

2020 - 2021 Annual Report for Souls Harbour Rescue Mission

Michelle Porter, CEO

An Unexpected Life Season

Never in my lifetime would I have thought that leading and growing an organization during a global pandemic would be something I could add to my resume, but here we are. The year was like none other. When the world retreated in fear, Souls Harbour forged ahead into the fire. When it became the norm to “stay safe” and “stay home”, our team refused to be knocked down, and said they would work for free if need be to keep our core services. I am humbled and grateful to captain this rescue ship and see God’s Mighty Hand at work.

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us... The furnace was so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace... The fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them... Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace,
Book of Daniel, Chapter 3

Blessings Forged from Fire

- 97% staff retention
- Shelter inspections passed
- 2.9M federal grant awarded
- 22 summer student grants
- Womens Home purchased
- Womens den mother hired
- Cunard St. mortgage paid
- Mission Mart loan paid
- Truro mortgage paid
- Purchased Mission Mart
- Meal service tripled
- Mission Mart sales up 56%
- General Income up 50%
- Ken’s book published
- No Covid illness at Mission

The Front Lines

One of the most difficult things about the pandemic has been our limited Gospel witness. Because we are not permitted to sit anyone inside for meals, our Drop In Centres have become food and supply warehouses. We have limited interaction with guests at the door, but we try to make it count with a few encouraging words, daily prayer with an individual who is visibly suffering, and twice weekly tracts in lunch bags.

For a long time, we were the only soup kitchen who remained open, and our meal service increased greatly, as we served people from Dartmouth, Fairview, and other suburbs. We are likely to see a sharp drop in numbers when we reopen, although some may continue to come, now that they know we are here. In Bridgewater and Truro, numbers have increased for similar reasons, but also due to new community collaborations.

We have also been able to reopen Freemart in Halifax and Truro, providing basic needs of clothing, hygiene and household goods. We have seen an influx of newcomers and their children during this time. Until we were able to reopen, we ran all three locations as Bridgewater does, providing needs upon request. Now, guests come in and shop for themselves again (masked and distanced.) Once Phase 5 comes, we will freely reopen Halifax Freemart 5 days a week to match the Drop in hours.

Forging Ahead

Overnight Programs

We are on the cusp of receiving the occupancy permit at the Mens Shelter, and both the Mens Shelter and Womens Home are set to open in Phase 5. Ken is working on programming, hiring, and training staff.

Sackville Drop In Centre

We have completed the community needs assessment and recommend the opportunity to begin this outreach using the free gym and kitchen provided by Rock Church.

Womens Apartment Building

A federal grant was awarded to build a 12-unit Womens Home to open in 2022, which will create a campus in West Chezzetcook with our recently purchased property.

Mission Mart 2

This is still in the works for Bedford Commons - income for all our expansion projects!

When I started at Mission Mart, my faith was pretty shaky. I wasn't as close to God as I should've been but over the past 2.5 years I have seen Gods work in every single one of us. My faith is stronger than ever and my relationship with God is rock solid. The sky is the limit!!

Tabitha