



2020

YEAR IN REVIEW

Prepared by
Brunswick Street Mission

INSPIRING HOPE & DIGNITY

The Brunswick Street Mission seeks to inspire a better quality of life through a ministry of care that addresses physical, emotional, practical and spiritual needs for those experiencing poverty.

At Brunswick Street Mission we serve people who struggle with poverty. Many are homeless, others are at risk of becoming homelessness. There are individuals, couples, and families with children. Some are employed while others are on assistance, and others receive disability or pension support. Their backgrounds are incredibly varied but not what they have in common: their present day is a struggle, and their future does not hold much promise.

We aim to address the primary concerns related to poverty and homelessness. Most of our programming is designed to alleviate the "symptoms" of poverty. We work with groups throughout the HRM to identify and address the root causes of poverty.

Brunswick Street Mission is committed, in all we do, to upholding our core values.

- **Welcoming** – We value being open and welcoming, providing a safe space for anyone seeking support.
- **Caring Attitude** – We value reaching out to those in need, offering support through our programming.
- **Dignity and Respect** – We value treating everyone with dignity and respect, the way we would all wish to be treated.
- **Affirming** – We value diversity and inclusion in all our programs, helping to improve the quality of life for people in need no matter what.
- **Collaboration** – We value relationships and partnerships with people and organizations to enable a strong synergy.



DON'T
GIVE UP

YOU ARE
NOT ALONE

YOU
MATTER

GREETINGS

COVID19 created challenges for us to overcome but the mission of Brunswick Street Mission is "to inspire a better quality of life through a ministry of care that addresses physical, emotional, practical and spiritual needs for those experiencing poverty". We not only accepted the challenge but adapted and continued throughout 2020.

As chair this year, I have been so grateful for our Executive Director, Sandra Nicholas, and her competent and caring staff. Through them, the Mission has been able to supply take-out meals, not only to its regular clientele but also to several pop-up shelters that arose due to the "distancing" measures necessary during the early stages of the pandemic. Thanks to staff members Sandy, Carmen, Jillian, Cassie, Wade and Darrin and a handful of loyal, hardworking volunteers the Mission was able to continue its food bank and clothing centre as well as its breakfast program while following COVID guidelines.

Our Board this year has been outstanding in its dedication to the Mission and its willingness to reflect and enact. The strategic plan of 2019 has been put in motion. The building is undergoing renovations that will help staff better provide services to those in need, including people with mobility issues. The Board's

new Advocacy Committee continues to delve into issues affecting people in HRM who are homeless and to advocate on their behalf. The Board, through its Advocacy Committee, is looking at ways to involve members of the community which it serves. All in all there is lots to do and everyone on the Board is working to make things happen.

It is with sadness that we bid adieu to Sandy, our Executive Director for 13 years. She is excited to begin a cross country "retirement" road trip just as soon as travel restrictions are lifted. We have been very fortunate to have her leadership in these past years and we thank her.

The next year looks to be both busy and exciting for Brunswick Street Mission - many changes but the same mission - to help those people struggling with poverty.

Heather Bagnell
Chair, BSM Board of Directors



2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Heather Bagnell - Chair

Wayne Marsh - Vice-Chair

Sandra Keefe - Treasurer

Ruth Bona - Secretary Bethany United Church

Norman Andrews - Rockingham United Church

Barbara Baker - Hope United Church

Margaret Casey - Director-at-large (for Advocacy)

Elaine Gunn - St. Andrew's United Church

Rick Gunn - Supervising Council, UCC

Joanne Hayman - Fort Massey United Church

Walter Hayward - Brunswick Street United Church

Susan MacQuarrie - Director-at-large (for Human Resources)

