



The

# LIGHTHOUSE

Helping People | Changing Lives

1008 Bathurst Street • Toronto • ON M5R 3G7

Fall 2021

416-535-6262

## Beyond September 30th

This past September 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 marked the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as well as Orange Shirt Day. Both are observed as a step to honour the children who survived residential schools and to remember those who did not. While these dates are helpful as intentional steps to listen, learn, raise awareness, and respond to the history of Indigenous peoples, it is equally as important to continue our learning and support outside of these scheduled dates.

The Lighthouse's Neighbourhood Food Bank is a member agency of Daily Bread Food Bank. As a member agency our Neighbourhood Food Bank Program is committed to keeping up with our community member records for those who are willing to share. What has been illuminating is the information gleaned across our city and fellow member agency food banks. Every year Daily Bread Food Bank, in partnership with North York Harvest Food Bank, publishes a *Who's Hungry Report*, which profiles the experiences of poverty and food insecurity among our collective community members.

This year's report spoke on the reality of food insecurity and stated that food insecurity is highest among Black households (28.9%) and Indigenous households (28.2%) in Canada. Food insecurity is a symptom of poverty. However, socioeconomic status is only one layer of oppression for food bank clients. Race, disability, immigration status, gender, sexuality and mental health/addictions are not inherently barriers to living a life with dignity. Rather, discrimination and barriers to education, employment, and prosperity disproportionately affect these communities, often in overlapping or intersectional ways, (Daily Bread Food Bank, 2020). We recognize this is a reality within Canada and that these barriers disproportionately face Indigenous peoples.



*Logo of Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Society*

A person's sense of wellness, ability to break barriers and build an empowered community, comes from acknowledging the holistic aspect of the work required in seeking to respond to these intersectional needs. At The Lighthouse we play a role in the services we provide through our food bank program, meal program, income tax clinic program, volunteer program, partnerships, etc. While we play these roles of community support, we recognize there is much more work to be done when it comes to the work of truth and reconciliation. We also acknowledge that other voices are far better suited to be the leading voice in upholding Indigenous peoples rights, culture and future.

We are so grateful to have incredible Indigenous friends, volunteers, and community members who share their wisdom and care. This year a long-time volunteer of ours, Jason Newby connected The Lighthouse with an amazing organization called The Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Society (TWHL). This organization provides trauma-informed, culturally appropriate services for First Nation (Status and Non-Status), Inuit, and Metis people. TWHL works with 2SLGBTQIA+ women exiting the justice system in recognition of the need to break a cycle of its overrepresentation of Indigenous women... *To be continued on page 2*



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***This year our Ride for Refuge participants were few in number and yet were able to fundraise \$8,035.00 for The Lighthouse!***

*Thank you to all those who participated or sponsored riders. Every dollar counts when it comes to the important social service work, and therapy we provide to newcomers, migrants of precarious status, low income individuals and families.*

*If you're interested in participating in next year's ride we would love to have you join us. Please email Rob at [rob@lighthousecentre.ca](mailto:rob@lighthousecentre.ca) for more information on registering, routes, or setting up a team!*

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TWHL focuses on reconnecting formerly incarcerated Indigenous women with their culture, spirituality, communities, as well as responding to basic needs. TWHL has been engaged in a unique housing project called The Lodge Project, which aims to build a six-storey Lodge designed to uniquely combine wrap-around supports and transitional housing for formerly incarcerated Indigenous women. This organization has been doing incredible work for Indigenous peoples and they are not alone. There are many Indigenous run and Indigenous focused organizations and support services across the city and we hope more to come.

Recently, Jason Newby initiated a connection between TWHL and The Lighthouse where TWHL arranged to donate hygiene products and backpacks to The Lighthouse Neighbourhood Food Bank from the overstock of their backpack program. We were so touched when a large van loaded with backpacks that contained hygiene products, parked out front of The Lighthouse. TWHL staff and volunteers began carrying donations into our building. As the bags were being carried in, Sheena, a staff person of TWHL, smiled brightly and said, "We just share the wealth." Volunteers, students and staff were deeply touched that this organization, made up of Indigenous people, who currently are working against systemic barriers and injustice, were also so kind and eager to share the wealth. After observing the large amount of donations, Lighthouse volunteer Jason simply said "It is part of our culture to help our community, to help anyone in need, Indigenous or not."

When we talk about truth and reconciliation we need to center the voices of those that should lead us. Indigenous peoples and organizations are who we must support, uplift, and look to as leaders. We want to encourage our readers and supporters to research local indigenous organizations in their communities to support and learn from. We look forward to continuing to build friendships and partnerships with Indigenous organizations and to continue our learning so that we can be active allies. To those like our Indigenous volunteers and The Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Society, we say thank you for your incredible work and support.







