message from the Chair of the Board and the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Wow!!! 2020 was an interesting year for The Lighthouse. We started the year like any other year. We were excited to have our programs help individuals who come to The Lighthouse. By mid-March, everything changed. The pandemic was real and The Lighthouse had to make preparations to make sure everyone was staying safe. The Lighthouse was deemed an essential service since it provides food to households. We changed our approach to helping our clients as we no longer allowed clients into the building.

With all of the challenges centered on Covid-19, The Lighthouse continues to flourish under God's wisdom and grace.

With the work we do with refugees, newcomers and low-income people, we have seen God's hand benefiting The Lighthouse during the pandemic. We are a witness to God's love among those who are hurting, hungry and homeless. Here are some examples of this amazing work:

- Received donations from our neighbours at Summerhill Market, who donated food monthly for the food bank
- Received donations from individuals in the community who drop off food and cash donations to assist the foodbank
- Provided 5 students a learning and work experience through placements at The Lighthouse
- Provided counselling through Zoom or the phone
- Received a \$5,000 grant from World Renew, Diaconate and First Christian Reformed Church of Toronto to provide emergency food during the pandemic
- Received 400 gift cards to give to individuals to purchase food at the grocery store
- Hired 3 summer students through Canada Summer Jobs who helped with the distribution of food

In this report, you'll see stories of individuals and families who sought assistance from The Lighthouse. This is made possible by you and your support!

Thank you again for your generosity, love and compassion for this work. Together we will continue to make a difference in the lives of many!



Ed Sikkema
Chair of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink.



Rob Datema
Executive Director

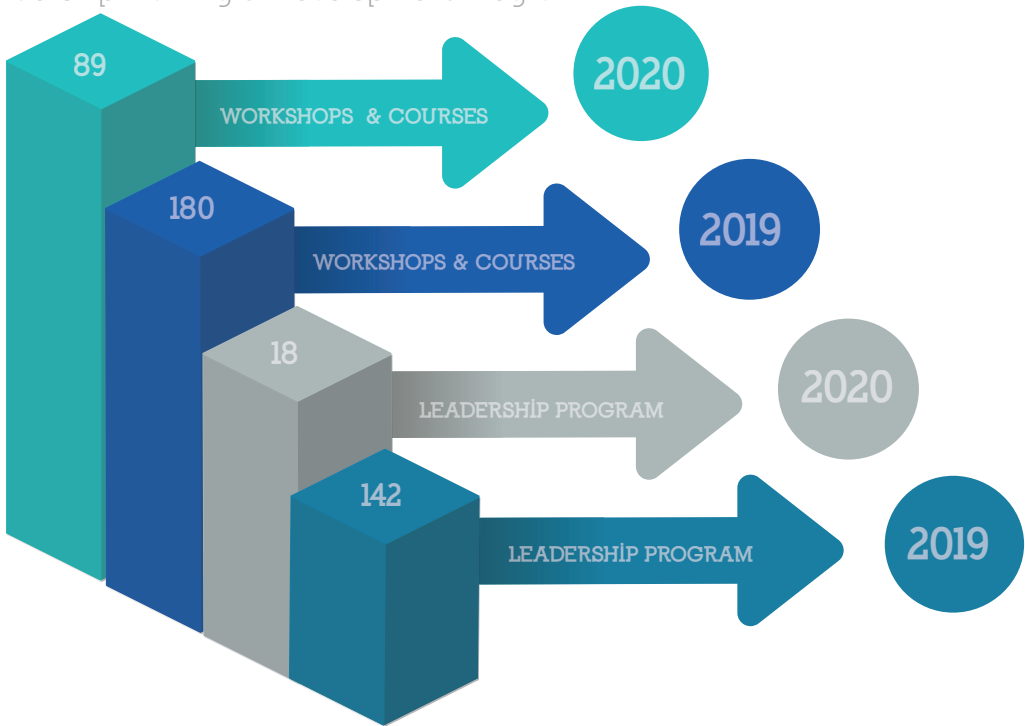
A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Our Board of Directors:

Alisa Velthuizen
Annette Taylor
Ed Boeke
Ed Sikkema
Juan Rojo - Secretary
Joe Koole - Treasurer
Theody Corton
Wendy Helleman