Shirley McInnes - St. Matthew's United Church

Ian Parker - Brunswick Street United Church

Jim Sharpe - St. John's United Church

Heather Star Williams - Brunswick Street United Church

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish - Ex-Officio

Sandra A. Nicholas - Ex-Officio



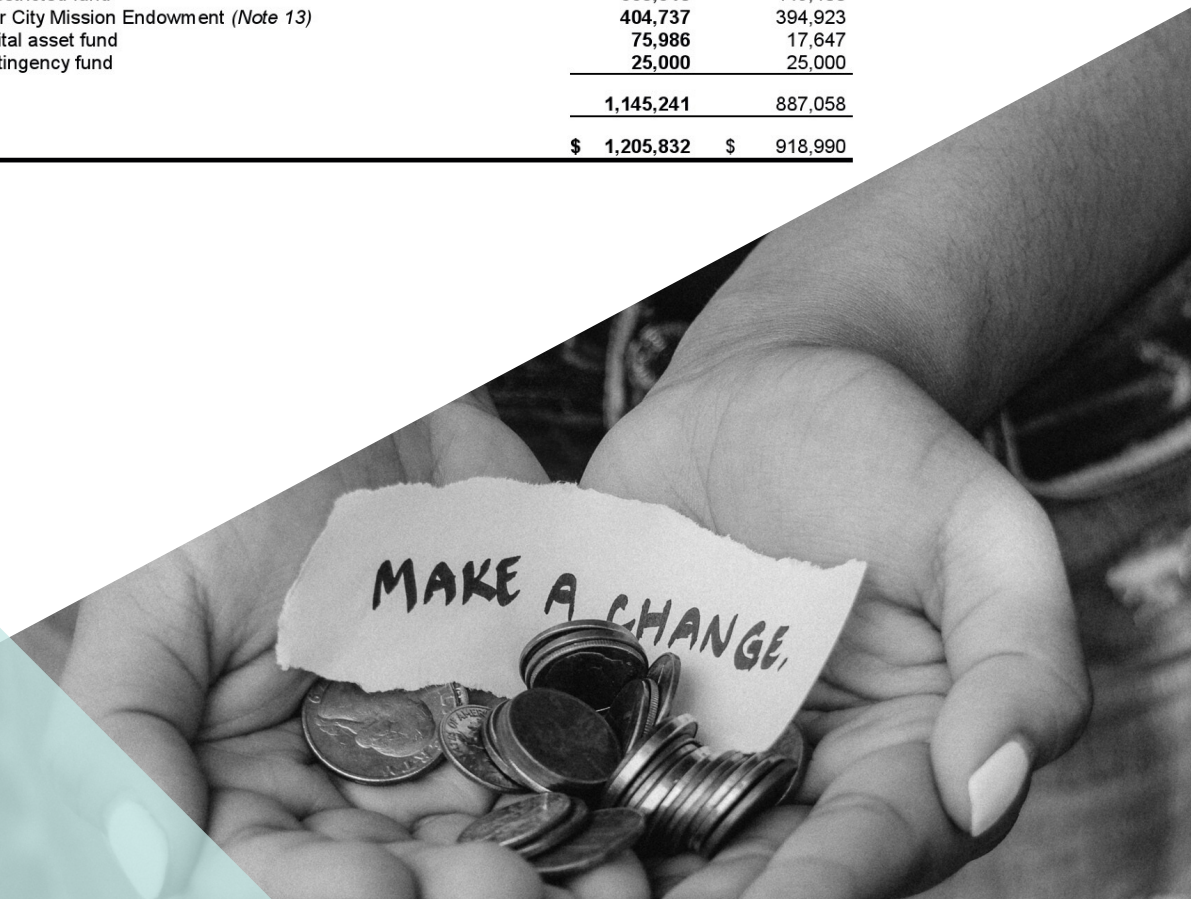
INCOME STATEMENT

THE BRUNSWICK STREET MISSION

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2020

	2020	(Restated) 2019
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	\$ 399,378	\$ 120,552
Marketable securities	159,901	353,987
Accounts receivable	941	9,450
HST recoverable	14,222	8,087
Prepaid expenses	1,045	1,045
	575,487	493,121
Capital assets (Net of accumulated amortization) (Note 5)	75,986	17,647
Restricted cash (Note 3)	10,402	10,399
Long term Investments	139,070	-
Cash held in trust (Note 9)	150	2,900
Inner City Mission investments (Note 13)	404,737	394,923
	\$ 1,205,832	\$ 918,990
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Accounts payable	\$ 43,941	\$ 20,032
Deferred receipts (Note 7)	16,500	9,000
	60,441	29,032
Mission trust liability (Note 9)	150	2,900
	60,591	31,932
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted fund	639,518	449,488
Inner City Mission Endowment (Note 13)	404,737	394,923
Capital asset fund	75,986	17,647
Contingency fund	25,000	25,000
	1,145,241	887,058
	\$ 1,205,832	\$ 918,990



BENEVOLENT PROGRAM

For over 20 years Agar has managed the Benevolent Program. It has evolved and adapted to the requests received but the general goal remained the same: supporting people with issues from one-time sizeable bills (utilities, rent, employment related expenses) as well as expenses related to leaving an abusive situations or dealing with an addiction.

