



Brunswick  
Street  
Mission



ANNUAL  
REPORT |

2023



# INSPIRING HOPE AND DIGNITY

## OUR MISSION

To combat the causes and effects of poverty by providing the community with programming, resources, and advocacy to help people achieve well-being.

## OUR VALUES

- Be open and welcoming, providing a safe space for anyone seeking support
- Reach out to those in need, offering support through our programming
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect, the way we all wish to be treated
- Embed diversity and inclusion in all our programs, helping to improve the quality of life for people in need no matter what
- Build relationships and partnerships with people and organizations for strong synergies
- Employ a trauma-informed lens in our work with clients



# DIRECTORS WHO SERVED IN 2023

## DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Wayne Marsh: Chair

Sundari Pashupathinathan: Vice-Chair, HR Chair, Governance Chair

Sandra Keefe & Sundeep Chopra: Treasurer

Rick Gunn: Secretary & Supervising Council, UCC

Margaret Casey: Advocacy Chair

## REPRESENTATIVES

Ruth Bona & Laura King: Bethany UC

Ian Parker & Heather Star Williams:  
Brunswick Street UC

David Griffiths: Fort Massey UC

Sohani Welcher: Hope UC

Elaine Gunn & Bill Chambre: St. Andrew's UC

Jim Sharpe: HR Chair, St. John's UC

Leonard Preyra: St. Matthew's UC

Ann Collinson: Rockingham UC

Norm Andrews: Investment Committee Chair

## EX-OFFICIO

Lisa Harrison, BSM Executive Director

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish





# ROLLING WITH THE PUNCHES

2023 was a year of continued change and adaptation for Brunswick Street Mission.

We had a difficult start to the year, but our fantastic staff stepped up to run the organization while we sought a new Executive Director. They ably held things together with the support of the Board into the first quarter of 2023, and I joined the team at the end of March. We all contributed to building the sense of stability and security we have now, and I am so thankful for everyone's help in settling in.

With so many unexpected challenges last year in Nova Scotia, 2023 was a tough year for fundraising. Our supporters and the general public were understandably distracted by fires, floods, and storms. However these happened alongside (and contributed to) the increasing cost of living and growing encampments in our city and beyond. I am very proud that we grew our donor base in 2023, and the number of overall donations was up by the end of the year, showing that people really dug deep for those in need.

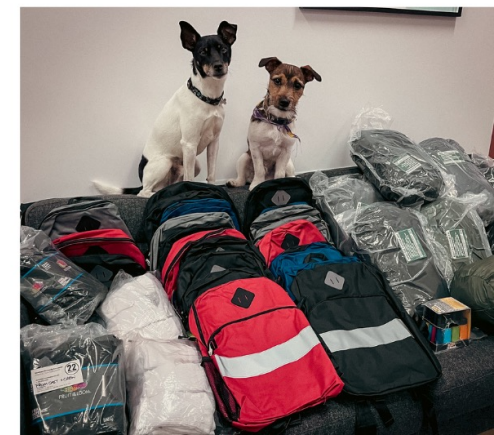
And our donors continued to amaze us in 2023 with their generosity. Food drives by local churches, collections by businesses and schools, companies creating match-funding campaigns, donations of stock

options – there were so many ways people gave! And, of course, the thousands of hours worked by our volunteers. Thank you!

Our main activities are focused around our mission to combat poverty by providing programming, resources, and advocacy to help people achieve well being. This includes a wide range of programs described in the following pages.

I'd like to highlight that in 2023 our outreach and social work services really developed, and we were lucky to have funding for a second outreach worker for part of the year. As we look forward to 2024, it is with the conviction that we must continue to support our local community, increasing our Food Bank and Breakfast offerings as need keeps growing. But we must also keep moving towards more proactive interventions and support. Beyond providing food, we must help people improve their lives and their situation. This is achieved via our Outreach Program, led by our social worker – an area of service we will be working to expand in 2024.

Lisa Harrison  
Executive Director







# INCOME STATEMENT

BRUNSWICK STREET MISSION  
Statement of Operations | December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations	369,505	\$ 398,953
Grants and other	113,390	117,908
Fundraising	50,730	52,721
Community Services trusteeship fees	0	36,000
Division of Mission in Canada Trusts	30,000	35,000
Building renovation grants	24,464	22,831
Building rental and parking	16,577	14,713
	604,666	678,126
<b>Expenses</b>		
Amortization	31,577	29,942
Building occupancy (Note 10)	53,142	47,583
Fundraising	31,430	38,407
Office and administrative	29,383	40,657
Professional fees	6,837	6,515
Program	119,522	142,087
Salaries and wages	444,722	360,934
Telephone	7,236	8,230
	723,849	674,055
Deficiency of receipts over expenditures from operations	(119,183)	4,071
<b>Other Income</b>		
Dividends and interest	22,468	23,254
Realized and unrealized gains on unrestricted marketable securities	38,303	(39,129)
	60,771	(15,875)
Deficiency of receipts over expenses	(58,412)	(11,804)





# BRUNSWICK STREET MARKET

Without a long-term strategy to improve the financial well-being of folks, we will continue to see an increase in the number of visits to our Food Bank.

