Summer 2026

The LIGHTHOUSE
Helping People | Changing Lives
1008 Bathurst Street • Toronto • ON M5R 3G7 416-535-6262

Saying Thank You to Alisa Velthuizen

This spring Alisa Velthuizen completed her terms as a member of the Board of The Lighthouse, having served for seven years, including several years as Board Secretary. She is known as an active Board member, “because there is always work to be done,” she says with a sparkle in her eye.

As a longstanding member of the Scarborough Christian Reformed Church her familiarity with the programs and intention of The Lighthouse was extensive. Her experience on staff at Toronto’s downtown Yonge Street Mission in areas of community service and organizational development was a welcome addition to the Board table.

Being a Board member during COVID was challenging, she admits. How to fulfill the mission of The Lighthouse when coming together was restricted? The Lighthouse’s intention is to provide a place of welcome and belonging for newcomers and marginalized populations. This could not happen for a couple of years, although the demand for the foodbank greatly increased and The Lighthouse certainly rose to meet the need. Fortunately, it seems that The Lighthouse as a hub for making connections and providing community is growing again.

As an avid cyclist, one of Alisa’s favourite annual activities with The Lighthouse is participating in the annual Bike-a-thon fundraiser and she looks forward to staying connected to and supporting The Lighthouse in a variety of ways. Alisa’s presence on the Board has been a true blessing. Her energy and leadership will be a hard act to follow.

(Photo Left) The Lighthouse lost a dear friend, George Van Dyk. Pictured here with Nardia Whitley (left, Food Bank Coordinator) and Nicolette Bryan (right, Administrative Coordinator), George had a heart for The Lighthouse. He was the treasurer on the Board for numerous years. George also coordinated and volunteered at the tax clinic at Holland Christian Homes and delivered food to The Lighthouse from Grace Scarborough and Heritage Fellowship Church. George will be missed because of the amount of time he spent volunteering at The Lighthouse.

Highlights From Within The Lighthouse (Part 1 of 2)

Photo Details (Left to Right, Clockwise Direction)

1) The Lighthouse hosted its annual free income tax clinic for low income individuals and over 300 individuals were served between March and April.

2) The Lighthouse was honoured to receive an Honourable Mention from the City of Toronto for the 2026 Toronto Community Champion Award. This award acknowledges the contributions The Lighthouse has made to support the residents of the City of Toronto.

3) The Lighthouse hosted a summer clothing pop-up, giving our clients the opportunity to choose free clothing and essentials for the warmer months. We are grateful to provide practical support that promotes dignity, choice, and care for individuals and families in our community.

4) A group of Lighthouse Board Members participating in our annual Bike-A-Thon in May to raise funds towards The Lighthouse.

Highlights From Within The Lighthouse (Part 2 of 2)

(Left to right, clockwise direction) The Lighthouse had many experiences over the summer months, starting with a neighborhood food bank donation visit from MPP Chris Glover! We were grateful to welcome MPP Chris Glover to The Lighthouse for a special visit and food bank donation, giving him an opportunity to give back and support individuals and families in our community. Thank you, MPP Glover, for your generosity and for taking the time to stand alongside The Lighthouse in serving our community with care and compassion. Next, we have Marg, a loyal volunteer and Lighthouse Board Member preparing sandwiches for our food bank clients to provide some hospitality and time for personal interaction. Lastly, 13 wonderful Hispanic women celebrated graduating from completing their manicure course which was hosted within The Lighthouse. Congratulations to Paula M., Angela H., Lisbeth E., Rosa O., Sendi C., Gemma P., Naydu O., Gyssel R., Yamili B., Anylet T., Tania R., Fabiola P. and Jessica L.!

From Rob's Desk

In October, I will have been at The Lighthouse for 20 years. Through those 20 years, our programs have been active and continue serve a variety of people in our neighbourhood. At a recent staff meeting, they described the various programs they oversee. The Vietnamese Ministry shared the following programs: leading bible study and worship in the prison ministry; support group for Vietnamese women; and planning an Autism support group for parents. The Hispanic ministry shared the following programs: A healing, growth and awakening group; senior's group; supporting volunteers for the programs, along with helping refugees. The Neighborhood Ministry shared the following programs: the food bank; meal program; and clothing pop-up program. It was a joy to hear about each of the activities taking place at The Lighthouse.

These programs don't run on their own. We need staff, volunteers, summer students, placement students and donors for these programs to be successful.

Today I want to say "Thank You!" I want to thank each and everyone of you who have supported The Lighthouse and worked to make these programs successful. Without your continued support, The Lighthouse would not be able to thrive.

Most importantly, I thank God and the Creator! He continues to encourage and challenge us to get involved in his work. He stirs the hearts of many to be involved in this awesome work. It is because of Him that we do this important work in the world.

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Food Bank Coordinator

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Thank you for being partners with us in this ministry.

The LIGHTHOUSE
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The Lighthouse
1008 Bathurst Street
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