In March both the Federal and Provincial Governments outlined various protection programs for renters and homeowners struggling to pay their monthly bills due to a loss of income because of COVID19. With those protections in place the Benevolent Program was phased out.

Between April and December a new program was created - the Outreach Program. It will expand the work that Agar has done within the community.

Agar has been a dedicated volunteer, running the Benevolent Program, giving his all to do everything he could for each of his referrals, including helping people find their passion. The contributions he made over the years were instrumental in developing the new Outreach Program and for that we thank him. We are honoured to have worked with him.

Agar shared, prior to the shut down, that he was looking at retiring. We are sad to see him go but wish him all the best in all future adventures.

Did you know?

The program was able to accept 14 referrals weekly prior to the shut-down.



BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The most important meal of the day - that's what breakfast has been referred to for decades. At Brunswick Street Mission we agree and offer a hot meal to anyone in need from Monday to Saturday, including holidays .

2020 brought some new challenges to the program but our volunteers and staff worked quickly to ensure that no one went without. We would like to thank Liam, who served as the Kitchen Coordinator for the start of the pandemic, and helped us adapt to the changes. We wish him well.

From a plexiglass serving door to take away containers we kept our door open and fed people throughout the year.

This year we served 15,828 meals. This is a small decrease from last year however, we know we served people with the greatest need a hot breakfast at the start of their day.

For the first three months we were able to work with volunteer groups on Saturday mornings and we would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to:

- Al-Rasoul Islamic Society
- Bell Aliant
- Bethany United Church
- Dalhousie Islamic Relief Society
- Nova Scotia Power
- Pax North Church
- St. Thomas/Canadian Martyrs Church

Thank you to our program funders:

CanadaHelps.org, EfficiencyOne, Food Bank Canada, Feed Nova Scotia, Flemming Charitable Foundation, Halifax Assistance Fund, Christina & Hedley G. Ivany Charitable Foundation, Telus Friendly Future Foundation, United Way Halifax, Walmart Canada



*Did you know?
We purchased 1,404 loaves of
bread for the Breakfast
program, with more donated
by Feed Nova Scotia*



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Christmas can be a hard time for many and COVID made it harder for people. Perhaps harder than we might truly understand.

We felt our Christmas Program was essential and, working with Feed Nova Scotia, were able to offer

- food hampers to provide a full holiday meal with all the trimmings
- children's gifts or gift cards for all registered families, and
- adult gift bags for both men and women

We were very thankful that the Fader family and their friends, Feed Nova Scotia and Scanway Catering were able to come together to help us prepare and serve a hot take-away Christmas lunch on December 24th. Together we served over 180 people.

We would also like to thank the Giacomantonio family and friends for joining us on Christmas morning. They donated all meal supplies, cooked and served breakfast to over two dozen guests.

Did you know?

We served 207 family households or 581 individuals.

We were also able to make sure 285 children had gifts this year.



CLOTHING CENTRE

Choosing between paying the heating bill or getting a new pair of pants, for you or your child, is not something many of us have to debate. If you are living in poverty this may be part of your daily struggle.

Our Clothing Centre has been in operation for over 50 years and it continues to support people with their clothing needs.

The pandemic didn't stop people from needing items so it became important to find a way to fill clothing requests while keeping everyone safe.