Our choice-model food bank offers people a wide range of groceries, and the dignity found in choosing what they prefer. In 2023, we served 851 households, representing 1,970 individuals.

On average the Market was accessed 306 times a month, with just over a third of households being unhoused (ie. living rough, couch-surfing, hoteling).

We continued to be supported by Feed Nova Scotia, which delivers over a ton of food each week. This was augmented by the Mission spending on average a further \$5,000 each month to fill the 'gaps' that may need to be filled, such as pasta, rice, tomato sauce, special dietary foods, and crucial easily stored or high calorie food for those living without the benefit of fridge or stove.

## Gratefully Supported by:

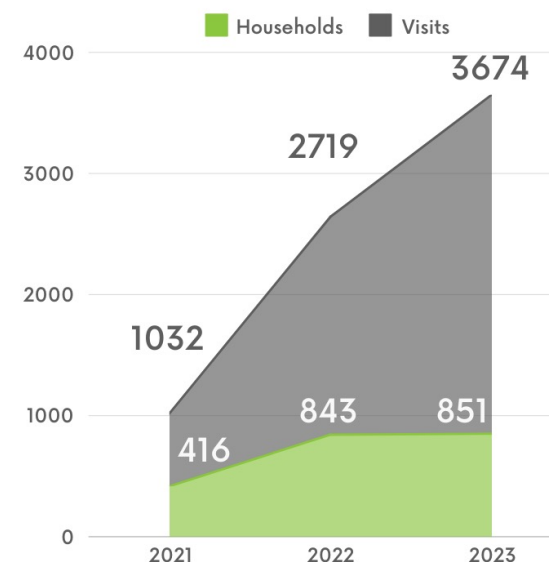
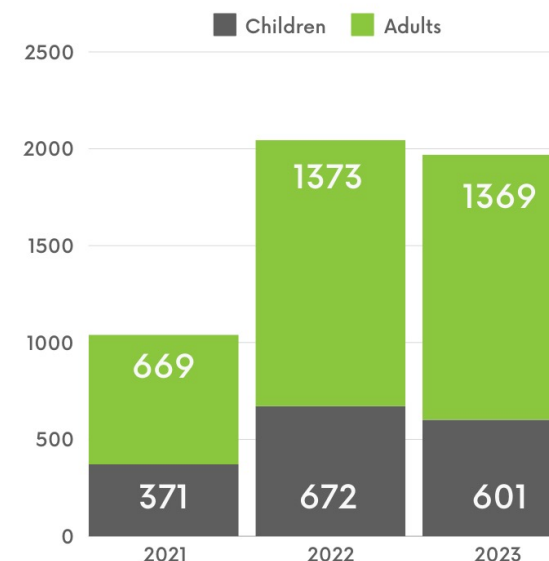
Halifax Youth Foundation

Halifax Assistance Fund



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada







## TAX CLINIC

The tax clinic continued in March and April for in-person tax filing, and the tax program continued to accept 'drop offs' throughout the year, helping over 1200 people file their taxes. This program can make a major difference to well-being, especially when helping people access things like Child Tax Benefit (of which newcomers often are not aware), pension monies, Carbon Tax rebates, and more. For those in poverty, refunds can be life changing. Thanks to the Canada Revenue Agency and our tax volunteers who make this essential program possible.

## LAUNDRY

Washing machines are available to the members of our community Tuesday to Friday. It may seem like a small service to provide, but doing laundry can be cost-prohibitive, and there's nothing like clean clothes to lift your mood.

The laundry machines are always busy, providing a valuable free service. For those who are living rough, it really is crucial. In 2023, our laundry service was accessed over 650 times!

## CLOTHING

We provide new clothing and lightly used shoes and outerwear, especially during the winter months. Socks and underwear (for women, too!) are always in high demand. We also provide work clothes for those entering employment and camping gear to those unable to find shelter. These supplies are distributed through our social worker to ensure people's needs are met.

Donations of new clothing are always appreciated by us and our community!

## HOT BREAKFAST

Providing needed food security.

Brunswick Street Mission serves the only breakfast meal in the mornings five days each week. Our breakfast is a much needed start to the day for many folks in our community, from those who have slept rough the night before to those who are taking a meal to go before work.