***Join us on November 20th from 7pm-8:30pm in celebrating The Lighthouse Community Centre for another year of God's provision and blessing over this ministry.***

Just like last year we have swapped out our annual dinner for a Covid-friendly online zoom event. We will be having our staff speak on the work being done, as well as an introduction to a new program! We hope to see you there! To register and receive a zoom link for our event please email [info@lighthousecentre.ca](mailto:info@lighthousecentre.ca)



This past summer The Lighthouse was blessed to see so many new partnerships, new neighbours, and friends come out of their way to support the work we do in our community. We recently connected with an incredible organization called MicroHabitat. MicroHabitat is a for profit company dedicated to environmentally focused/ sustainable urban agriculture. MicroHabit transforms unused spaces into urban farms with the goal of creating greener and more resilient cities through this style of agriculture. Often these spaces are assembled on roof tops which also contribute to cooler buildings down by reflecting solar energy. We love this concept of environmentally conscious urban farming. So we were thrilled when MicroHabitat opened a branch in Toronto and approached The Lighthouse as a possible community centre to support through donations. Every week this summer, MicroHabitat has been donating fresh, unique, and high quality produce such as onions, purple and white eggplants, string beans, mixed peppers, kale and swiss chard, a variety of heirloom tomatoes, green onions, mint, sage, oregano, basil, and so much more. Our clients have been thrilled by the freshness and variety of this high quality produce this summer and we look forward to next season. We are so grateful for this awesome company and their heart for environmental care and community care.



“These additional baggies of the produce you guys have been handing out has been incredible. I made a stew two weeks ago and the taste was just fantastic. You cannot beat fresh herbs but they are so expensive. Thank you so much! I’m excited to try new recipes with these!” – Client of Lighthouse Food Bank

***With the Christmas and holiday season fast approaching The Lighthouse could use your help with providing households with some extra goodies. Consider collecting donations of the following with friends, church groups, family, your school or community group!***

**Donation List**

**Hygiene products :** Soap, shampoo/conditioner, body wash, deodorant, hair products, tooth paste, tooth brushes, feminine hygiene products, etc.

**Warm clothing accessories:** Hats, mitts, gloves, socks

Treats: Cookies, chocolate, candy

**Specialty requested cooking items:** spices, honey, syrup, herbs, cooking oils, baking ingredients



## From Rob's Desk



There is much in our daily news that is disturbing. While we hear these stories of suffering and at times of death, we are reminded of the need to mourn with our community, to celebrate and honour those that have passed, and to continue to push for change and support in the lives of those in need.

Recently, The Lighthouse community was deeply saddened by the recent news of the passing of a current board member. Ed Boekee passed after finding out only five weeks prior that he had cancer. Ed Boekee has been part of The Lighthouse since the early 1980's. He was part of the Bible study formed by refugees arriving in Canada with the help of The Lighthouse. This group would later become All Nations Christian Fellowship Church (ANCF). Ed played an important role in the formation of ANCF and its continued growth. Ed maintained a deep love for The Lighthouse. He was a Board member in the late 1980's as well as the early 1990's. He joined the Board again in 2018 until his passing in August 2021. The Lighthouse community, the Board and staff will miss our brother Ed Boekee. We celebrate his incredible love for the work of The Lighthouse and for his community and we are inspired by him. We hope to honour his memory by continuing to provide unconditional love and service to those in need.

Even though we are saddened by what we hear in the news daily or by the death of a friend or brother of The Lighthouse, we are encouraged by your support and prayers, as a real blessing for the ministry of The Lighthouse. We continue to see how the Lord is using The Lighthouse to touch the lives of many. Whether through food donations, clothing donations, financial donations and simply the offer of time, you are enabling The Lighthouse to provide important social services. It is amazing to see the Lord at work through The Lighthouse. We would invite you to join our board and staff on Saturday evening, November 20, 2021, as we share our work and the stories of its impact on many individuals of the community. We also hope to share exciting news about plans to serve the community with a variety of social services to help address mental health challenges. Please join us to hear these stories in a celebration of God's work through the Lighthouse. If you are interested in joining us on zoom, please send us an email to [info@lighthousecentre.ca](mailto:info@lighthousecentre.ca) to register for this Celebration Event.

## Board of Directors

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*Psychotherapist and Hispanic  
Program Director*

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*Psychotherapist and Vietnamese  
Program Director*

**Helping People / Changing Lives**  
*Thank you for being partners with us in this ministry.*



**Yes, I would like to help with a donation of \$** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Cheque enclosed

☐ Visa/MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

### Other Ways to Support

- ☐ PAR (PreAuthorized Remittance)
- ☐ Monthly Visa or MasterCard donation - makes it easy for you and for us
- ☐ Canada Helps on line at [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)
- ☐ Giving through Christian Stewardship Service
- ☐ United Way Payroll Deduction - just provide our CRA # and address
- ☐ Matched Corporate Giving - many companies match employee donations
- ☐ E-transfer sent to [info@lighthousecentre.ca](mailto:info@lighthousecentre.ca)

Please mail your contribution to:

**The Lighthouse**  
**1008 Bathurst Street**  
**Toronto ON M5R 3G7**



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