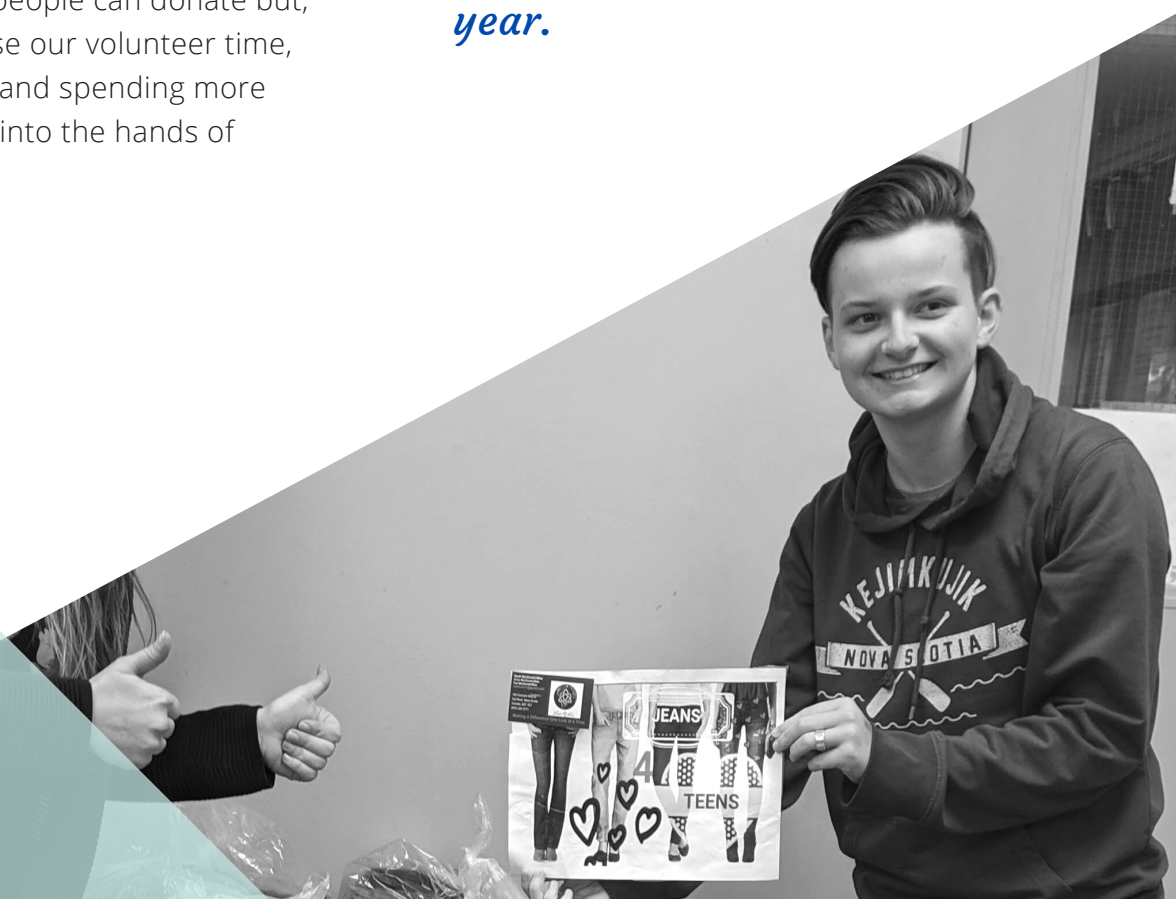
The acceptance of donations changed, moving to a list of items are clients needed, which is shared monthly. This allowed us, based on requests we were receiving, to share a list of items we were running low on. This does limit what people can donate but, allows us to better use our volunteer time, shorten sorting time and spending more time getting clothing into the hands of people in need.

We would like to thank all the donors who held on to their items while we are closed, who have been checking the Client Needs List online and who have donated when we have expressed a need.

If you have items you are thinking of donating please check our website or give us a call.

Did you know?

Winter jackets and boots are shared with people in need from September to March each year.



FOOD BANK

Empty cupboards? No money for a trip to the grocery store? Wondering what you have to send to school in your child's lunch box? These are disheartening questions but our Food Bank program can help.

While the Food Bank is not designed to provide clients with a month's worth of food, it is set up to offer food hampers that can help a households monthly budget go farther.

2020's COVID pandemic forced us to rethink how we manage the Food Bank program. Prior to the State of Emergency clients were asked to wait, for up to 2 hours, in our flex-program space. While this might have allowed clients more choice, it could be frustrating to spend the morning at the Mission.

The new format offers registered clients a time-frame for picking up their food hampers. Since April we have received compliments that the new format offers more dignity and requires less time of each client, while offering great food options.

We are proud to be a food bank member, one of a 140 food bank network supported by Feed Nova Scotia.



*Did you know?
We served 669 households
(2,253 individuals) in 2020.
That is an increase from 2019
of almost 300 people.*



OUTREACH PROGRAM

Being launched in late 2020 the Outreach Program is a collection of sub-programs to provide various interventions to community members struggling with low income.

It is our aim, in keeping with our value of Transparency, to evolve the Outreach Program into one that responds to our community's genuine needs. To this end we will be evaluating our practice and adjusting as needed.

