

Update from the Drop-in

Emily and her husband Aaron welcomed their son, Reuben, into the world with much delight. He is bright-eyed and eager to explore the world. He turns 7 months on Christmas Day.

After 25 years and with the support and recommendation of ARK's board and mentors, Dorothy took a sabbatical from her role in the community. Stepping back for 6 months from life as she knew it was both exciting and daunting. She cherished visits with family and friends. And found space from daily demands and crisis delightful. A silent retreat in the mountains, time to garden and walk were life-giving.

In early November, we hosted a meal at the drop-in to reconnect with youth. Everyone was happy to be together in the space, sharing a meal and stories. We were thrilled—Emily, who is on maternity leave, came with baby Reuben to meet everyone. It was comfortably familiar, felt like being home. Hearing from youth who were there, it was clear that what they missed most was connection and community.

Though the drop-in is not open as usual, Dorothy is present in the community. She is connecting with youth, interacting one on one and offering support as she is able.



coldest
*night
OF THE YEAR

February 24, 2018

We are making plans to host the Coldest Night of the Year February 24th, 2018.

Teams are signing up.

This annual fund-raising walk secures one third of ARK's financial need each year. We are able to be a presence in our city through the Sunday Suppers and the Drop-in because of this significant financial support.

It is in the security of your outpouring of support that we can dream and imagine what is possible for ARK.

Without the daily demands of life at the drop-in, we have the opportunity to gain perspective on what's next for our community. This involves:

Looking at the building that has been home to the drop-in for 18 years; As time passes, more repairs are needed to keep the building maintained. A pressing issue is that we share a roof with the adjacent building, uninhabited and condemned by city order for the passed 3 years. It is starting to have an impact on the health of ARK's building. Together with the board we are carefully evaluating questions such as, what is the impact of this adjacent property on ARK? What are ARK's priorities as we consider the cost and investment needed for repairs and ongoing maintenance?

Looking for new people to join us; We need to broaden the core of ARK and mentor those who will carry ARK's vital community work into the future. Amazing people have worked together in this community over the years. For 13 of those years, Dorothy and Emily have been privileged to work together. We are intentionally looking for people to join us who will commit to ARK with a vision for community and the future.

Connecting with community partners:

We need to connect with those who have supported and worked alongside us in the neighbourhood for many years. Dorothy is meeting with community partners, both local and national, to consider the broader context of our work. We are also listening to youth and their ideas for our community. Hearing other perspectives is affirming and helpful as we consider possibilities for ARK.

This season takes courage. It is challenging to step back from what is familiar, known and loved. But this is important work for us and for ARK. What is on the horizon? One youth recently said, "Don't stress, it will happen." We can't see clearly yet. We are trusting the God who nurtures and provides for ARK to lead us.

Please pray for discernment, clarity and vision for all of us involved. If you have any questions about this time of transition for ARK please contact board member, Lily Sangster at questionsforARK@gmail.com

Sunday Suppers continues to be a place of community for guests and volunteers as we gather each week. We have now gathered for 32 Christmas parties and many of the church groups who prepare food and volunteer have been with us since the beginning.

We are thankful to the solid group of volunteers who keep things running throughout the year.

We appreciate the amazing healthcare provided each week by the MOSH nurses. Their presence provides a continuum of care in the community for our guests.

During the winter months, we are thankful to St Andrew's volunteers for hosting a welcoming drop-in between 2 and 4pm so guests can come inside out of the cold before supper.

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.

Christmas at the Drop-in

We are hosting a Christmas celebration at the drop-in. We look forward to sharing brunch, gifts, treats and time with youth.

*Many thanks
for your sustaining
support*

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

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

Peace and gratitude

We are grateful to ARK's board for their commitment and support.

ARK has hired Rachel Groat to help us plan for and host the Coldest Night of the Year. We look forward to working with her over the next few months.

The Advent Show was a beautiful show again this year. Thank you to all the young performers who offered their talents to this spectacular performance to raise funds for ARK and others.

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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