

2024-2025

Annual Report



Board of Directors

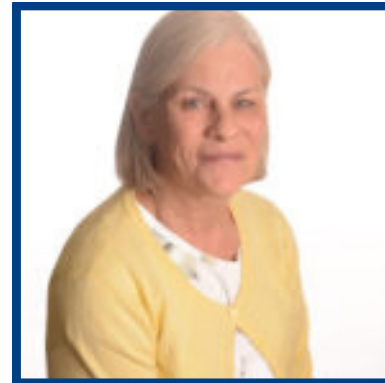
Darlene Simms
VICE-CHAIR



Rilla Seward McShane
BOARD CHAIR



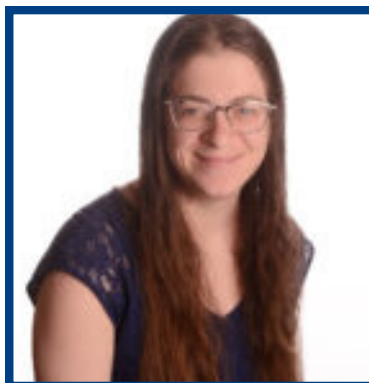
Janet Carkner
TREASURER



Gayle Hewton
COMMUNITY REP



Erin Zollinger
COMMUNITY REP



Mark Vandelst
COMMUNITY REP



Kate Hubble
COMMUNITY REP



Chloe Preston
COMMUNITY REP



Mission: *Building Community, Sharing Hope*

Vision: *House of Lazarus strives to be a first stop Community Hub that coordinates support and provides resources to those in need.*

A Message from HOL Board Chair

Rilla Seward McShane

It has been a long and winding road. Not only winding, but with twists and turns and a few cliffs. As always, House of Lazarus management, staff and volunteers find a way to get it done. We are so proud of the new food bank and furniture store location. What a project to take on, but one that will help to solidify our continuing mission to serve the community. As I end my position on the Board, I am thankful to have been a part of HOL over the past years. I see the tremendous amount of growth in programs and locations that have happened in a relatively short time in response to the needs of many in our communities. Partnerships with other agencies and community groups continue to flourish, and the recognition that our organization receives from many quarters is reason to celebrate. Always offered with dignity and respect, the hands of House of Lazarus reach out to give hope and solutions to those who come to our doors. Bravo!



A special thank you to Board Chair Rilla Seward-McShane and Vice- Chair Darlene Simms for their dedication to HOL. Rilla and Darlene agreed to continue their stay on our Board as we navigated through the food bank fire and the new build. We are grateful for their passionate leadership.

A Message from HOL Executive Director

Cathy Ashby

I recently came across the cover letter that I used when applying to be the Executive Director of the House of Lazarus ten years ago. “I have a vision for the House of Lazarus that includes becoming a community hub for those who are living in poverty.” When I reflect on my ten years at House of Lazarus, I am in awe of all that has been accomplished. HOL has indeed become a community hub for people who need assistance. Actually, we have created several community hubs- one in Ingleside, in Morrisburg, in Kemptville and in Mountain. Over the years we have added programs to meet people’s basic needs of today but we have also added programs that equip people with the tools they need to succeed in the future. Our social enterprise thrifts stores in Mountain have been refreshed. The addition of a thrift store in Ingleside and the new furniture store are valuable new sources of revenue and more opportunity of outreach through the stores.