We were lucky to find an Outreach Coordinator dedicated to creating a program to support as many people as possible. The Outreach Coordinator is anti-racist, trans-friendly, and belongs to the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

Each Sub-Program has a different goal but together they work together to use what we have, where we can, to impact our community for the better.

Pandemic Recovery seeks to understand the larger context of a person's life, and the barriers that might be preventing re-employment and offering a range of interventions to eligible clients.

Employment Related Supplies offers work boots to those in need as well as covering the cost of a criminal record checks and assessing the need for other PPE.

Financial Support considers one-time emergency support payments.

ID Supports can provide support in acquiring, renewing or replacing MSI cards, NS ID cards or changing gender markers.

One-to-one Advocacy offers the support of another voice.

Thank you to our program funders:
Black Family Foundation, CanadaHelps.org, Flemming Charitable Foundation, Sister of Charity Halifax, Halifax Assistance Fund, Halifax Youth, UCC Seeds of Hope

Did you know?

It is often a series of crises that lead people into chronic poverty or homelessness.



TAX RETURN PROGRAM

If you are someone who depends on receiving benefits like GST rebates, Child Tax Credits or Social Assistance to make ends meet, getting your tax returns completed each year is essential.

Our Tax Return Program is a year-round program, offered to people living within the low-income threshold, ensuring they qualify for those government rebates and credits.

Thanks to dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers, client taxes are filed throughout the year. We also host an annual tax clinic, which in 2020 was held during the first 2 weeks of March 2020, prior to the State of Emergency announcement.

The Government announced tax filing extensions which allowed us to suspend the program until September of 2020.

Did you know?

Our knowledgeable volunteers filed almost 900 tax returns during 2020.



TRUSTEESHIP PROGRAM

The Trusteeship Program supports people with on-going financial management assistance. The program allows people, who have a challenge to maintain the balance between their income and expenses, to work with a Trustee who helps manage their monthly income.

The Trustee Coordinator works with local case workers and their clients. Each month Income Assistance payments are received by the Trustee Coordinator, the clients bills (rent, utilities) are paid and the remaining portion of the Income Assistance is provided to the individual, for other living expenses.

104 clients were supported by the Trusteeship Program.

2,049 cheques were printed for rent and utilities. Payments to NS Power and larger landlords are combined on one monthly cheque.

*Did you know?
Without the support of the
Trusteeship Program, clients
could face eviction and
homelessness.*



COVID-19

2020 brought challenges to our world that none of us were prepared for. Charities and businesses alike worked hard and fast to adapt to new health restrictions, a shut-down and what an essential service was.

Brunswick Street Mission moved quickly, and while some programs were suspended, other programs were modified to ensure that people in need were not forgotten.

Additionally, we partnered with local shelters, who help the most vulnerable members of our society, to help with their struggling with resource shortages. The idea was simple; we received food deliveries, our volunteers cooked in a lower-risk environment and then delivered those meals to the shelters and it was done seven days a week.

