



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



# INSPIRING HOPE AND DIGNITY

## OUR MISSION

To inspire a better quality of life through a ministry of care that addresses physical emotional, practical, and spiritual needs for those experiencing poverty.

## OUR VALUES

- Being open and welcoming
- Reaching out with care to those in need
- Treating everyone with dignity and respect
- Ensuring diversity and inclusion in all our programs
- Building relationships with people and organizations to enable a strong synergy
- Being accountable for all our actions
- Ensuring transparency and open communications in all we do



# DIRECTORS WHO SERVED IN 2022

## DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Wayne Marsh: Chair  
Sundari Pashupathinathan: Vice-Chair, HR Chair, Governance Chair  
Normand Gendron: Treasurer  
Rick Gunn: Secretary & Supervising Council, UCC  
Margaret Casey: Advocacy Chair

## REPRESENTATIVES

Ruth Bona: Secretary, Bethany UC  
Ian Parker & Heather Star Williams: Brunswick Street UC  
Joanne Hayman: Fort Massey UC  
Barbara Barker: Vice-Chair, Hope UC  
Sohani Welcher: Hope UC  
Elaine Gunn: St. Andrew's UC  
Jim Sharpe: HR Chair, St. John's UC  
Shirley McInnes & Leonard Preyra: St. Matthew's UC  
Norm Andrews: Rockingham UC, Interim Treasurer, Investment Committee Chair  
Ann Collinson: Rockingham UC

## EX-OFFICIO

DEREK PACE, BSM Executive Director  
Rev. Faith March-MacCuish



# CH-CH-CHANGES

**Well, what a difference a year makes.**

This message is written by an Executive Director whose tenure began at the end of March 2023, after Brunswick Street Mission had functioned without a leader for six months (and lost a bookkeeper, controller and trustee program coordinator). Thankfully, everyone pulled together to fill the gaps – and rather well, I would say! Our services continued to function and many hundreds were supported, thanks to our wonderful staff, volunteers, and Board who all stepped up.

Myriad changes to BSM's operations occurred last year, with difficult decisions made in a changing environment – always with the well-being of clients at the center of any considerations. We scaled up services over the spring and summer, with a temporary shelter hosting men and women on-site. We also scaled back in some ways, with the trustee program and clothing depot services left to other providers to take forward.

On the upside, positive changes came in the form of new additions to the BSM team in 2022. A full-time Volunteer Coordinator (Arman) and a part-time Food Bank Staffer (Mike) helped other staff breathe a little easier, with new colleagues and an

increased volunteer workforce. Fund Development Director (Matt) joined us – breathing fresh life into fundraising. Natalie became our Breakfast Program Coordinator, bringing hot, nutritious meals to folks in the mornings. Cassie's role expanded her hours and responsibilities to full-time Program and Outreach Coordinator. Going into 2023, we have also benefitted from the support of an Outreach Worker (Kat) who has helped the Outreach Program work even more effectively with our clients, especially the folks who engage in our breakfast program, who now regularly sit with her in the mornings. Wade, our Custodian, remains a longstanding stalwart, and an excellent source of historical information.

It is hard for me to look back rather than forward in writing this. However, I am grateful to our past Executive Director Derek's work and achievements in 2022 – and appreciate what a great staff team he put together. I see I have some big shoes to fill!

I look forward to working with my new colleagues to take Brunswick Street Mission forward in 2023.

Lisa Harrison, Executive Director



# INCOME STATEMENT

## BRUNSWICK STREET MISSION

Statement of Operations | December 31, 2022

	2022	2021
<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations	\$ 398,953	\$ 297,994
Grants and other	117,908	36,119
Fundraising	52,721	33,228
Community Services trusteeship fees	36,000	36,000
Division of Mission in Canada Trusts	35,000	40,000
Building renovation grants	22,831	10,600
Building rental and parking	14,713	5,800
	<b>678,126</b>	<b>459,741</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Amortization	29,942	16,197
Building occupancy (Note 10)	47,583	38,047
Fundraising	38,407	22,116
Office and administrative	40,657	28,746
Professional fees	6,515	6,192
Program	142,087	77,452
Salaries and wages	360,934	351,493
Telephone	8,230	6,344
	<b>674,055</b>	<b>547,587</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over expenditures from operations</b>	<b>4,071</b>	<b>(87,846)</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Dividends and interest	23,254	18,439
Realized and unrealized gains on unrestricted marketable securities	(39,129)	10,801
	<b>(15,875)</b>	<b>29,240</b>
<b>Deficiency of receipts over expenses</b>	<b>(11,804)</b>	<b>(58,606)</b>





