



June 30, 2023

# ANNUAL REPORT SOULS HARBOUR



## Where we've been...

2023 was a full year for Souls Harbour as we continue to grow and spread out across the province of Nova Scotia. Several new ministries were started and more expansion is in process. We know that the need is great and the poverty rate in our province has increased over the past several years. The latest reports indicate that Nova Scotia now has the highest poverty rate in the country. (Source: United Way Halifax)

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Souls Harbour feels strongly about expanding wherever opportunities exist, to continue to meet these increasing needs. In 2023 we opened the following NEW ministries:

**1. Women and Children’s Affordable Housing Complex**

We added to our shared women and children’s home by building a brand new 12 unit apartment complex for women and their children. These apartments filled up immediately and continue to have a lengthy waiting list. Our womens campus is located at a confidential, seaside location on the Eastern Shore.

**2. Lower Sackville Drop In Centre**

This is located at Rock Church in a gym they no longer use. Complete with a separate entrance, this new drop in centre has been growing steadily since opening day in July. We also operate a “free mart” at this location - a free clothing and household goods store.

**3. Bridgewater Warming Centre**

We were approached by the city of Bridgewater and asked to open our facility daily from 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM as a warming centre to ensure that there would be a safe place for individuals in their community at all times throughout the cold winter months.

**Not to be outdone, 2024 is already in full swing...**

**1. Truro Overnight Shelter**

We were approached by the city of Truro and asked to open an overnight warming shelter for the remainder of winter months. This opened at the beginning of February, based out of Connection Church. Both this shelter and our Bridgewater Warming Centre have been learning experiences for us and we look forward to seeing what we are able to do in these communities next winter.

**2. Sydney Mines, Cape Breton Drop In Centre**

We recently opened our 5th drop in centre in Sydney Mines, Cape Breton. We have seen strong community support in this area that has the highest child poverty rates in Nova Scotia. We are excited to be able to meet some of the need in this area and look forward to what new doors God will open.

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### 3. Souls Harbour Mobile Mission

Affectionately dubbed the #Soulsmobile, we are now the proud owners of a decommissioned ambulance. We are in the process of hiring staff and getting this new ministry up and running. We will be able to go and meet people where they are, bringing meals and basic need items. We hope to be able to remove some of the barriers that people on the street experience and help them to access the services that they need.

## Milestone Level Unlocked...

All of these new initiatives have meant a significant increase in our budget and our staffing needs - we recently reached the milestone of 100 staff members! The majority of our funding still comes from individuals and groups in the community - we could not continue to grow and meet the increased needs without this support.

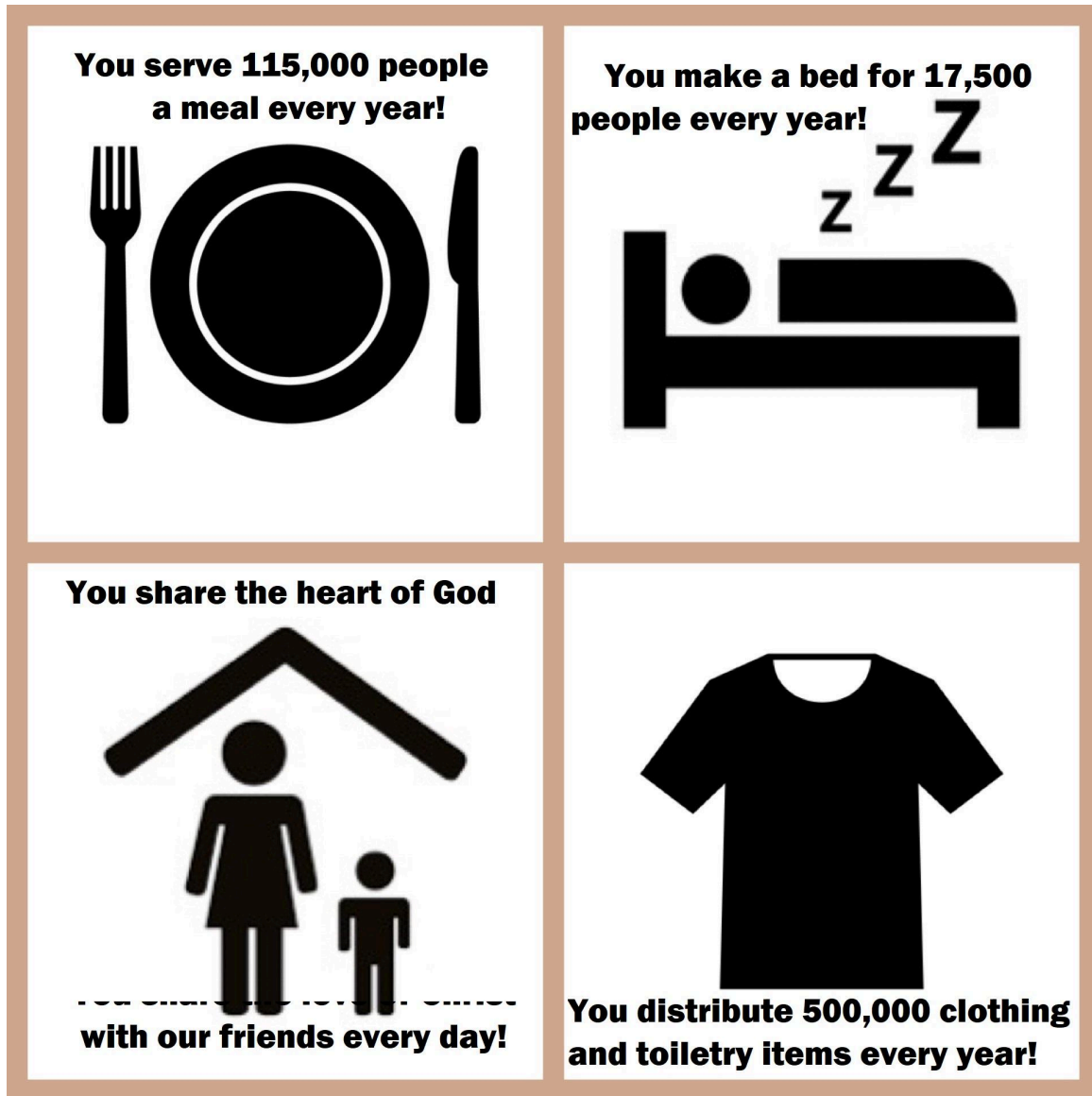
**With high impact volunteer teams and individuals, we have forged ahead together to not only reach milestones, but launch a remarkable array of ministries province-wide!**

It is with deep and sincere gratitude to our donors and prayer partners, that we observe how your partnership changes lives every day.

Lives like Ken and Josh, who are graduates of our LifeChange Recovery Program, and now work at our social enterprise thrift store, Mission Mart.

Lives like Shannon and her daughter Emma, who cut the ribbon on our brand new women and childrens apartments. For the first time in her life, she has her own home, with a lock and key.

And lives like Benny and Cathie, a senior couple who join us every day for a meal, to make sure they are eating well, and to have human companionship.



## Where we're headed...

We are working hard at creating systems of excellence through a mission-wide undertaking of standard operating procedures. We have been certified with CCCC, Citygate Network, and are currently in submission with Imagine Canada. Armed with this, we feel we are setting a stage to be one of the best places to work in Nova Scotia.

Additional funding will bring in a 24/7 mobile ministry, so we can be on the streets 365 days a year. Together, our mission will allow us to be a candle in the darkness, offering light, comfort, warmth, and most of all, hope.