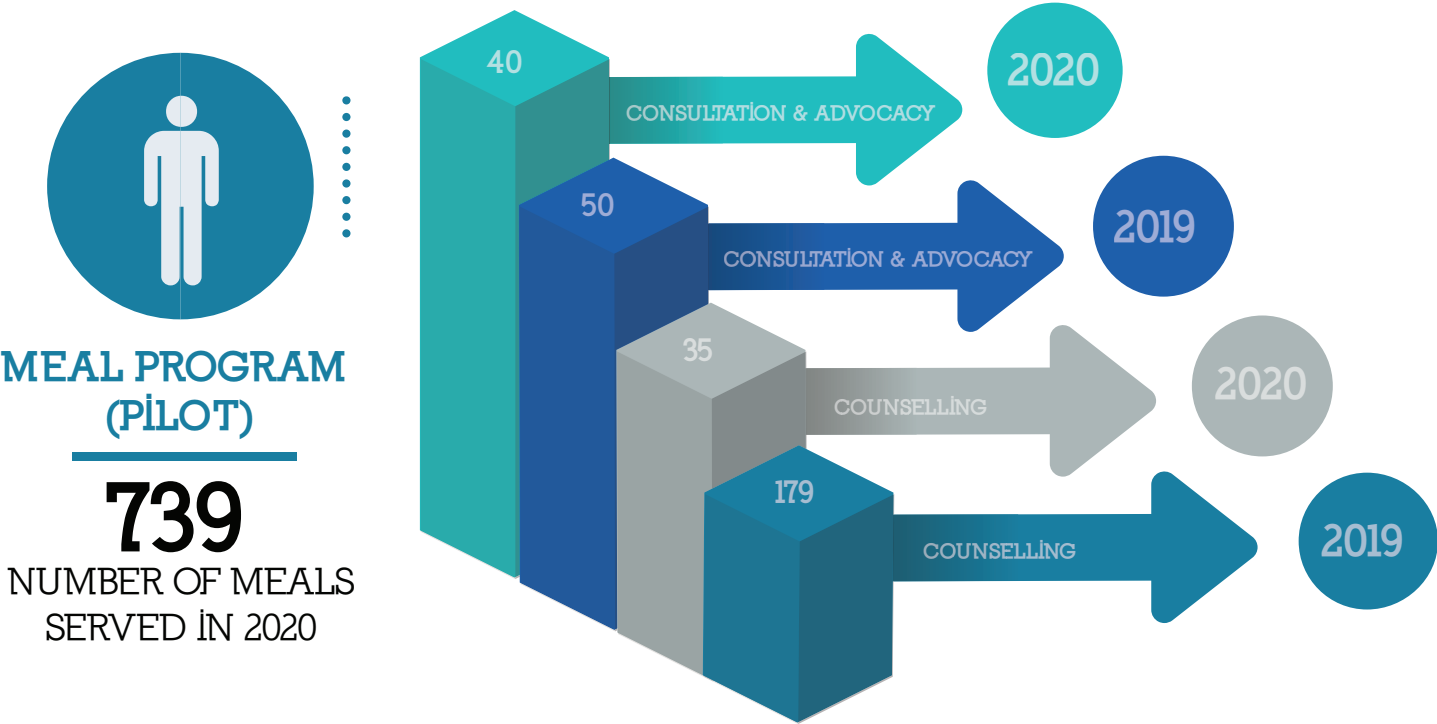
ENHANCING SKILLS & RESOURCES

This section includes graduates from courses, workshops and training programs. We are also including the graduates from the Leadership Training & Development Program.



