

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

# *Threshold* **TODAY**

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# **A Message from our Interim National Director**

**Threshold Ministries continues to bring people from all walks of life into a living relationship with Jesus Christ and His people.** Rooted in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), we are committed to making disciples, serving others, and being salt and light in our communities.

Each day, we serve people across Canada - providing meals, hygiene kits, and, most importantly, building meaningful relationships with those who are vulnerable and marginalized. We share the hope of Jesus through music, preaching, and simply being present - offering comfort to those walking through grief, supporting individuals facing mental health challenges, and journeying with those in recovery from addictions.

This is a ministry of reconciliation where we seek to restore hearts and lives through the love and truth of Christ. We believe that everyone is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), worthy of dignity, love, and a second chance. I am deeply grateful for your



**Marilyn Otis**  
**Interim National Director**

faithful support and prayers - your partnership is a vital part of this Kingdom work. Now more than ever, as many local support systems close or decrease, we are called to stand in the gap and Threshold Ministries is positioned to do just that across Canada. Please enjoy these stories of hope and transformation. Rejoice with us as we continue to move our mission forward, remaining firmly rooted in Jesus - the true Vine (John 15:5), our source of strength, purpose, and life.

In Christ,


**Rejoice with us as we continue to move our mission forward, remaining firmly rooted in Jesus - the true Vine (John 15:5), our source of strength, purpose, and life.**

# Volunteer Highlight

## ***Justin - Street Hope Peterborough***

Justin is a dedicated and faithful volunteer with Street Hope Peterborough (SHP). He carries a deep love and compassion for the lost and broken, consistently reaching out to share the hope and love of Jesus in his community. Justin has a remarkable calling in evangelism, prayer, and healing ministry, impacting many lives with God's transformative power.

We are deeply thankful for volunteers like Justin, who help guide people from all walks of life into a living relationship with Jesus and His Church. Justin shared that volunteering with SHP has been a true joy for him, as it allows him to be a witness for God and to demonstrate His care through healing, deliverance, and the message of hope.

A man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a purple t-shirt and a baseball cap, is sitting on a metal stool outdoors. He is holding a microphone to his mouth and speaking. To his left is a blue storage bin and a red and white electric guitar. To his right is a black music stand with sheet music. In the background, there is a brick building with a white staircase and a yellow sign that says "REAL ESTATE BUY SELL".

***“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”***

**Ephesians 2:10**



The mission of Threshold House is to provide a post-treatment Christian community and transitional housing for men who have completed a 12-step rehabilitation program. We walk with men who choose to live addiction-free to see those once bound by addictions set free by the power of Christ. This is accomplished through building knowledge and experience of Christ and recovery and building individual networks of support around each member of our fellowship.

## ***Partnering with Employment Counsellors & Workplace Connections***

When a new resident is accepted into the Threshold House program, one of their first steps is to connect with a social development and/or employment counsellor. Through New Brunswick's Workplace Connections program, we have received grants to employ four men at Threshold House.

Travis, who graduated from a local Christian rehabilitation program, will be attending community college in September. He is helping with the renovations at Threshold House through the grant program. Not only is he doing an amazing job with the renovations, but he is also gaining valuable work experience for his resume, an employer who can provide a reference in the future, new confidence in his work, and a strong work ethic.

James, who just graduated from Teen Challenge, is using the Workplace Connections grant to earn enough money to cover his portion of his community college tuition. The employment counsellor was also able to help him connect with the Training Skills and Development program,

which will help him cover the bulk of the tuition.

These programs can be challenging to understand and locate independently, and Jeremy Robinson, our Addiction Services Coordinator at Threshold House, has been helping the men navigate these programs and make the right connections. Finding work and pursuing an education are significant steps forward in establishing their future



Marilyn Otis  
Threshold House Director





## ***Recovery Nights – Life's Healing Choices & Inner Healing***

David Bown, Coordinator of Recovery Ministries for the Salvation Army Church in Saint John, has been leading the Life's Healing Choices program during our weekly Threshold House Recovery Nights. He and his team have been taking the men through steps to dealing with hurt, hang-ups and habits. We alternate this relapse prevention program with fun nights, BBQs, and special guest presentations. This program is a benefit to the men who live at Threshold House as

well as those in the community who have been showing serious interest in ending and healing from their addictions.

We have also added weekly Inner Healing classes led by Greg Rasmussen, who has been working in the local recovery community for several years. We look forward to reaching many more people and providing quality resources, as well as sharing hope.





# Street Hope

## Peterborough

Street Hope Peterborough (SHP) was established in 2008 under Threshold Ministries as a front-line evangelistic initiative offering both spiritual and practical support as a chaplaincy outreach to people coming out of prison and the marginalized in our community.

Our chaplaincy ministry is rooted in Christ and shares hope to individuals battling addiction, emotional and mental health challenges, self-esteem battles, and those facing homelessness, poverty, and many forms of brokenness in their lives. SHP has been helping people rebuild their lives through understanding and responding to the love that Jesus has for their lives.