Our Breakfast Program began slowly in 2023 with reduced hours, but moved to five days a week by February. We served 11,194 meals in 2023. Our busiest day saw 87 meals served.

Breakfast is served from 7:15 to 8:30am, with dine-in and takeaway options. Most days our social worker is on site to connect with guests and provide additional resourcing as needed.

The skilled dedication of our kitchen coordinator, social worker, and volunteers has created a welcoming environment for all.

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Gratefully Supported by:



The Christina &  
Hedley G. Ivany  
Charitable Foundation

The Windsor Foundation







## SURVIVAL KITS

We focused our efforts over the holidays on those who are living on the margins of the margins. Our Survival Kit campaign raised over \$6,000 and provided over 80 survival kits to people in our community.

The kits included essential items, like razors, hats, mittens, menstrual products, warm socks, and a \$25 gift card. Gift cards can be a lifeline, allowing the purchase of items unique to each person, such as prescriptions or a gift for a friend.

We distributed the kits at breakfast, and then through our Outreach Program. Most of our breakfast guests had just spent the night in a tent or shelter and needed an extra boost! We served breakfast to over 50 people, and they walked out with a full belly and a survival kit.

Many people were grateful that someone thought about them, especially during the holidays. One of the guests stopped just to say, “what happens at Brunswick Street Mission is amazing!”

Thank you to our volunteers for assembling the kits and our donors for making this initiative possible.

## OUTREACH

The Outreach Program is a significant and successful aspect of the work at Brunswick Street Mission, providing practical, trauma-informed services for our community.

This program has launched numerous initiatives and continues to shape and shift to reflect the growing and diverse needs and wishes from the community, and is enriched by our staff and volunteers who have transformed the mission into a dynamic community hub.

Since my start in September, I have been making my own pathways to centering Brunswick Street Mission as a dynamic community hub by offering not just a waiting area, but a space where people can engage with various resources like a library, art, and soon, music therapy and more recreational activities.

Looking forward, the vision for the Outreach Program is ambitious, aiming to strengthen ties with other community organizations and provide comprehensive support services that address various needs, from housing supports to tax guidance to legal aid to employment services. These wrap-around services, in collaboration with external community organizations, will help the Mission strengthen programming onsite and offer opportunities to engage and reach out to new community members who may

benefit from engaging with Brunswick Street Mission.

As the Program & Outreach Coordinator, I am keen to develop our initiatives further and ensure they serve as a strong community pillar. However, I am also mindful of the risks of burnout and am considering strategies like involving social work and social service students within a series of placements and seek other funding streams and external granting sources for sustainable growth and continued community engagement.

Patrick Maubert  
Program & Outreach Coordinator

Gratefully Supported by:



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
**FOUNDATION**

The Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults at The United Church of Canada Foundation

Mental & Health  
Foundation  
of Nova Scotia

Sisters of Charity



# VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are committed to our community, serving each person with dignity and pride. We are so thankful for their dedication!

Our Volunteer Program is a model of choice and flexibility.

In 2023, we recruited over 90 volunteers. In total, our volunteers contributed 3,984 hours to serve our community: 1,032 hours in Breakfast, 2,835 in the Food Bank and Front Desk, and 118 hours in short-term programs (ie. Street Outreach, Survival Kits).

I would like give thanks to the volunteers for your generosity in your time. Your willingness to give your time and effort is greatly appreciated, and your support of Brunswick Street Mission allows us to continue to fulfill our mission and to serve our community!

Arman Alghasham  
Volunteer Services



# MISSION BREAKFAST

Our Annual Mission Breakfast was another success, raising over \$50,000!

This year’s Mission Breakfast was a great success! Thanks to our sponsors, we raised over \$50,000 that will directly strengthen our community.

Keynote Speaker, April Howe, was inspirational, giving us space to understand how Belonging Matters for all. She challenged us to “behave what we believe,” and through her powerful personal story of exclusion, connected us to the lived experiences of those who need the services at The Mission.

Thank you to our sponsors and all who purchased tickets this year!

Additional thanks to:

- Kate Milton, Host
- Premier Tim Houston
- Mayor Mike Savage
- Suzy Hansen, NDP MLA for Needham

Special thanks to our sponsors: 



Wealth Management  
Dominion Securities







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[www.brunswickstreetmission.org](http://www.brunswickstreetmission.org)



### Thanks to our additional supporters in 2023:

- The Black Family Foundation
- Brunswick Street United Church
- J & W Murphy Foundation
- Ritchfam Holdings Limited
- Turner Drake & Partners Ltd.
- United Church of Canada - Regional Council 15
- United Church of Canada - Fund St Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council