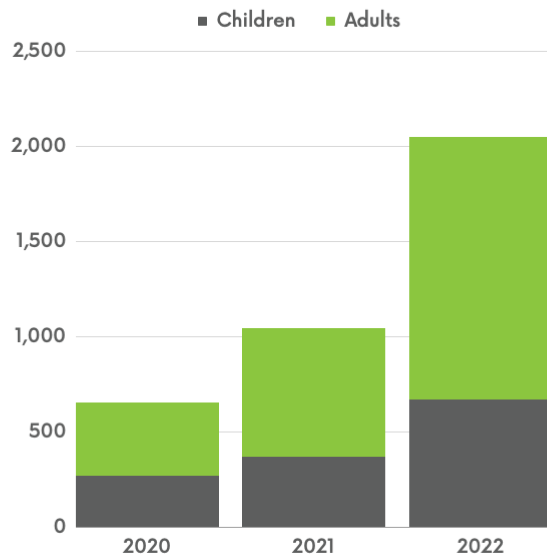
# BRUNSWICK STREET MARKET

**In 2022 the Food Bank continued to support the still growing food security needs in Halifax**

The Brunswick Street Choice Model Market officially opened in May 2022. This came after a soft launch in the autumn of 2021, and a COVID closure from January to April 2022 (with continued curbside pickup). Our movement from a traditional food bank to a "choice model" market means that users have a shopping experience, choosing their own foods. Our coordinator, Mike, moved from volunteer to employee during the summer and has been running the food bank ever since.

In 2022, it is fair to say that the number of people we served exploded. The total number of households helped leapt to 851, up from 419 in 2021. A total of 7,404 visits were made to our food bank in 2022. These numbers seem rather unbelievable but are reliably supplied by the national Link2Feed database.

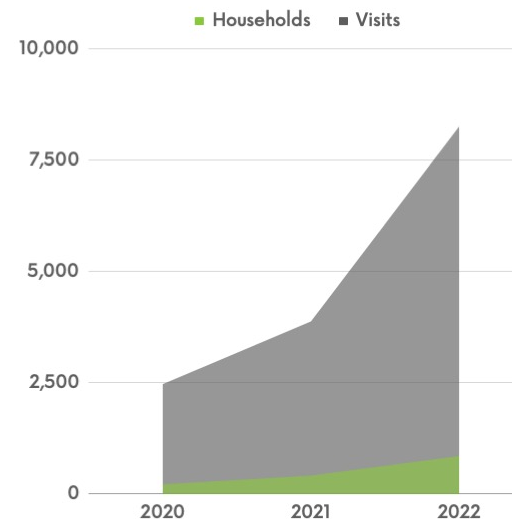
We continued to receive weekly deliveries of 3-4 pallets of food from Feed Nova Scotia throughout the year. However, we must still augment these supplies to meet the needs of our customers. This isn't due to a lack of variety in the Feed NS deliveries, but rather



the decision to offer choice, to make sure there is a consistent supply of staples available, and to meet the needs of special diets (like halal and gluten-free).

We spent up to \$5,000 a month to stock the shelves - and of course, we gratefully accepted generous food and gift card donations from people and organizations in our community. They always come in handy!

A big thank you to our supporters!



Slight adjustments were made to our food bank hours throughout the year, culminating in the pattern we carry on in 2023, with open hours of 9:30 – 2:30, and a closure of 30 minutes for staff and volunteers to eat lunch together.

Housed households can visit the food bank every 3 weeks. Unhoused households, without the benefit of food storage, may come every week to stock up.

Managing the food bank is complex, with many moving parts (much like a grocery store, on which it is modelled!). Money from different funding streams must be spent as agreed, food deliveries must be planned and unloaded, food purchases made, and volunteer support coordinated.

The majority of our staff are involved directly or indirectly to help it run, but our volunteers are crucial to ensuring the successful operation of our food bank. Our Volunteer Coordinator has recruited the volunteer base we need to stock shelves, register clients, and support customers. Our volunteer shopping assistants help make the experience even more positive as they assist customers in navigating the market. The food bank is central to our services because acts as a crucial gateway to outreach workers.

Our food bank wouldn't be possible without the generous donation of rent-free space by the Brunswick Street United Church - and our other generous funders.

## Gratefully Supported by:



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA FOUNDATION

The Watkins Fund for Innovative Programs and Projects in Addressing Poverty and Children at Risk and the Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults at The United Church of Canada Foundation

Halifax Youth Foundation



## VOLUNTEERS

Brunswick Street Mission is a small charity with a big reach. Our services are made possible by our dedicated volunteer team. In recognition of this, we expanded the role of Volunteer Coordinator and Arman joined the team in 2022. On arrival, they set to work creating robust systems for recruiting, training, supporting and tracking volunteers. Building connections and networks, Arman has also made it easier for workplaces to volunteer and fundraise for us, implemented more inclusive policies, and built a diverse and talented volunteer workforce.

