

“Working Together To Build A Stronger,
Kinder and More Just Community”

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A WORD FROM THE CHAIR:

At this time of year, as we move from Spring into Summer, natural colours appear newer, brighter and deeper, lighting up our neighbourhood. So, it seems like the ideal time to officially introduce a new colourful branding for the Ministry. You may have already seen early elements of this in our recent correspondence, and now is a good time for us to provide some context.

We have always loved our logo, with its symbolic foundations of the *cross* with many *hands* reaching out around it. These emblems will not change!

The cross symbolizes that Christ our Saviour is at the centre of our Ministry, with His command to love one another underpinning everything that we do. *The hands* symbolize the inclusiveness of everyone – our staff, volunteers, our many clients and you as our faithful supporter.

We want these foundational elements to be more prominent, and more present, everywhere – not only on documents, signs, and social media, but also on our shopping bags, on delivery parcels, on packages for families, and even on clothing such as hats or t-shirts. The new design and singular colours allow the logo to be easily replicable, transferrable, and more identifiable with the work of Stonegate Ministry.

This is also a time to express our gratitude for the support received for our Video Presentation on May 18. The proceeds from ticket purchases and donations (*continued on page 2*)

MISSION STATEMENT

Stonegate Ministry is an alliance of local Christian churches working in partnership with the community through shared resources, offering programs and opportunities to build healthy relationships, strong families, a sense of belonging and a deeper relationship with God. We endeavour to address the needs of the whole person and families to bridge toward a better life and to be a faithful voice to ensure everyone in the community is treated with justice and Christian compassion.

(continued from page 1) have enabled us to continue our support for the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community. Fortunately, with Natalie's health remaining stable and Jeannie's improvement, we are now in a better position to expand these programs. The Video Presentation is still available on our website at stonegateministry.ca for anyone who would like to see it once more, or for anyone who is interested in more context around the programs mentioned here.

Providing food security through our Food Bank has been critical, and although we've seen overall inflation diminish, the increase in the cost of food has continued. This is particularly stressful for those most in need, including many Ukrainian refugee families and even in families that have a regular wage earner.

Natalie continues to oversee other programs, and handles some of these herself, such as the programs that remain online and can be facilitated from home.

Other programs, such as 'Get reading', led by Susan Iaboni, are operational on Food Bank days, while Carol-Anne's 'Prayer 4 You' team gathers to offer prayer as the need grows.

Over the summer, under Kathleen's and Sue's leadership, the women in the *Circle of Friends* are enjoying opportunities to continue to see each other, sharing stories of recent difficult times, and feeling mentally and spiritually refreshed by simply being together.

This Fall, we are looking forward to once again returning to our tradition of gathering in person to enjoy a wonderful meal, and participating in a Silent Auction as we always did in the 'olde days'!

All of these are possible because of the generosity of Stonegate Ministry supporters.

Thanks for your prayers and all you have done to ensure that the many Ministry programs will continue to make a difference in the lives of those we serve in Christ's name.

Peter Patterson,
Chair of Stonegate Ministry Board



GET READING STONEGATE!

This summer, we are enjoying the beautiful fruits of our labour. We have spent the past few months diligently serving our community, grateful to hear and see that our efforts are well received and appreciated by our clients and by our community. We are also humbled that our outreach and efforts have been noticed by many in our community who also share a desire to serve the needs of others. (continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2) They have been eager to assist us by providing donations of resources and items that are needed regularly for our program and services. One of these organizations is the Etobicoke CI Interact Club and Community, which has been helping the Get Reading program cope with the growing demand for book donations.

Here are a few words from one of our facilitators, Sue Iaboni, of the Get Reading program, highlighting the wonderful achievements and goals of this gem in our community.

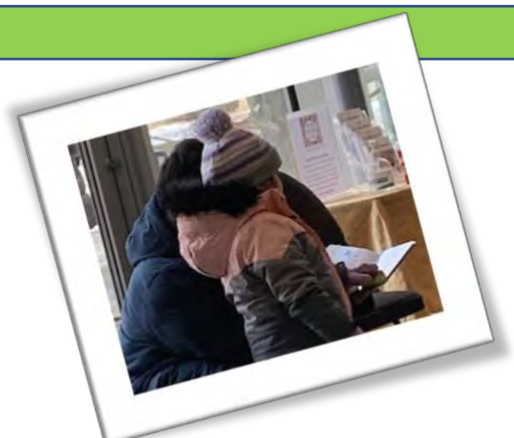
"Our food pantry clients love this service. Several regular customers bring their children along to choose their own books. Sometimes older children bring younger siblings over to our table and encourage them to try reading too. Grandparents often find books to share with their grandchildren when they visit. And many adults find something of interest for themselves as well. During most Food Pantry sessions, we give out an average of 50 books, books that would otherwise be stored in somebody's attic, or gathering dust on a shelf.

