



Stories from the Street

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Dear Ark Supporter,

The Christmas Season is upon us. It is my favourite holiday! The Christmas story and the miracle of God becoming flesh held new meaning the year (17 years ago) that I held my own firstborn son. What an unexpected way for the God of the Universe to present himself to humanity, a baby, helpless and yet our provider, powerless and yet our justification, vulnerable and the source of strength. So much Truth, Hope, Joy, Peace and disarming invitation wrapped up in the gift of Jesus. Just like my own sweet baby who taught me about selfless love, baby Jesus teaches us that the gospel comes to people in a gentle, non-threatening, bundle of love, grace and hope.

At the Ark, we are sharing faith daily, through actions, disarming conversations, kind words, encouragement, simple basic needs provision and dignified mutual relationship with our friends and guests. As we listen more intently to each other, we begin to live out the great commandment "To love the Lord [our] God with all [our] heart, soul and mind...And to love our neighbor as [our]selves." (Matt 22:37-39) This kind of love, fueled by hope, has caused us to take action on some of the tough issues our friends are facing during this COVID pandemic. This has included an expansion of our dining area to ensure indoor dining following Covid procedures, a capital project to install two showers and laundry facilities, and partnering with other organizations to provide a COVID Winter Interim Solution to Homelessness (WISH). You'll read more about these initiatives in this newsletter! We couldn't do this without your encouragement, financial support and prayers.

Christmas reminds us that Love in the flesh takes action, shows up and brings grace and life more abundantly. May you have a blessed and hope filled Christmas-finding ways to show love in all you do!

Sarah Campbell
Executive Director

MERRY
Christmas



Campbell Family 2019

NOTABLE NUMBERS:

230

Most Meals Provided in One Night
(October 2020)

4800+ Meals Provided in October

166% Growth since Covid began

\$45000+

Donated funds or in-kind products/ services
donated for Shower & Laundry Project so far

150-200

Dinner team volunteers who have returned to
help us provide hybrid indoor and outdoor meals
since Oct. 19!

1985

Pairs of socks donated in "Socktober"



Connect Care

Advocacy , Community
Care, Programing



Share Love & Purpose

Life Purpose &
Community
Creator



Invite Welcome

Basic Needs-
Meals/ Clothing
& Outreach



Serve & Grow

Community Contribution,
Group Membership
& Counselling



THE WAYS THAT WE SHOW LOVE & CARE AT ARK AID STREET MISSION

COVID W.I.S.H Collaborative

Winter is coming. It's more than a good starting line for a T.V. Show- It's a harsh reality for the 130-200 known community members who are sleeping outside with no hope for safe shelter this cold season. Given the added restrictions for sharing space and the risks of overcrowding shelters, concerned organizations have joined with the Ark to form a Winter Interim Solution to Homelessness Coaliton to work with the City of London to support an indoor safe sheltering solution for some of London's toughest to serve folks. Many of those remaining on the streets are suffering with untreated mental health issues, addictions and historical and current experiences of trauma. This means that any sheltering solution will require a high number of staff and volunteers to ensure adequate support for basic needs and on location crisis support services. Though this solution is not fully in place, please stay tuned on our Facebook and by e-mail to consider how you might support this effort. We will certainly need more bedding, towels, personal hygiene items and many volunteers to meet the needs. The Ark is offering our indoor space for warming as many hours as possible and the additional services of the showers and laundry once that project is complete. Please continue to support our operational needs so we can contribute as much as possible to this city wide solution!

Double Your IMPACT when YOUR donation is MATCHED this Christmas!

Thanks to the generosity of two private donors,
EVERY DOLLAR UP TO \$25 000 WILL BE MATCHED!

Get your gift in early to Double your impact!



Donate by e-transfer to:
donate@arkaidmission.com or
at www.arkaidmission.com

For more stories and updates including specific needs and
volunteer opportunities follow @Ark Aid London on Facebook