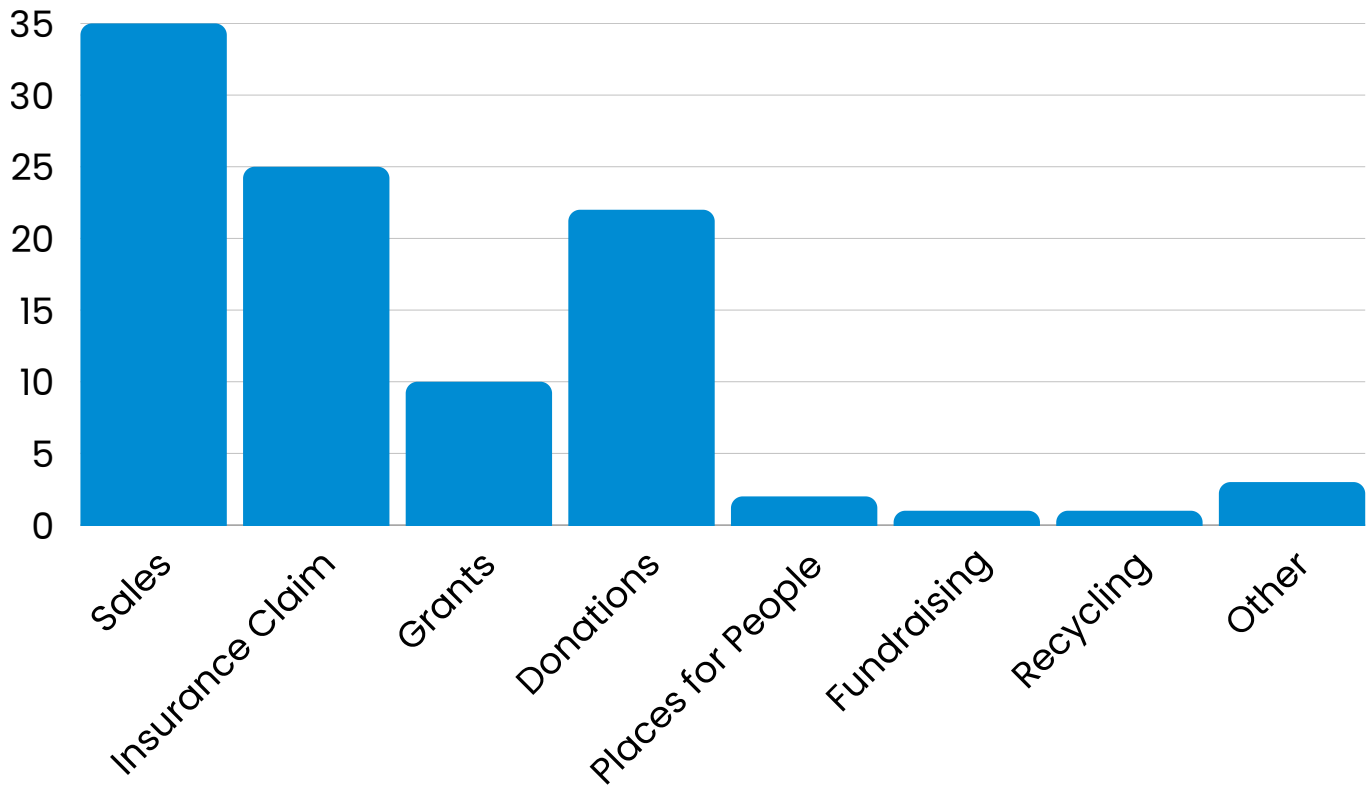
The amount of people who are now being served by House of Lazarus is staggering. Food insecurity is a reality for far too many. Our food bank is now feeding over 825 people a year. This is an 18% increase over last year. Visits to the food bank increased by 30%. This shows the depths of need in our community. Operation Backpack provided bags of food to 295 children each week. We have added additional cooking programs, revamped our green food box program and are serving more community meals than we ever have before. Partnering with Carefor and JW MacIntosh Senior Support Services, we added a new senior meal program. Housing insecurity is also prevalent in our community. The Morrisburg Community Hub and Warming Centre welcomed 38 people who were experiencing homelessness; we celebrated when we were able to house 13 individuals. We opened a Community Hub at St. John’s United Church in Kemptville and have already assisted 12 unhoused individuals. This year HOL also added a third house to our Places 4 People program. Our Handyman Heroes program is often requested and several projects have been completed this year.