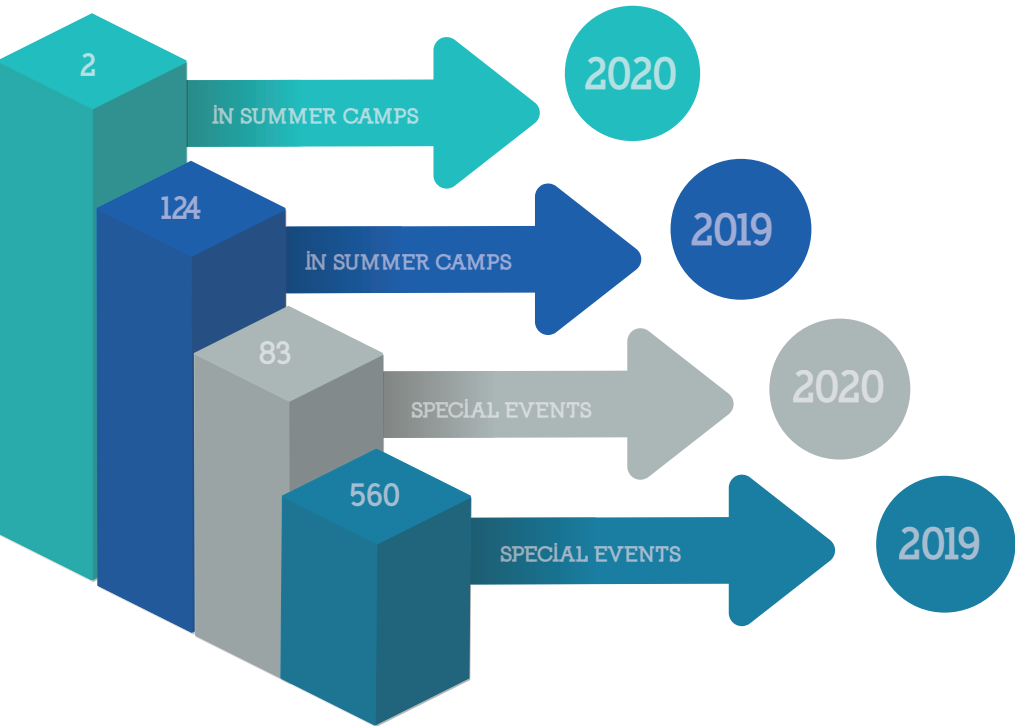
COUNSELLING AND ADVOCACY

This section includes people who received consultation and advocacy services, as well as those who received counselling services.



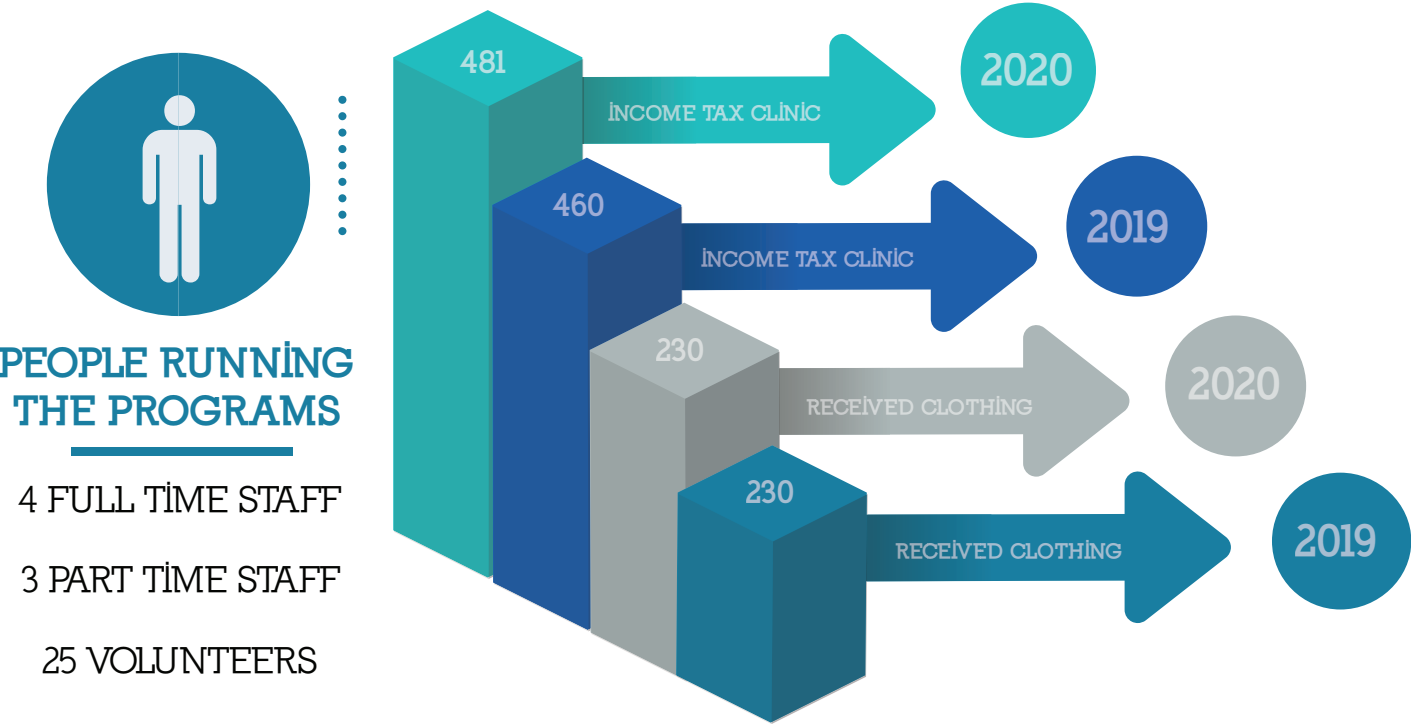
STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

This section includes adults and children who participated in Summer camps, as well as those who participated in special events.