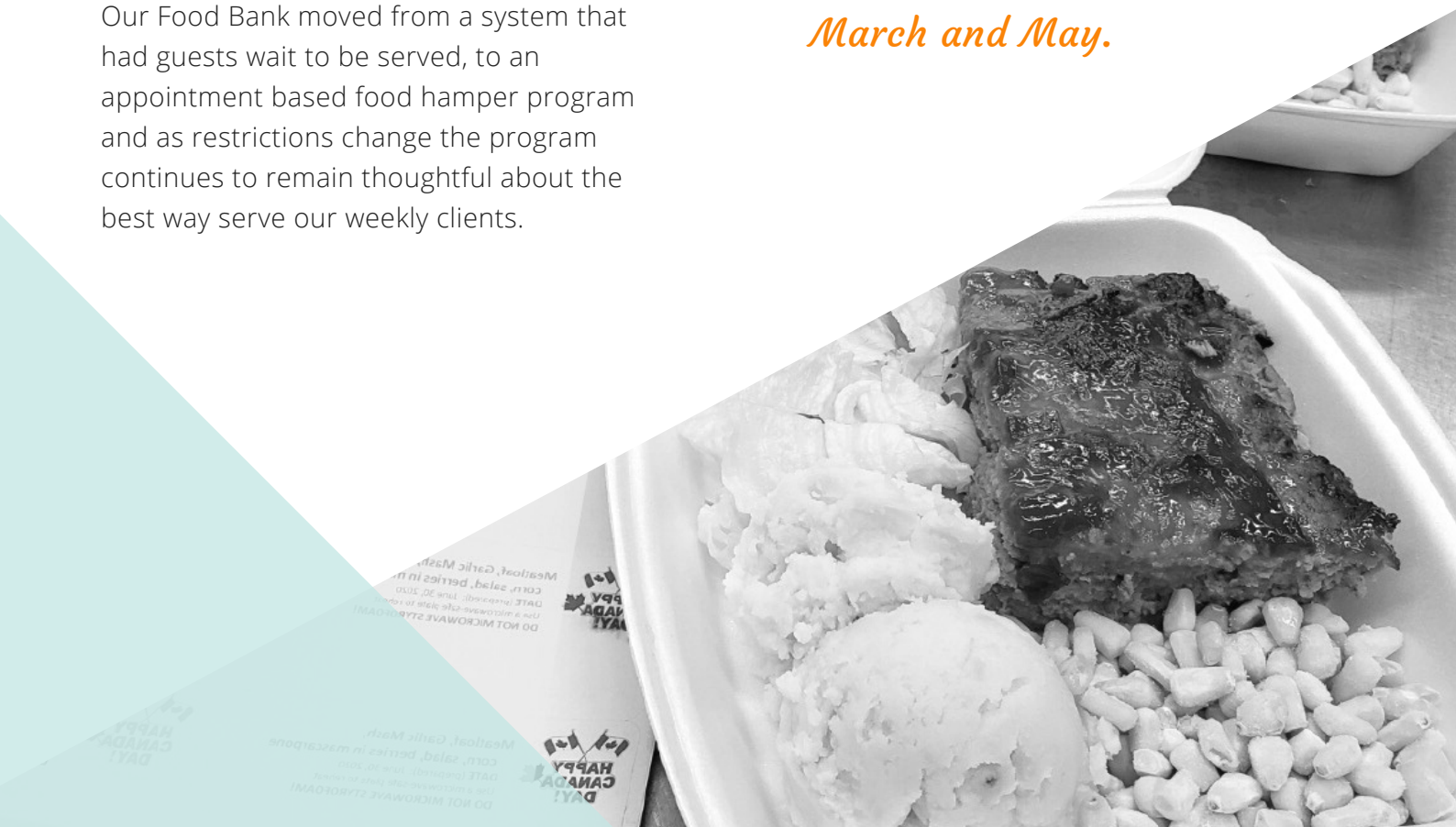
Our Food Bank moved from a system that had guests wait to be served, to an appointment based food hamper program and as restrictions change the program continues to remain thoughtful about the best way serve our weekly clients.

The Clothing Bank, and in-person "shopping" was closed but the Clothing Centre opened to allow for requests, either over the phone or in person.

The Breakfast Program moved to take-out containers, ensuring everyone was able to start each morning with a hot meal.

The Tax Return program was suspended but reopened in September, offering filing services by appointment.

*Did you know?
Working with several local shelters our kitchen volunteers prepared over 350 meals daily (19,000 meals) between March and May.*



ADVOCACY

It has been two years since the Board of Directors formed an Advocacy Committee, a team tasked to work toward the strategic goal of giving a voice to the people Brunswick Street Mission serves. The team spent a majority of the past year looking at the issues of poverty and determined that homelessness, a growing issue in Halifax, would be where the committee would lend its voice. One of the tasks undertaken, and to educate members on the issue of homelessness, Linda Wilson, from Shelter Nova Scotia, provided us with a presentation.

To assist the Advocacy Committee a volunteer sub-committee was created and included community members. The goal of the sub-committee is to increase the Board's understanding of those living within the HRM and dealing with poverty. There are currently three community members involved, who will continue to support the Advocacy Committee.

When the Committee began to speak out about homelessness we met with HRM Councillors Wayne Mason and Lindell Smith to discuss the issue as well as wrote a letter to the Honourable Chuck Porter, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, strongly urging the use of vacant hotel rooms as emergency interim housing for people experiencing homelessness. The Committee had an opportunity to speak to the media about our message.

Moving forward the Committee will be looking at how we can better collaborate with community member organizations and together how we might best serve people struggling with homelessness within the HRM.