Our HOL Team continues to astound me with their passion, dedication and their daily hard work. It is a pleasure to lead this Team. They show up each day ready to assist in whatever way they can. We work together, laugh together and sometimes we cry together.

Together we are building community and sharing hope.



HOL's sources of income



Grants Received



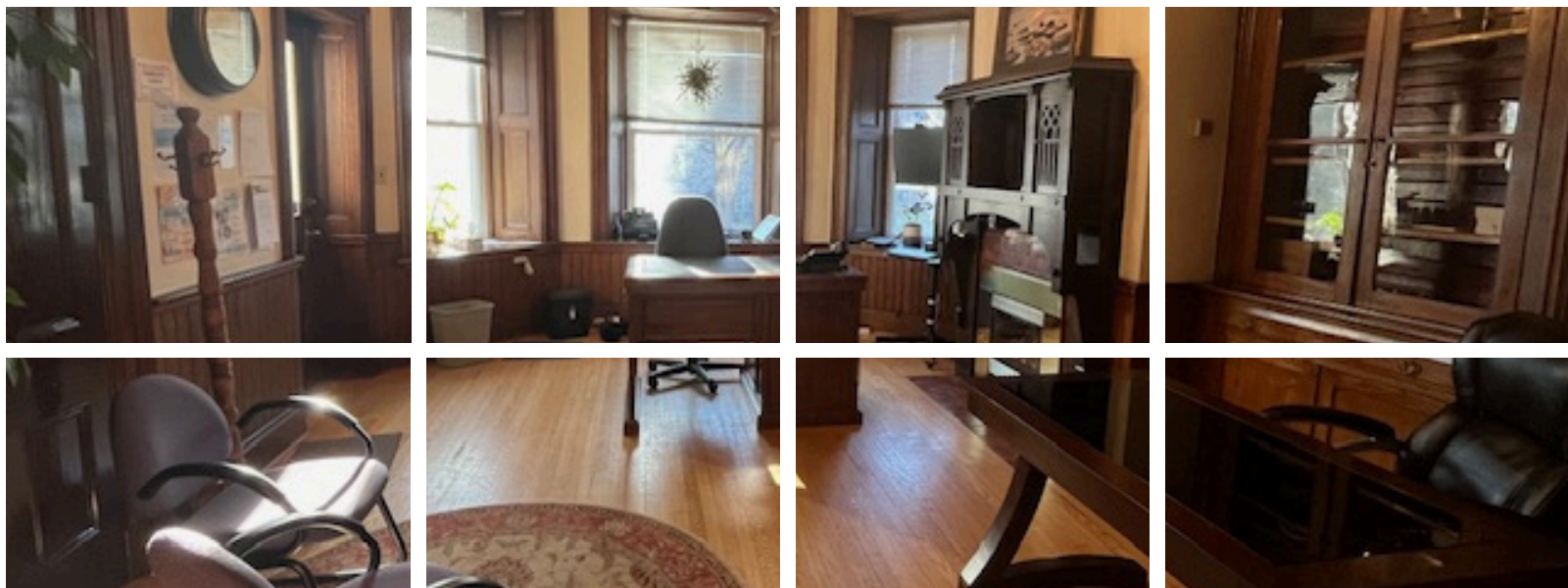
- United Way SDG: Last Resort Fund
- 100 Men Who Care South Dundas
- 100 Women Who Care North Dundas
- 100 Men Who Care North Grenville
- Food Banks Canada: After the Bell
- Township of North Dundas
- Gifts with Vision (UCC)
- Canada Summer Jobs
- EOORC: Getting Ahead Grant
- Mission & Support Grant UCC
- United Way SDG: Community Involvement Fund

Community Hub and Warming Centre

*22 High Street, Morrisburg Ontario
Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:00pm*

In the past year:

- **22** agencies offered information sessions, programs and services at the hub
- **6** community groups used the hub
- **695** people accessed services
- **38** people accessed the Warming Centre in which we have successfully housed **13** individuals
- **168** visits to the warming Centre
- **1408** visits to the hub
- **50** gas cards were handed out



Fashion Show Fundraiser

Volunteer Gail McCooeye organized a very successful and fun tea and fashion show fundraising event on April 7, 2024 which raised over **\$10,000** for The Community Hub and Warming Centre. Scotiabank matched up to \$3000.00 of funds raised and the Legion Branch #48 in Morrisburg donated the venue. Entertainment featured some of the communities most recognizable men modeling apparel!

