

Meet Derek



Our new Executive Director, Derek, is a passionate defender of social justice issues and has spent the past couple decades working in social services agencies, ranging from homeless shelters in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver to food security agencies on both coasts of Canada. He has a love for working the front line and always has a smile when talking to service recipients.

Derek is happiest when he gets to roll up his sleeves and work alongside staff to get the work done:

"Having spent just over a month at the Mission observing and learning about the important work that happens in our community, I am excited to be writing this message. It has been a pleasure getting to know and work with the dedicated Mission team. I am impressed and hopeful for what is to come.

The current circuit breaker has forced us to examine how we provide essential services and what they actually are. The last year has taught us to be nimble, and despite the challenges we can be proud. We have continued our food support programs without interruption. We have evaluated our outreach program and have been quick to respond to the community despite significant pandemic curveballs. I am inspired to see Outreach use an innovative and trauma informed approach.

As restrictions lift, I look forward to seeing how our strategic goals interplay with the "new normal." And, as we near completion of our renovations, the team will be working on our grand reopening, a chance to connect in person, something long overdue."

To learn more about Derek check out the **Learn About Derek** video on our Facebook page.

Goodbye Sandra (Sandy)

I met Sandy, 13 years ago, during her first weeks as Executive Director of Brunswick Street Mission (BSM). I first met her as a member of Brunswick Street United Church (BSUC) and a donor to the Mission's Breakfast Program.

During the second half of Sandy's time at BSM my interactions with her increased tremendously. I joined the Board of Directors, moving from a BSUC Board representative and then as Chair of the Board. During that time I grew to value Sandy's support of the Board and its work on behalf of the Mission even more. She provided very helpful and insightful guidance to both me as Chair and to Board members throughout her tenure and as she assisted with the development of BSM's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan.

As I was finishing my term as Chair, the Covid-pandemic was just beginning and I salute Sandy for her leadership and vision as she spearheaded the Mission's plan to step up and help more people living with poverty in inner-city Halifax.

Thank you Sandy - **Grace**

The Board, staff and volunteers of Brunswick Street Mission wish Sandra all the best in her retirement. We know her exploring heart will take her to wonderful new places and we can't wait to hear stories and see photos when she returns home each year.

Sandra (Sandy) you will be missed, thank you for your insight, strength, laughter and leadership.



CONTACT US

2107 Brunswick Street

Halifax NS B3K 2Y4

t: 902-423-4605


f: 902-423-4838

e: bsm1@eastlink.ca

 @BSM.inspire

 @BSMHalifax

 Brunswick Street Mission

 Brunswick_street_mission

 Brunswick Street Mission

Brunswick Street Mission



Summer 2021 Newsletter

15th Annual Mission Breakfast Fundraiser

Save the Date: Thursday, October 21st, 2021

This year's event will be another first for Brunswick Street Mission. We will be offering a hybrid event. What does that mean? A hybrid event will allow a small number of people to gather at Pier 21 and those still more comfortable with a virtual event can join us from the safety and comfort of their own home.

Location: Pier 21 or your couch
Time: Doors open at 730am. Show begins at 9am
Tickets: \$125/seat
Keynote Speaker: Orlando Bowen

Orlando Bowen was a linebacker in the CFL from 2000-2004. His mission is to make a difference in the lives of others by motivating people to take action. His heart for people and his desire to see companies reach their fullest potential has made him an influential entrepreneur and an inspirational innovator in the business community.

A message from Orlando: "WOW! Brunswick Street Mission is powerfully aligned with my heart and the 'spirit of their work' is connected to the reason we take young people into the community to serve, by feeding those in need and building homes for those without.

Please allow me to say this . . . by virtue of the way they show up for those they serve . . . they are the light, the possibilities and the hope for a better tomorrow . . . Do what you can, with what you have, where you can, and encourage others to do the same."

Watch for the start of ticket sales and read Orlando's full message on our website.



Outreach Program

Our new Outreach Program began in late 2020. With various different supports for people living within the low-income threshold our Outreach Coordinator has been busy working with community members. The supports offered include:

Pandemic Recovery

A program to help people overcome barriers and re-enter the workforce. Offering a range of interventions to eligible clients including:

- supportive counselling
- referrals to community employment-readiness programs
- assistance in paying arrears due to the COVID19 Pandemic
- covering costs of employment-related transportation, childcare and supplies
- assistance with training related costs

Employment Support

A program to support people who have secured employment but need a little additional support.

- Personal Protection Equipment
- Criminal Records Check

Financial Support

We know that it is often a series of crises that lead people into chronic poverty or homelessness. This program considers one-time emergency support payments, provided directly to the vendor.

ID Supports

Identification is a requirement for many services and we recognize the difficulties in acquiring or replacing ID cards. While our capacity in this particular area is limited, we can provide support in acquiring, renewing or replacing MSI cards, NS ID cards or changing gender markers. Support to acquire other forms of ID will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

One-to-One Advocacy

It can be challenging to defend your rights or ensure your needs are being met. Sometimes it can be helpful to add the support of another voice. Our Outreach Coordinator is nonjudgmental, client-directed, and solution-focused which means they will listen to your story, clarify the outcome(s) you want/need, share information on possible ways to get there and advocate on your behalf.

A Helping Hand

We are excited to launch a new campaign, supporting Brunswick Street Mission, Raising the Roof and, most importantly, the guests and clients of Brunswick Street Mission.

You can get involved in *A Helping Hand* by making a donation of \$25. In recognition of your donation you will receive a tax receipt and, in your honour, we will give a hat or mask to someone in need.

Our guests can struggle with the resources necessary to purchase a reusable mask or a hat to protect them from the sun so thank you for getting involved.



You can make your donation online by visiting our Community Events page or by mailing a cheque to our office, noting A Helping Hand in the memo line.



Participant Survey

Renovations are almost complete. We hope to be able to open our doors to guests again soon and with that in mind, we are undertaking a program participant survey to look at what services we are offering and what might be needed. This will be especially important when we open our doors and launch our Drop-In Program.

We will be looking at dietary options for the food bank and special monthly programming such as tax filing, single parent support and more for the Drop-In Program.

This survey will inform us about what the community needs from us. From the answers we receive we will be able to look at our resources and see how we can continue to adapt our programs to support those struggling with poverty.

Easter Lunch

Easter Monday lunch, with the help of Scanway Catering, our students, volunteers and staff, became the first holiday meal we were able to offer the community this year.

Lunch consisted of turkey (Halal as an option), scallop potatoes, veggies, stuffing and gravy. To top it all off Scanway prepared their amazing carrot cake for dessert.

Everything was packaged and offered to all our guests from our front door.

We would like to thank Move 100 for sharing information about the free afternoon meal service.



Thank you Volunteers

"A bee, in their lifetime, makes only 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey. The most remarkable thing isn't that she does the work, it's that she doesn't do it for herself" - Marianne Gee. The bee doesn't benefit from the honey but still, they make it to allow others to thrive. Those bees for us are our incredible volunteers who have given their time, talent and energy throughout the years.

Thanks to our volunteers, who continue to help with our breakfast program, food bank and clothing centre and to our service navigators and Board members. Every moment you share with us is an immeasurably valuable gift!

We have not thanked you enough, and want to let you know that your dedication is essential to the work that we do. We cannot do it without you. We would not want to do it without you. You bring ideas, positive energy and a beautiful intensity.