The foundation of SHP is built on building meaningful friendships with hurting people while pointing them to Jesus who can forgive, restore, and transform the course and direction of their lives. Luke 19:10 expresses the purpose of this ministry: "The Son of Man has come to seek out and to give life to those who are lost" (TPT).

### ***Ministry Update:***

At Threshold Ministries, our work is rooted in Jesus, shaped by shareable hope, and lived out in authentic, relational ways - engaging together, because community comes first. One story that reflects this heart is Jaime's.\*

After serving a 49.5 year sentence, Jaime has been navigating life beyond incarceration. For years, our Street Hope Peterborough (SHP) team has built a consistent, trusting relationship with him, walking with him as he re-enters life outside prison.

Recently, Jaime faced another deep personal loss- his sister was dying, five hours away. He reached out to our project leader, Darrin Gaudreau, for help. Darrin worked with Jaime's parole officer, got the needed permissions, and

drove through the night so Jaime could say goodbye.

When they arrived at the hospital, Jaime was able to hold his sister's hand for 30 precious minutes. She passed away the next day.

"We are grateful for our longstanding relationships with people like Jaime," Darrin shared, "with whom we can







share hope throughout his journey with Jesus - even in the hard and difficult seasons.”

Darrin has also been faithfully leading chapel services at a local retirement home alongside Justin, a SHP volunteer. Week after week, they've built meaningful relationships - engaging together with the residents in worship, prayer, and conversations rooted in Jesus.

One of those relationships has been with Judy,\* a resident who has openly shared her story of deep pain, bitterness, and the lasting wounds caused by an abusive ex-husband. Judy made it clear from the start: she would not forgive him. The weight of that unforgiveness had been heavy on her heart for many years.

But a few weeks ago, something changed.

As Darrin and Justin led the chapel in singing and shared from Philippians 2 - a powerful reminder of Christ's humility and grace - Judy felt something stir within her. After the message, she approached them and said, “I need to forgive him.”

With gentleness and care, Justin led her in a simple, heartfelt prayer of forgiveness. And in that moment, Judy was set free- from the bitterness,



from the pain, from the weight that had bound her for so long.

This is what it looks like to find hope and bring hope. Through consistent presence, shared community, and the power of the gospel, Judy experienced true freedom.

*Darrin*

Darrin Gaudreau  
Street Hope Peterborough Director



\*name changed for privacy



# Street Hope Victoria

Street Hope Victoria (SHV) is a volunteer-driven ministry that builds personal relationships with people who face multiple barriers and marginalization, and encourages them to seek wholeness in all aspects of their lives. Those we serve may be facing poverty, a lack of a supportive community, homelessness, addictions, or mental health issues.

SHV operates out of wagons as volunteers walk up and down a block of Pandora Avenue serving homemade soup, sandwiches, drinks, and cookies, and providing other essentials such as warm clothing. We desire to establish and nurture meaningful connections with people living on the streets. We hope our words and actions point people to Jesus, the One who loves them and knows their every need.

## *Homelessness, Compassion and Hope*

Three Street Hope Victoria (SHV) volunteers, highschoolers Mabel, Gabie, and Suah, won the Youth & Philanthropy Initiative contest at their school. They began by joining the SHV team on Tuesday nights on Pandora Avenue, where they learned about SHV's history, researched homelessness, and prepared a presentation about SHV. They were able to educate their teachers and fellow students about what is happening downtown and what SHV does. They also won \$5,000 for SHV!

Through their research, Gabie and Suah discovered that "the unhoused population continues to grow in Victoria annually, with approximately 1,665 individuals [being unhoused] as of 2023. This makes the matter worse, knowing that the affordability of housing in British Columbia continues to increase." They also learned more about addiction and homelessness by better understanding that addiction is a major cause and consequence of homelessness "given that being unhoused can worsen substance use due to lack of access to care, trauma, grief, and stress."

They believe that Street Hope is making a difference by "treating the unhoused community on Pandora Ave as friends." They said, "We saw this when the volunteers were recognizing individuals and calling them by their names. This really resonated with the three of us as it made us gain a new perspective on people experiencing homelessness. It made us realize the importance of making people feel seen, heard, and valued."

SHV's project leader, Lisa Warden, believes that homelessness and addiction cannot be effectively addressed without compassion and understanding the perspective of the people on the street. She shared, "Gabie, Suah, and Mabel demonstrated a fundamental grasp of that compassion. I believe that if more young people came to research and understand the dynamics at play...our future leaders would be far better equipped to come up with effective and compassionate solutions that will really work."

Suah reflected, "I was reminded of just how important it is to lead with compassion and take action when it counts. This only made me feel all the more committed to help make a difference in any way I can."



## Joseph's Story

On a recent rainy, dark, and cold night, a young man named Joseph stood at the corner beside a makeshift shelter housing a man in a wheelchair. Like most of the people we encounter on the block, both of them had their glass pipes and smoking hoses out. As I approached with hot soup and sandwiches, Joseph blurted out, "Jesus is here!"