PROVIDING SERVICES

This section contains the number of people who benefited from the income tax clinic, as well as those who received clothing.



Stories of Change

"COVID-19 has been very difficult on everyone but vulnerable women have specific challenges, particularly those who suffer gender-based violence. Several immigrant women have come to The Lighthouse during the pandemic in need of assistance, guidance, counselling/therapy, and a in need of care and kind words from caring people. We have been able to use zoom and the telephone to help them during the pandemic. One such woman said "Thank God for the work of The Lighthouse. I felt so lost and hurt when my husband physically hurt me during the pandemic. He had done it before but this time I felt so alone. I knew I had to leave, but where? I called the worker at The Lighthouse I knew from one of the family summer programs I attended a year before, and she immediately took me on. She connected me to the right people and provided therapy for me every week. I found hope and I found me. I felt cared for and I got skills that allowed me to heal and to see myself as someone made in God's image who is worth gold. I continue to see her but I can tell you, I am a new person who is strong from within. I can be on my own and be well. Thank you for being there when I needed it the most. YOU SAVED MY LIFE."

- Anonymous (Hispanic Ministry Client)

"I am just thankful The Lighthouse didn't close down during this time. I really needed help with my income tax returns and I really needed the income from it. I was worried The Lighthouse wouldn't be able to file them this year. Glad you're still kicking."

- Holly (Income Tax Program Participant)

"I heard about this place from driving one of your volunteers to The Lighthouse. I work for Uber. My wife was laid off from work during the start of the pandemic and we never expected to have to need a food bank but we're so glad for you guys and for this food."

- Anonymous (Food Bank Program Participant)

NOTE: At the end of 2020, The Lighthouse paid its outstanding mortgage obligation of \$75,000. Due to the pandemic, programs at The Lighthouse were able to continue with limited expenses.

Testimonial

"I lost my job and have been having a hard time covering my expenses. Getting a new job during this climate has been very tough. I walked by and saw the food bank one day and I realized it was open to anyone in need. I didn't want to come but I realized I needed to put aside my pride and get help. So I sucked it up and I'm glad I did. You guys have been a huge help to me."

- Anonymous (Food Bank Program Participant)

2020 Finances

Total Revenue for 2020 - \$388,238

Individual donors	\$155,000
Grants	\$6,001
Fundraising events	\$57,561
Grants/contributions from CRC Classis Toronto churches	\$47,021
Grants/gifts from other churches	\$19,643
Gifts from organizations	\$32,192
Grants from the Canadian government	\$12,960
Rental income	\$7,700
Other income (e.g. from other sources where no charitable receipt is issued)	\$5,553
Bequest	\$44,607

Total Expenses for 2020 - \$306,798

Programs	\$186,647
Building and occupancy costs	\$30,080
Administration and management	\$50,761
Promotion and fundraising	\$32,660
Interest and bank charges	\$6,650