Fundraising Highlights

1 Ladies Night Out

We are so thankful to the sponsors, silent auction donors, attendees, vendors, fashion show participants, ukulele players, staff and volunteers for raising **\$9600!**



2 Purses with a Purpose *With a Twist*

We are so humbled by the turn out and the generosity we experienced at our 2024 Purses with a Purpose: with a Twist Event! This year you helped us raise **\$27,000!** We are so thankful to Lisa Williams at **Main Street Clothing Company** for the passion and work you put into this event with us. We were honoured to have Peter Ross from **Peter Ross Auction Services Ltd.** who donated his time to help.



3 Fill the Bus

We filled the bus with 160 pounds of food and **\$840.15** was raised which was generously matched by Rilla Seward-McShane of Coldwell Banker Coburn Realty making the funds an amazing **\$1680.30!**



Fundraising Highlights

4 Summer Auction

Peter and Helen Ross and the staff of Peter Ross Auction Services Ltd donate their time for our annual summer auction, which was another great success!

Over \$11500 was raised!



Kemptonville Hub

Opened June 2024



The Kemptonville Hub was opened in partnership with the St. John's United Church located at 400 Prescott St. in downtown Kemptonville. We are open every Tuesday from 9:00am – 4:00pm to serve the communities many needs such as housing insecurity, food insecurity, and navigating services.

Since opening the doors in June of 2024, we have had:

12 unhoused individuals access the Kemptonville Hub.

6 agencies/services offered out of the Kemptonville Hub.

Over **20** youth participate in community kitchen.

30 income tax returns completed

House of Lazarus Community Programs

FOOD PROGRAMS

**2 FOOD BANKS
GREEN FOOD BOX PROGRAM
WEEKLY COMMUNITY MEALS
OPERATION BACKPACK
SENIOR FOOD PACKS
COMMUNITY KITCHENS: YOUTH & ADULT
LUNCH & LEARN**

HOUSING PROGRAMS

**PLACES FOR PEOPLE
WARMING CENTRE
LAST RESORT FUNDING
HOPE BAGS
HANDYMAN HEROES
FIREWOOD PROGRAM**

WELL BEING PROGRAMS

**HEALING PATHWAYS
ADVOCACY
COMMUNITY HUBS
GETTING AHEAD
CVITP INCOME TAX
NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS**