"Nice," I said, surprised. "Why did you say that?"

"Because I love Jesus," he said.

"But what did you mean when you said, 'Jesus is here'?" I asked.

"Oh, because I was hungry and you guys showed up with food."

On another night, on opposite sides of the block, I witnessed two people willingly offer the food we had just given them (and which they wanted) to other people around them as soon as the need became evident. I frequently get the sense that we are the ones being ministered to, and not the other way around, as these displays of Jesus' spirit emerge and move me to gratitude and humility.



Lisa Warden  
Street Hope Victoria Director





# Hope Rewritten

## ***A Calling Completed***

In the last number of years, I have watched God rearrange my life in ways I could not have planned. For over three decades since my commissioning in 1989, I had my feet planted firmly on the pavement of street ministry and Food Bank work. Threshold Training gave me a firm foundation of evangelistic ministry to build upon. It was a holy calling to offer love and guidance in passionate and creative ways to people going through the worst of times. I had the privilege of seeing people not just survive but move toward health and independence. I thought this would be my life's work until the Lord said to me, literally, "It is finished."

## ***Following the Cloud***

Like the Israelites in the desert following the Lord's lead, I learned to move when the cloud moves. He has ushered me into a new threshold of ministry that is stretching me in unexpected directions while still carrying the same heartbeat: to see people restored, encouraged, and equipped for the life God designed for them.

## ***A Book for the Wounded***

One of those new directions is authoring a book on life recovery and the freedom that comes with forgiveness. Designed to be read by hurting people, I am gently teaching through story. My target audience is those who have some faith, but may not step into a church. My prayer is that each

chapter will become a doorway to healing, drawing those on the edges of faith toward the God who meets them where they are.

## ***Intercession in the Publishing World***

Alongside this, I've joined the staff at Square Tree Publishing, a Christian-owned publishing company. I have a unique

role as the company's Intercessor, praying for protection, provision, and guidance over the business, authors, and books. Authors writing for the Kingdom

often experience spiritual warfare. Prayer covering over for-profit businesses is as essential as it is for a ministry. I also have the joy of sharing prophetic words of comfort, strength, and encouragement to authors live on Facebook, reminding them that their calling is seen and supported by Heaven.

## ***Coaching Authors into Breakthrough***

To further equip me for this role in the publishing industry, I'm currently training as a breakthrough coach for authors - helping them overcome unique struggles and blocks so they can finish what God has placed in their hands. I've found that many of the same principles that once helped people transition off the streets now help authors step out of creative and spiritually stuck places.

***While my daily scenery has shifted, the call remains the same: to stand in the gap, to bring God's hope into the spaces where it's needed most, and to see people cross their own thresholds into freedom and purpose.***

### **City Serve: Landfill to Lifeline**

Another exciting assignment on a more local level is launching a program called City Serve. It is a project of our local ministerial of churches called One Church Barrie. This initiative acts as a bridge between businesses with surplus goods and organizations serving those in need. In practical terms, it rescues perfectly good items from landfills and places them directly into the hands of families experiencing financial hardship. City Serve stewards resources for the Kingdom while meeting tangible needs.

### **The Mission Remains the Same**

While my daily scenery has shifted, the call remains the same: to stand in the gap, to bring God's hope into the spaces where it's needed most, and to see people cross their own thresholds into freedom and



purpose. His mission hasn't changed. My assignment has. I love these new doors.

*Michelle*

By Michelle Simons  
Threshold Evangelist  
Commissioned: 1989

## Stay in Touch With Threshold



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# Threshold Ministries

## ***Give a gift of hope today!***

Thank you for your continued support of Threshold Ministries. Your prayers and financial gifts make it possible for us to share the love and hope of Jesus with people across Canada. Together, we are rooted in Christ and sharing His hope with a hurting world.

Threshold Ministries exists to help anyone - no matter their background - enter into a living relationship with Jesus and His people.

Will you partner with us today by giving to Threshold's Fund of Hope?

### **Your gift will:**

- Strengthen our existing programs across Canada
- Help us explore new ways to live out our mission, and
- Equip and grow our leadership as God opens new doors



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO  
GIVE ONLINE.**

***Give to the Fund of Hope today and be part of  
sharing the hope of Jesus from coast to coast.***

### **ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS**

[www.thresholdministries.ca](http://www.thresholdministries.ca)

### **CONTRIBUTIONS VIA MAIL**

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### **CONTRIBUTIONS VIA PHONE**

506.642.2210

### **CONTRIBUTIONS VIA E-TRANSFER**

[financial@thresholdministries.ca](mailto:financial@thresholdministries.ca)

Please include with your e-transfer:

Your full name, street address, and what project you are giving towards.

Spending of funds confined to Board approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution designated toward a Board approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the Board, the remaining restricted contributions designated for such program or project will be used where needed most.



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