



The

# LIGHTHOUSE

Helping People | Changing Lives

1008 Bathurst Street • Toronto • ON M5R 3G7

416-535-6262

Winter 2025

## Generosity & Fellowship Within The Lighthouse Community



As we take the time to reflect on the events that have taken place during the holiday season, The Lighthouse places a focus on appreciating the spirit of giving and kindness from our loyal supporters.

As a result of your contributions, The Lighthouse was able to raise over \$17,000 at our Annual Fund-raising Dinner in November.

Your generosity ensures that The Lighthouse can continue to meet the needs of those who come through our doors.



Within this Newsletter, we are delighted to highlight some of the moments of generosity and fellowship that happened within The Lighthouse community— from clothing pop-ups to holiday gatherings, and numerous food bank donations in between!



[www.lighthousecentre.ca](http://www.lighthousecentre.ca)



[thelighthouseontario](https://www.facebook.com/thelighthouseontario)



[@lighthousecentre](https://www.instagram.com/@lighthousecentre)



[thelighthousecommunitycentre](https://www.youtube.com/thelighthousecommunitycentre)



## **Giving Back: Clothing Pop-Ups & Holiday Food Bank Hampers**

In an effort to ensure that the needs of visitors are provided for both inside and out, The Lighthouse held a Clothing Pop-Up to distribute essential items such as coats, pants, sweaters and shirts.

For the holidays, we provided food bank clients with extra items such as toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body soap, and shampoo. We also provided over 200 clients with a \$20 grocery gift card to help supplement their food needs over the holiday season!



At The Lighthouse, strengthening communications with you and our supporting churches is always a priority. One of the ways that we have prioritized this, is through the Lighthouse Champions initiative.

### **What is a Lighthouse Champion?**

A Lighthouse Champion is someone who is interested in the work of The Lighthouse, shares in our passion of helping others, and would love to represent The Lighthouse to their church, family, and friends.

Lighthouse Champions receive exclusive monthly updates to share and keep your church family in the loop about all the exciting things happening at The Lighthouse. For more information about being a Lighthouse Champion, or if you know of someone who would be perfect to represent The Lighthouse to your church, please contact Rob at 416-535-6262 or [rob@lighthousecentre.ca](mailto:rob@lighthousecentre.ca)





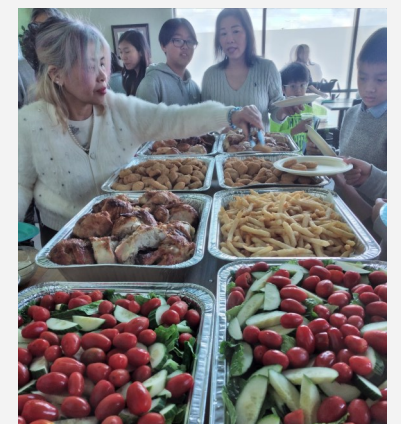
## Holiday Fellowship Gatherings

Both the Hispanic and Vietnamese Groups took the time to fellowship with one another over the holidays!



### To The Local Community: The Lighthouse Thanks You!

A significant amount of what we are able to provide to food bank clients comes from the local community! With this in mind, we'd like to give a special thanks to Tiny Market Pasta, Summerhill Market, Chaveta Coffee and to every neighborhood food drive done for us!



## From Rob's Desk

While a new year is always an exciting time to look forward and plan, it is also an opportunity to look back on the past year and realize how blessed we are. We are deeply grateful for the generosity we experienced again in 2024 to help keep our programs running, whether through financial contributions, food donations or gifts of clothing. The Lighthouse has been blessed by the generous giving of so many! We are also blessed because of the dedicated staff, volunteers and placement students who each week make our programs a success for our clients. Throughout another year we have seen how the Lord continues to use The Lighthouse to fulfill His calling to serve and love our neighbour.



The new year also gets us to look at the challenges we encountered the past year. Challenges around staffing, having enough board members, financial matters, the structure of the building and having enough volunteers and placement students. These challenges provided some stress for staff and Board members. Some were easily overcome, but one challenge that concerns us every year is whether enough funds have come in to cover our operating expenses. In 2024, our expenses were higher than our revenue – making this a major focus for the new year.

Looking ahead for 2025, a number of events will help raise funds. The first is a Walk-a-thon on Saturday April 12, 2025. This is an opportunity for you to walk, sponsor and help raise funds for The Lighthouse general fund. Two additional events already on the calendar are a Bike-a-thon in the fall and our Annual Dinner in November. Keep an eye on our website at [www.lighthousecentre.ca](http://www.lighthousecentre.ca) for more information in the coming months. We know of other groups who are putting on events for The Lighthouse to help with the foodbank. You can also help The Lighthouse raise funds by holding a similar event. Let's work together to make 2025 a successful year for the many programs taking place at The Lighthouse!

As Board and Staff, we want to thank all of the supporters for working with us in 2024. Whether you gave financially, volunteered or donated clothes, food, etc., we say "Thank you for Helping People and Changing Lives!"

## Board of Directors

Ed Sikkema  
Marlene Sikkema  
Joe Koole  
Annette Taylor  
Alisa Velthuisen  
Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman  
Marg Tymstra  
Sarah Irshad

## Staff

Rev. Rob Datema  
*Executive Director*

Samia Saad  
*Psychotherapist & Hispanic  
Program Director  
Program Director*

Thuy Tran  
*Vietnamese Program Director*

Nicolette Bryan  
*Administration & Communication  
Coordinator*

Nardia Whitley  
*Food Bank Coordinator*

Madeley Perez  
*Hispanic Program Assistant*

### 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:

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