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

**FURNITURE BANK
BACK TO WORK PROGRAM
MEDICAL SUPPLIES
CLOTHING GIFT CARDS
STARTING OVER PROGRAM**

*Building
Community
and
Impacting
Lives*

Collective Impact

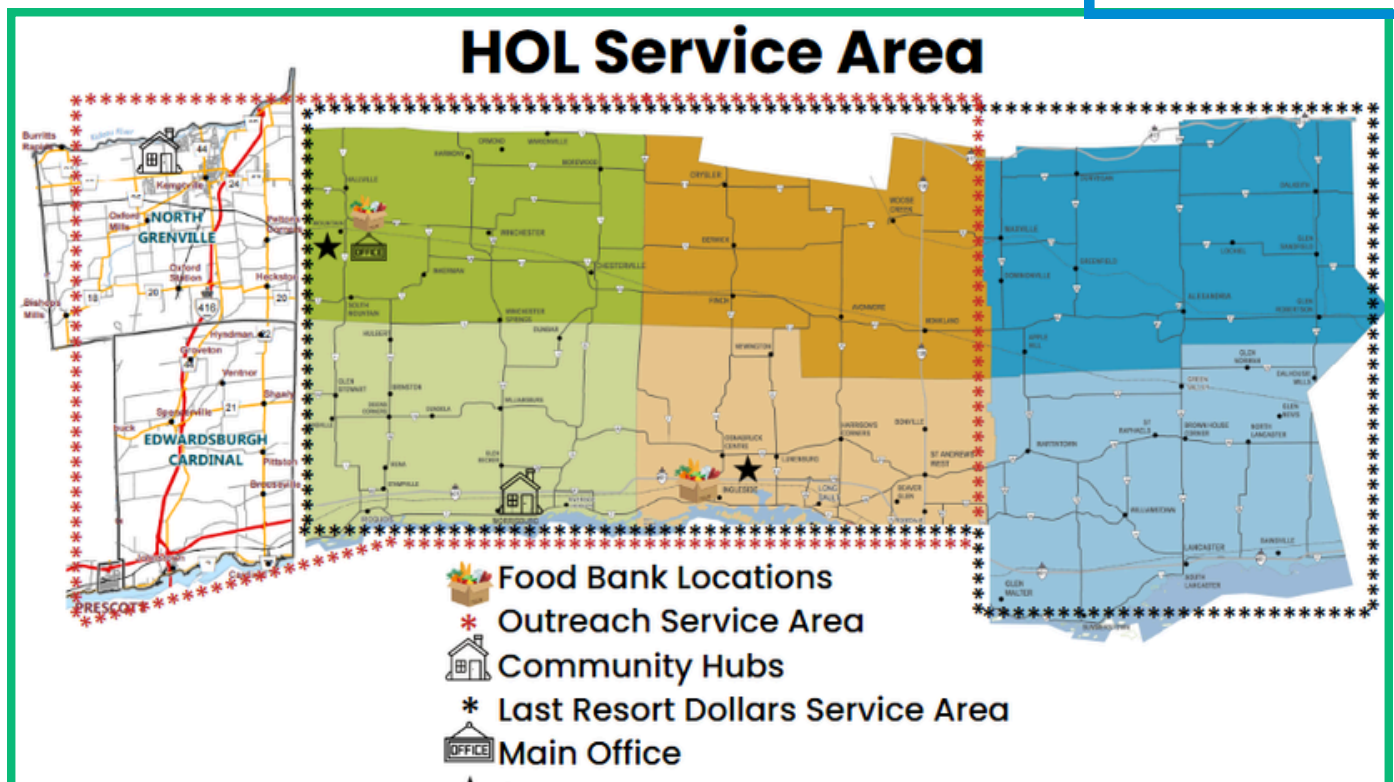
**Our collective
impact is providing
assistance
3500 times a month.**



Food Bank: 225
 Birthday Club: 6
 Drop-in Breakfast: 101
 Drop-in Lunch: 26
 Dinner on the House: 510
 Friendship Lunch: 200
 Senior Snacks+: 117
 Green Food Box: 47
 Cooking Programs: 31
 Operation Backpack: 1123
 Lunch and Learn: 36

Community Hub and Warming Centre: 102
 Outreach: Over \$6000 in outreach through our stores
 Last Resort Dollars: 34
 Phone Calls: 868
 Kemptville Hub: 34
 Window Kits: 16
 Neighbours Helping Neighbours: 10
 Handman Heroes: 2

Stats from the month of October 2024



Collaboration is the Key to our Success

HOUSE OF LAZARUS COMMITTEES

- Linking Hands
- Dundas County Housing Initiative Committee

COMMITTEES HOUSE OF LAZARUS PARTICIPATES IN

- Regional Emergency Strategic Response Council
- Housing and Homelessness Committee
- Vibrant Community Poverty Working Group
- North Grenville Community Forum
- Shalom Small Homes Kemptville
- North Dundas Faith Leaders
- Feed Ontario Advocacy Committee
- Compassionate Care North Grenville
- VAN
- Healing Pathways
- Friendship Lunch Committee

United Way Community Impact Award

There are so many great, caring, and wonderful organizations in our communities, but we believe there is only one that it must be a requirement to have a set of wings to work there. They are so connected, so empathetic, so humane, that they pull off miracles for the individuals who turn to them for help.