Without this service, money for books would be hard to find in the family budget. The service helps our clients in other ways too. It becomes a sharing and learning experience between child and parent. It widens their understanding of life in Canada. It allows them to engage in conversations with staff or other clients about their favourite authors or a new topic they have read about. It brightens their lives.

We hear "thank you" in Ukrainian, French, Polish, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, and especially rudimentary English. And we say thank you to you too..."

We continue to make an impact in our community in many different ways, and we are glad that you too are a part of this important ministry that is changing the lives of so many.

Natalie Sharpe
Director of Ministry Programs





FOOD PANTRY FEATURED IN ETOBICOKE GUARDIAN

You may have seen the May 11 edition of *the Etobicoke Guardian* featuring our *Christ Church St. James Food Pantry* [on the front page](#), calling attention to the need for donations to our food bank. The number of families needing the services of CCSJ Food Pantry has

increased over 200%, presenting a formidable challenge and forcing us to considerably increase our regular purchases of food and supplies.

On the first day of the *Guardian's* article, we were blessed and encouraged by a \$1,000 donation. Since then, we have received many more donations for which we are so very grateful. If you did not get a chance to read the article, here is the link:

https://www.toronto.com/news/its-quite-a-crisis-now-etobicoke-food-bank-urgently-seeks-donations/article_ff8f55fe-71a1-55c5-9de3-79a8315db082.html

We would like to remind you that both financial gifts and goods are greatly welcomed and much appreciated in order to meet the needs of our needy families, some of whom are struggling even with a parent working full-time. Items that are most needed are:

Financial donations are tax receiptable and can be made through our website <https://stonegateminsty.ca/donations/> by designating your gift for "Food Bank". Gifts of food can be delivered to Christ Church St. James by calling first at 416-251-8711 to book a drop-off appointment.

Thank you so much for your faithful support.

<i>Canned Meat or Fish</i>	<i>Cereal/Oatmeal/Granola</i>
<i>Crackers and Cookies</i>	<i>Flour and Baking Products</i>
<i>Soup</i>	<i>Canned Vegetables or Fruit</i>
<i>Granola/Snack/Protein Bars</i>	<i>Sugar/Sugar Alternatives/Salt/Spices</i>
<i>Beans (either dry or canned)</i>	<i>Pasta/Tomato Sauce</i>
<i>Pasta</i>	<i>Powdered Milk and Milk Alternatives</i>
<i>Rice</i>	<i>Tea, Coffee, Juice Boxes & Other Drinks</i>
<i>Nutritional Meal Supplements</i>	<i>Baby food and formula</i>
<i>Personal Care Supplies (Soap, Shampoo, etc.)</i>	



Jeannie Martinez
CCSJ Food Pantry Co-Director



WASN'T THAT A PARTY!

We prayed...we planned...we rolled up our sleeves...and then "WOW!" - wasn't that a party?

The Community Celebration Sizzler exceeded our dreams this year. The event was held on Saturday May 27 on the parking lot of Christ Church St James, Park Lawn Rd. Hundreds of people came in droves from all over the neighborhood and beyond. Many friends we knew quite well through the food bank ministry and other programs over the years, but quite a few were new to us, young and old alike.

But what drew them?

- The free BBQ certainly was a hit, as were the ice cream, pop, and chips.
- The many 'lucky draws' were sure appreciated, as a great number of people received prizes over the course of the afternoon.
- The bouncy castle definitely got a good workout that day, along with many other games and activities.
- The Stonegate Ministry Great Finds outdoor store was a going concern.
- ...and all the happy faces certainly caused people to 'stop, look and listen'. Yet there is something else, and it is key:

In the book of Acts there was a 'community celebration' in Samaria. As Philip was sharing his faith in Jesus, 'people paid close attention'. Some amazing things occurred, resulting in 'great joy in that city'.

There was great joy at our community celebration too, as the good news was offered in song and through drama. From beginning to end, our faith in Jesus was shared for all to see and hear. Jesus said that as we 'lift Him up' people are drawn to Him.

This was the ultimate purpose of the party. This was the hope. This is why those sleeves were rolled up. This is why we give thanks to you for your prayers and encouragement. It's all about bringing people to Jesus and Jesus to people. With a thankful heart for your 'partnership in the party',

Bruce Smith,
on assignment to Stonegate Ministry



CONTACT US

By phone 416-255-6282 or by email office@stonegateministry.ca

Your donation is important to maintain our outreach during this difficult time. You can contribute:

- By cheque mailed to 71 Riverview Gardens, Toronto, M6S 4E6
- Online using the “Donate Now” button on our website www.stonegateministry.ca
- By e-Transfer to donations@stonegateministry.ca

All donations are promptly acknowledged, and a receipt will be provided.

Thank you for your prayers and ongoing financial support, and may God bless you and keep you safe during this trying time.

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