



Fall Newsletter 2024

Fall Insights

As the Freedom Centre continues to be the hand and feet of God, we are developing relationships and gaining insights into the people, stories, and difficulties faced by people who come to our ministries. Homelessness isn't just a word, it has a face, and a name. Homelessness has become a growing awareness of our communities' difficulties, biases, discriminations and false narratives which cause the perpetuation of loneliness, isolation, fear and takes away the safety we should all feel on both ends of the spectrum. Pray for our many volunteers who work on so many levels to give hope, in what can seem hopeless situations. Pray for the Freedom Centre, and pray for those who tonight, for various reasons and under various choices, will be without proper shelter, proper food and proper health care.

Highlight on a Volunteer

I started volunteering with the Freedom Centre after attending my first clothing sale! It's been just what I needed after transitioning from working in a public library for 11 years, to working from home. I'm so grateful to have found this wonderful group of caring people to spend my time with, and the opportunity to get involved with my community. You'll typically find me in the \$10 room during clothing sales and giving out sandwiches in the park.

- HANA



Remembrance Day

As we look forward to November 11th and our day of remembrance for our Veterans, we encourage you to take part in a service near you.

The Freedom Centre, in combination with students from Conestoga College, created a video to remember those who struggle



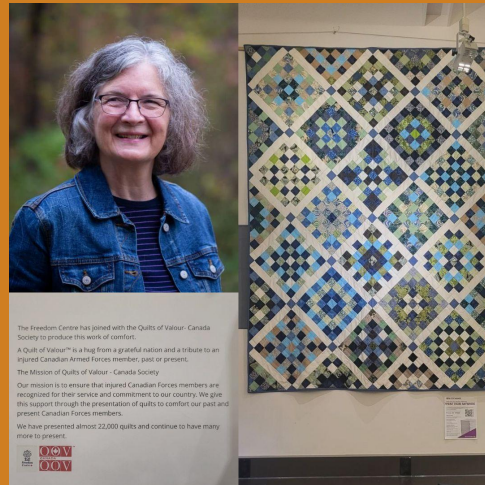
with mental illness and homelessness.

Please take a moment to view this video.

Quilt of Valour

We would like to give a massive thank you to Tricia Williams and those volunteers who worked on our Quilt of Valour!

Our first quilt is complete and can be seen in the lobby of the Preston Library. What a wonderful way to show our community what the Quilt of Valour is about and to remind our community prior to Remembrance Day about those who have served our Country.



We are working with Quilt of Valour – Canada Society to have a Veteran in our region receive this quilt.

2024/2025 Students

Cecilia Usman

My name is Cecilia Usman and I'm currently a social service worker student at Conestoga College, Kitchener, Ontario. I was placed at the Freedom Centre as a student support worker for eight months. I'm excited to be working at the Freedom Centre because it gives me the opportunity to work alongside volunteers in supporting people in the Preston area. I look ahead to giving my time and energy to connecting with more people in this community. Thank you.

MacKenzie Place

I am in my fourth and final year of Laurier's Bachelor of Social Work program with a minor in Youth and Children's Studies. I've lived in Cambridge my entire life and I have a passion for serving my community! I'm so excited to create connections and foster belonging with those I will meet over these next few months through my work with the Freedom Centre. -Galatians 5:13



Megan Pacheco

I am Megan (Meg) Pacheco, a Conestoga College Social Service Worker Student. Although I could not choose my Placement, I am thrilled about my position at Freedom Centre where I can contribute to supporting our veterans and other members of Ward 3.

My father was a member of the Portuguese military in St. Michael, Azores in the 80's. I took great pride in this since I was a little girl, and I am very thankful that my father did not get called upon to serve in actual battle.



I look forward to meeting all of those who I will cross paths with during my time at Freedom Centre.

Cambridge Community Table

Our first dinner in November of 2023 brought in 9 people. Our Thanksgiving dinner 2024 took us to 111 meals. We are honoured to serve our community this way. If you would like to know join us please write info@freedomcentre.ca for more information.

Meal Schedule

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Tues | 05-Nov | Freedom Centre |
| Tues | 19-Nov | Freedom Centre |
| Tues | 03-Dec | Freedom Centre |
| Tues | 17-Dec | Freedom Centre |



Sandwich in the Park

We continue to serve Sandwiches, coffee and now we have volunteers offering fresh fruit, baked good and snacks. We also have the opportunity to take extra frozen meals from our Community Table and hand them out as well. Each week there are new faces, from all cultures and faiths, families and children. As one volunteer said, “God’s definitely been helping us do this work. He’s created a great community that we’ve been able to work with. I really enjoy coming out to be a part of that.”



Veterans Affairs Canada

Veterans Affairs Canada has offered 72.9 million in funding to help agencies across Canada support our homeless Veterans. Waterloo Region was awarded a part of this funding and we are looking forward to the help that will be available through local contracts to give specific help to our retired soldiers who are struggling.



Support the Freedom Centre

By volunteering or giving to the Freedom Centre, you can help us in all the ministries we support.

Please contact us at info@freedomcentre.ca

Give to – donations@freedomcentre.ca

Freedom Centre

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