Just recently, they weren't turned off by a \$6,500 bill that could have led to a loss of power and even maybe eviction for a single mom of 4 kids. Regardless of the lack of funding for the Last Resort program, they called on the LEAP program, on the church, on HPP, and with some creative accounting helped the family get that bill back to zero, catch their breath and start over.

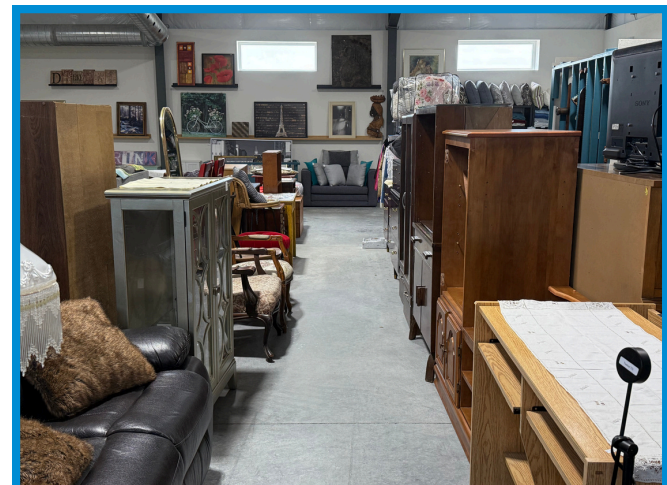
In the wise words of one of my staff, this organization is a powerhouse when it comes to social justice. Servicing a severely underserved population in the counties, they also work incredibly hard to ensure that resources located in Cornwall take time to work across the ENTIRE region and actually service their rural clients.

At any of their locations, the atmosphere is welcoming and clients experience relief as they walk through the doors. The staff and volunteers are kind and compassionate, greeting clients at the door and ensuring they have what they need. Their services are webbed, making it easy for a client to be connected to relevant services. We believe strongly in the work they do and are impressed with the quality of their impact (because it's not just about the number of households serviced), and for that reason, it is an honour, to give this year's 2025 Community Impact Award to the team from House of Lazarus.