Margaret Casey
Advocacy Chair, Board of Directors



RENOVATIONS

Brunswick Street Mission began work on improvements to the interior of the building in 2020. The goal is to create a welcoming, warm and safe space to better serve people struggling with poverty, people who look to us for support.

To reach our goal we knew we needed to put a majority of our programs on the main floor, improve the general layout of the space, improve accessibility as well as to provide accessible washrooms and laundry facilities.

Once COVID restrictions have been lifted and we are able to fully reopen our space we expect to showcase the new features of each program as well as the accessibility and ease which each program can be used. We will also begin to look at new programs that can utilize the space and support even more people within the community.

Creating our warm and welcome space was made possible with the generous financial support of:

- Halifax Regional Municipality
- Hunter Foundation
- Nova Scotia Communities, Culture & Heritage
- Province of Nova Scotia Department of Community Services
- UCC Innovation Fund
- UCC Seeds of Hope

Did you know?

We want to welcome our guests and clients into our living room, not the basement and we believe the renovations will do just that.



VOLUNTEERS

2020 saw many charities, including Brunswick Street Mission, become concerned about retaining and recruiting volunteers during the pandemic.

We are so thankful for the volunteers who were able to stay. We wish the very best for any volunteers needing to stay home to look after themselves or other family members.

We were grateful when so many new volunteers answered our call for help, stepped up, jumped in and made sure we were able to keep our programs up and running.

From all the younger volunteers who joined us, to our regulars and the restaurant staff looking for something to do during the shutdown, we are thankful and appreciate every socially distanced minute.

From the volunteers preparing, cooking and serving breakfast and shelter meals to those who build and serve food hampers, fill clothing requests, file tax returns and answer questions when donors and clients phone or arrive at our door - **THANK YOU!**

Did you know?

Our volunteers donate hours of their time, some severals days each week, for months and years at a time. This is an incredible gift by each.



PARTNERS

It was essential that Brunswick Street Mission continue throughout the pandemic. We could not have done this without the support of our community partners and we would like to thank:

Baton Rouge, Ben's Bakery Outlet, D&J's Bakery & Cafe, Efficiency Nova Scotia, Freeman's Pizza, Halifax Distilling, Nova Scotia Power, RCR Hospitality Group and Scanway Catering

Additional support throughout the pandemic was offered by:

Bell Media (CTV News Atlantic, 101.3 Virgin Radio, Move 100), Global Halifax and Sherzad's Tailoring Shop

Some of the other wonderful community partners included:

East Coast Living, Halifax West High School, Stor-It Systems Ltd. and Raising the Roof, a campaign that provided toques and masks for sale with 50% of proceeds from local and online sales supporting our programs and services.

Each year the **Coats for Kids** campaign assists Brunswick Street Mission by collecting winter coats for us to hand out to people in need. We would like to thank:

FX 101.9, Maritime Fuels, Atlantic Fabrics, Canadian Tire, Olympic Laundromat & Dry Cleaners and O'Reagan's.

Our individual donors are incredible and we thank each and every one for supporting our programs. We would like to thank the following organizations for financial support:

Black Family Foundation, EfficiencyOne, Flemming Foundation, Food Banks Canada, Halifax Assistance Fund, Halifax Youth Foundation, Ivany Charitable Foundation, Sister of Charity Halifax, Telus, United Way of Halifax and Walmart Canada.



MISSION BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

What a year! What an October! What an event! Thank you to everyone who joined us for our 14th Annual Mission Breakfast, our 1st virtual event. Together, from our homes, and with special guest, Canadian Ron James, over \$41,000 was raised to support our programs.

October's event was held on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. We hope that, while sitting with your family or friends, you took the opportunity to start talking about poverty, how COVID has begun to affect people in ways they were not prepared for, how we can work together to address it, and what roles we can play in supporting people struggling at this very challenging time.

This year, in addition to our headliner, Ron James, we had an opportunity to hear from one of Brunswick Street Mission's clients, Leonard. We were so honoured that he took the time to share his story.

We would also like to thank Mayor Savage, Premier McNeil and our sponsors for each sharing a special message of hope and thanks at the event.



Wealth Management
Dominion Securities





CONTACT US

Brunswick Street Mission
2107 Brunswick Street
Halifax NS B3K 2Y4
t: 902-423-4605
e: bsm1@eastlink.ca



@BSM.inspire



@BSMHalifax



Brunswick Street Mission



Brunswick_street_mission



Brunswick Street Mission

