

Two friends sit by the window at a quiet table in the Drop-in. Each day they find themselves there, with a coffee or a bowl of soup. Sometimes readily discussing the news, other times quietly absorbed in their own thoughts in the midst of the busy room.

For the past 17 years, connection has been at the heart of daily life at the drop-in. These two friends, as many others, come seeking a place of peace and belonging.

As it is for all of us, when we know someone cares we find the courage to hope and grow. When we walk into a space of love and welcome, we feel a difference, an invitation to let something go within and open up a part of ourselves.

Our young guests—living outside or in shelter, on a friend's couch or in a run-down, isolated apartment—find at the drop-in a place of beauty, peace and community.

Renowned priest and author, Henri Nouwen, writes that hospitality is the creation of space where a stranger can enter and become a friend. "Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place."

ARK's community is such a place. As we walk together, we take these words with us:

Continue to show hospitality to strangers.
Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters.

Hebrews 13:2

*Many thanks
for your sustaining
support*

We are deeply thankful
for your thoughtful gifts
time, prayers, resources,
financial donations
and encouragement.

Your support is essential
to making
ARK a place to call home.

Peace and gratitude

Changes in the Neighbourhood

The neighbourhood around the drop-in is seeing many changes. Development is happening all around us.

The building right next door to the drop-in—we share the same roof and foundation—has been condemned by the city for two years.

What will happen in the year to come? We wonder what impact the development will have on our space. We ask for your prayers and thoughts.



Thanks to all who helped make this year's
Coldest Night of the Year a great success.
Together, 400 walkers, 60 volunteers and many donors
raised \$83,000 for ARK
We walked with 20,000 fellow Canadians in
114 communities across the country.

Sunday Supper fell on Christmas Day in 2016 which reminds us of the first supper, a Christmas party, held 31 years ago. Many meals of celebration and community have followed. We are so grateful for the faithful care this community has received all these years.

We are thankful to the core group of volunteers who keep things running throughout the years, along with the scores of volunteers and guests who have come from week to week.

A volunteer recently reflected on her experiences at Sunday Suppers:

Within my first month of moving to Halifax, I started serving at Sunday Suppers. And now, two years later, it's a place I, like many of our guests, call home. Spending time with this community has taught me so much. Each Sunday, I see guests who support and look out for one another and who find such peace and contentment from the relationships they share. This community, these friends, are so important to me.

Sunday Supper welcomes new volunteers throughout the year.

Please contact

sundaysuppers85@gmail.com

if you are interested in volunteering on your own or with a group of ten or less.

Baby and Sabbatical

It's amazing—the drop-in has been open 17 years. Joined by others along the way, Dorothy and Emily have worked together for 13 years. For all of us, the drop-in is a place of home.

Over the past year, we have sensed change within our community at ARK and our neighbourhood. One youth commented, "Sometimes you need to step out of the picture to see the big picture."

With the support of youth, mentors, and board members, we have decided we need a season to step away from the daily schedule at the drop-in to process the change we are sensing. The drop-in will be closed starting May 1st continuing through the summer months.

Emily is expecting a baby in June and will be on maternity leave. Dorothy, after 25 years of working in the community, will be taking a sabbatical.

During her sabbatical, Dorothy will reconnect with mentors and peers who, for the past 20 years, have done similar work in cities across Canada. We are looking forward to the ways these relationships and shared experiences will feed our work as ARK here in Halifax.

During the summer, ARK will continue to be active in the community through Sunday Suppers.

Administration of the organization will continue through these months.

We look forward to coming back together with our community in the fall.

Please hold on to any drop-in donations until the fall.

ARK is funded solely by donations from individuals, churches and community initiatives.

Please consider joining pre-authorized payment plan to contribute \$20, 50 or \$100 a month toward sustaining ARK.

Contact us to set up an account.

To make a tax deductible donation or to find out more about our community please contact us:

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