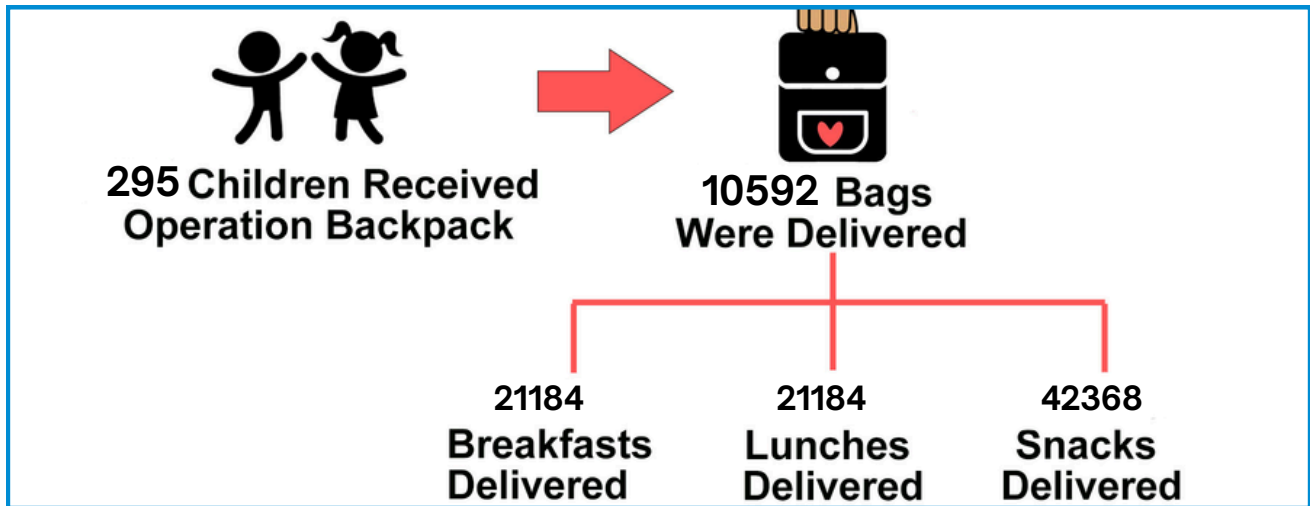
New Build



This year we had the challenge of really building a new food bank, food bank warehouse and furniture store. John and Tyler Koenjer from Watko led the build as general contractors. Both John and Tyler walked us through the process and took the time to explain and answer our questions. Neal's Heating Cooling and Refrigeration, Plumber Mate, Complete Custom Interiors, Thompson Electric, and Tim Brown Refrigeration all contributed their talents to the build. We are proud of the finished project. Watch for an open house in the Fall.



Food Programs



We fed over **825** people through our food banks. An increase of **18%** over last year. Visits to the foodbanks increased **30%** over last year.

We started a senior meal program in partnership with Carefor and JW McIntosh Senior Support Centre. We provided **667** packs of food since August.

We provided over **8000** community meals. Each week we provide breakfasts, a supper and lunches.



We now offer cooking classes in Kempville, Morrisburg and Winchester.

An outstanding **111684** pounds of food was given out through our food bank last year.

CRA Volunteer Income Tax Program

This year's CRA Income Program has been the most successful and has had the most impact. Volunteers Gayle Hewton and Joy Piepjohn have completed over 460 income tax returns. This was the first year that they held income tax clinics. The clinics took place at the Kemptville Hub, Iroquois Iroma Senior's Apartment, Christ Church United in Chesterville. Winchester United Church and Morrisburg Hub. The total impact was over \$1.2 million dollars in refunds, tax credits and tax benefits to the people who participated in this program. Our community is thankful for the dedication of Gayle and Joy. What an impact they have made.

460 income tax returns completed

5 income tax clinics held

\$1.2 million in income tax refunds, tax credits and tax benefits to the people who participated.

Dear House of Lazarus Hub and your generous and caring staff members. I'm grateful for the support you people are giving me and my children. Thank you for standing by my side this difficult and challenging times we're going through. We went through a lot before getting in touch with the House of Lazarus but now we're doing great. I remember coming to Kemptville with nothing at all. We had no furniture, no bedding, clothing, food, and so many things to mention. Again I thank you for paying our rent. I really appreciate the House of Lazarus for accepting me and my children the way we are. You didn't mind about our status and our looks, you didn't mind our level of education do we have. I'm truly grateful I can't thank you enough. You have put a smile on our faces. You made a difference in our lives. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being our beacon of hope and source of help in our lives. May the almighty God continue to bless the House of Lazarus and its generous staff. I can't mention these lovely ladies one by one -you're really good and kind to all people and the entire community. I'm extremely grateful.

From CN

Volunteer

At the heart of our mission to build community and to share hope are the dedicated volunteers who give their time, energy, and compassion to the House of Lazarus food bank, programs and thrift stores. This year our volunteers continue to offer up generous hours, making a powerful impact across every aspect of our operations. In the Food Bank, volunteers sorted, packed, and distributed groceries to families facing food insecurity. With their help, we continue to ensure nutritious meals reached tables across our community. Whether lifting heavy boxes, driving to pick up or distribute food, or packing and dividing food donations our volunteer's brought dignity and hope to our visitors.