## TAX CLINIC

The tax clinic continued in 2022, led by long-term volunteer Heidi Taylor and supported by CRA's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. 1,180 tax returns representing 947 clients were filed in the year running from June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022. 532 people were served at our in-person tax clinics in March and April 2022. 56% of clients came to the clinics, and the rest were files that were dropped off for processing by the dedicated tax volunteers.



## CHRISTMAS

Due to staff turnover, the Christmas program was too resource heavy for the remaining Brunswick Street Mission team in 2022, but we will bring it back in 2023.

## TRUSTEE PROGRAM

The Trustee Program had a difficult time in 2022. It was run for the first few months of the year by Executive Director Derek Pace with bookkeeper Islam, until Sylvia joined the organization in March.

Sylvia then led the trustee program until August when her departure, along with the departures of Derek and Islam, made it impossible to meet the needs of those using this crucial service. The Board took a difficult decision and arranged for Welcome Housing to take on our trustee clients, and thankfully their support was as uninterrupted as possible.



# OUTREACH

Entering its second year, Outreach took forward lessons learned in 2021.

All Outreach support is trauma-informed, anti-oppressive, solution-focused, client-directed and delivered through a harm reduction lens. The One-on-One Advocacy/Navigator service delivers same-day drop-in style alongside brief supportive counselling sessions.

Program users are often supported in de-escalation using emotion-coaching and regulation tools such as food or coffee. Outreach staff work with program users to set client-identified goals. The staff then use their knowledge and resources to support clients in making informed decisions about their lives.

Services in 2022 also included Pandemic Recovery, ID Support & Safe, Laundry, Commissioner of Oaths, Financial Support, Employment Support and Workshops.

Cassie Sinyerd, who has been steadily building the Outreach programming in recent years, was promoted to full-time in March and took on the expanded title and responsibilities of Program and Outreach Coordinator.

Outreach staff completed 178 intakes for 152 unique individuals in 2022 (up from 103 unique individuals in 2021). Further, use increased in every program, including Laundry (87%), Commissioner of Oaths (55%), Employment Support (47%) and ID Support (33%).

A monthly meet-up for service providers was started by Cassie in February 2022. It provides an opportunity for folks working in in housing and homelessness to discuss issues and develop their knowledge through workshops and guest speakers. The group met regularly at least once a month, often at Brunswick Street Mission.

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## Gratefully Supported by:



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
**FOUNDATION**

The Watkins Fund for Innovative Programs and Projects in Addressing Poverty and Children at Risk and the Living Spirit Fund at the United Church of Canada Foundation

- **Sisters of Charity**
- **Halifax Assistance Fund**

# HOT BREAKFAST

Serving a hot meal to our community.

Brunswick Street Mission is the only daily hot breakfast in our community. It got off to a rocky start in 2022, operating via a takeaway service window due to yet another COVID lockdown, and gradually moved back to dining inside. At the start of April, numbers jumped from an average of 50 per day, up into the 60s, then 70s and even higher, as the occupants of the shelter we hosted from April to September began to use breakfast services.

At the end of September, the Kitchen Coordinator abruptly moved on, meaning the breakfast program was briefly suspended while we searched for someone to take on this important role. After happily recruiting a new Coordinator in October, breakfast started up again, with Natalie improving the range and nutrition of meals provided.

Breakfast is served from 7:15 to 8:30am, with dine-in and takeaway options. Even with the break in service, an astounding 14,277 meals were served in 2022, up from 13,350 in 2021.

Gratefully Supported by:



The Christina & Hedley G. Ivany Charitable Foundation



# MISSION BREAKFAST

In October 2022, a community of supporters enjoyed a catered breakfast and listened to one of Canada's most recognized names in journalism, while raising over \$57,500.

Anna Maria Tremonti challenged and inspired us, touching on her own experience of domestic abuse, and reminded us that "shame is no match for kindness." She wove her story into an encouragement for us to take time to listen to vulnerable people around us, because "perpetuated myths allow us to ignore them. We can say this about survivors of homelessness and addiction," she said. "They are stronger than they know and stronger than we give them credit for." We also heard from one of our clients who, through our support, was able to say, "I forgot that I was homeless."

Special thanks to:

- Kate Milton, Host
- Noam Bahar & Max Morrison, Violinists
- Inbal Bahar, Silent Auction

Thanks to our sponsors:



In Memory of Peter MacDougall, R.N.



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### Thanks to our additional supporters in 2022:

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