2020 Facts & Figures

Program/Service	Number of People Reached/Served		
Neighbourhood Programs	2020	2019	
Food Bank	946	615	7660 total grocery hampers provided. Since the start of the Pandemic we have seen a significant increase in new households accessing our Food Bank program. When Ontario went into a state of emergency the Neighbourhood Food Bank Program was ready.
Income Tax Clinic	481	460	The Lighthouse modified it's clinic so that so that clients could drop off and pick up documents from the door.
Volunteers	10	191	In January 2020 our returning volunteers continued to work within The Neighbourhood programs. Other volunteer groups scheduled later in the year were subsequently cancelled due to the start of the pandemic.
Placement Students Supervision and Training	8	5	The Neighbourhood Ministry provided placement opportunities to 5 students and offered 3 summer employment opportunities to students from varying social service programs in various Ontario colleges and Universities.
Special Events	240/135	164	240 Holiday Hampers .135 Turkeys were handed out for holiday celebrations
Meal Program (Pilot)	739	3356	The Meal Program was unfortunately shutdown on March 17 2020 as The Lighthouse shut all in building programs due to the province's state of emergency. We hope to reopen this program when it is safe to do so.
Hispanic Programs			
Counselling / Therapy: individual / family and in group settings	35	179	Weekly or biweekly individuals and families
Consultation & Advocacy	40	50	Includes one time or ongoing consulting and advocacy
Summer Family Camp	0	95	
Immigration Workshops	0	25	3 times in the year
Leadership Training & Development	18	142	Every two weeks starting June 2020 until February 2021
Hispanic Seniors and Intergenerational Program	35	40	Ongoing every week (before COVID-19) and every day during pandemic via WhatsApp, zoom, and telephone
Haircutting Course	15	15	Ongoing every week until mid-March 2020
Manicure/Pedicure & Nail Decoration Course	10	10	Ongoing every week until mid-March 2020
Acrylic Nails, Gel Nails and Make-up Workshops	0	40	3 different workshops, 3 days each in the month of July. Students receive certificate
Special Events/Celebrations	50	500	One time celebrations (Christmas; Thanksgiving; Mother's Day; Father's Day; Women's Day; Course Graduation; Volunteer Appreciation Lunch; Senior's Birthdays and Anniversaries)
Parenting Program	6	30	Weekly: 12 sessions via zoom
Volunteers	15	35	From Courses and seniors program
Vietnamese Programs			
Counselling and Consultation	30	35	18 cases
Women's Support Group	12	35	(once/month from Jun – Dec.)
Prison Ministry/Visitation	149	371	South Detention Centre (weekly visit from Jan 1 – Mar 11)
Family Summer Camp	2	29	e-camp
Special Events Celebrations	33	60	Lunar New Year, Christmas, Mother's Day
Catering Group	0	18	
Educational Workshops	46	35	5 workshops
Volunteers	0	0	

A Peek into 2021

In 2020, The Lighthouse focused on safety. The Lighthouse looked at ways to keep everyone safe because of Covid-19. We put in safeguards to protect staff, students, volunteers and clients. We provided masks, hand sanitizer, gloves, signs and plexi-glass barriers to create and maintain a safe working environment.

Looking forward into 2021 and 2022, we will continue to address the safety of everyone who comes to The Lighthouse. In 2021, we received a grant from Second Harvest to provide food and personal protective equipment (PPE) for our clients and staff. This will help us to continue to address needs from a holistic approach for healing and wellness.

We will expand and strengthen our programs and services

- Determine how the programs and services can have a greater impact on the community
- Determine the need for developing a program focusing on mental health and respond accordingly
- Provide a safe environment for volunteers and placement students to develop their skills
- Recruit, train and evaluate volunteers

We will increase and diversify our funding to ensure ongoing financial stability

- Continue to submit grant proposals and look for new proposals
- Develop an online auction site as a new source of funding
- Develop a plan to find other funding resources

We will provide some time for visioning with a focus on the future of The Lighthouse

- Spending time in prayer searching for the Lord's direction
- Focusing on succession planning for staff and programs
- Focusing on new opportunities to aid more individuals
- Focusing on ways to strengthen existing programs

In 2021, we ask for your continued support through donations and prayers. We ask that you continue to pray for The Lighthouse as it serves refugees, newcomers, low-income individuals and families. We ask that you pray for willing and competent Board members and volunteers.

Please give generously

The Lighthouse is dependent on the generosity of caring like-minded individuals, churches and businesses to continue its programs and services.

Donations can be made online at www.canadahelps.org. CanadaHelps offers the ability to give anonymously and securely through credit card or interac payments. Online gifts are receipted instantly by email by CanadaHelps.

Individuals can give via E-transfer to info@lighthousecentre.ca

Cheques payable to The Lighthouse can be mailed or delivered to the address indicated below. Consider giving through pre-authorized remittance (PAR). This steady stream of revenue helps The Lighthouse

plan more effectively for the future.*

Consider making a bequest, establishing an endowment or otherwise including The Lighthouse in your planned giving and estate planning.*

Receipts in respect of donations in any calendar year are issued on or prior to the last day of January in the immediately following calendar year (except donations through CanadaHelps).

It continues to be a challenge to meet the growing needs of the communities we serve. Please consider making a gift that will ensure The Lighthouse continues to help people and change lives for years to come!

* Contact Rob Datema at rob@lighthousecentre.ca for more information.



1008 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M5R 3G7
T. 416 535 6262 | F. 416 535 3293 | www.lighthousecentre.ca
BN 13036 3740 RR0001

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www.facebook.com/thelighthouseontario