In HOL Programs, dedicated volunteers served meals, filled green food box orders, packed food for students and provided social interactions and in the Thrift Stores, volunteers played a key role in processing donations, organizing merchandise, and assisting customers. Their efforts generated crucial revenue that funds our programs. Every item sold helps us stretch our impact further, and none of that would be possible without our volunteer team.

Together, they form the backbone of our organization, enabling us to serve more people, more effectively, every single day.

To all our volunteers: Thank you! Your commitment inspires us and strengthens our community. We are deeply grateful for your service and look forward to continuing this vital work—together.



In 2024 we honoured the memory of the late Board of Directors, Pat, with the Pat Dobosz Volunteer Award. This award is presented to a volunteer for the knowledge, energy, experience, dedication and passion that they bring to House of Lazarus through volunteering. These are the traits that Pat brought to her volunteering.

The first recipient of the Pat Dobosz Award was Gayle Hewton.

“Gayle will carry you when you are unable to support yourself but as she is doing that, she is helping to build your muscles so that you will be able to move forward on your own legs. There is a” tough love” aspect to Gayle but it comes from a place of experience, heart and respect. She deeply believes in people’s ability to rise above their circumstances.”

Places for People

House of Lazarus now has 3 family subsidized units in Dundas County with the addition of a new house in partnership with 4 United Churches.

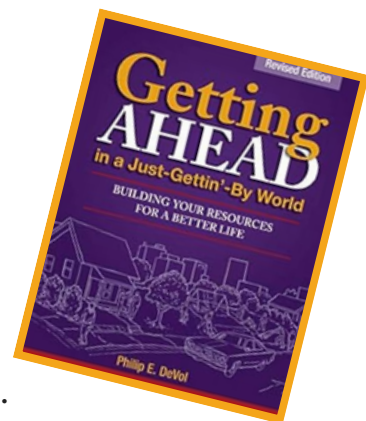
Since 2021 Places for People has housed 16 people; 4 families, consisting of 5 adults and 11 children, out of our families 1 family has moved onto home ownership.

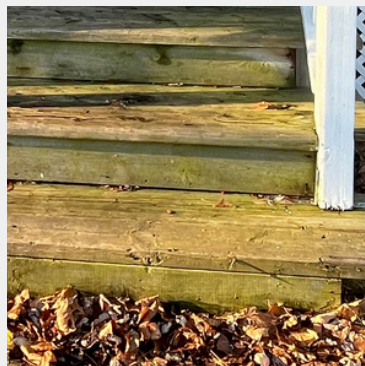
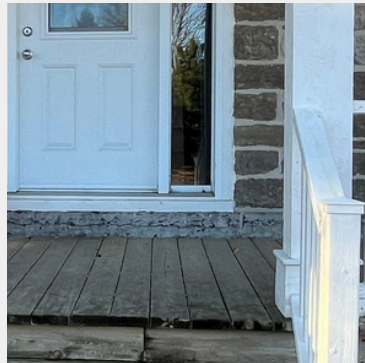
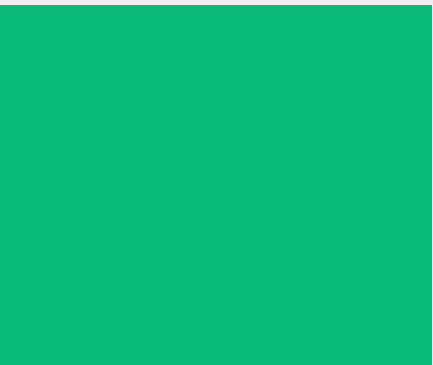


Getting Ahead

Getting Ahead is an incredible learning experience for individuals willing to participate and ready to create their own future story focused on getting out of poverty! It involves a small group “kitchen table” workshop that meets for 16 weekly sessions and learning to build more resources in their lives.


We completed our first session with a group in the Spring of 2024.





House of Lazarus

Building Community...Sharing Hope

 613-989-3830

 2245 Simms Street Mountain, ON K0E1S0

 hol.community