



NEWSLETTER

Encouragement, Reports, News & Updates

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

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR:

After many years of seeing global change slowly evolve, it seems that we all have suddenly been subjected to a number of years where dramatic and unexpected change has been occurring in the world at almost every turn.

While some change is positive, such as medical treatment advances, most of it feels chaotic and negative, leaving people in distressing situations -- often those who may already have been struggling.

Often all we can do is turn to Christ Jesus in prayer, while doing whatever we can, in His Name, to ameliorate the despair being felt.

Our own neighbourhood is experiencing much pain, although there are many elsewhere who are suffering even more. Every time our Food Bank is open, we encounter evidence of the trials and mental anguish that local families are going through. We give thanks that although we cannot fully remedy them, we can make a difference through your generous support.

While the incredible 400% increase in those seeking basic food help has stretched our resources, we have increased our capacity creatively by moving from fridges to installing walk-in coolers and freezers. These accommodate much more food and are more accessible.



Back before Covid changed the way many organizations operated, we would host our annual fundraising dinner at this time of year for our supporters to come and dine together, celebrating what had been accomplished, and providing for what was to come. These dinners were welcomed by many and provided an opportunity to greet old friends and meet new ones.

However, at a recent Board meeting, it was reluctantly decided that, in light of increasing expectations of another COVID wave and a further round of vaccinations, it would be inappropriate to gather for a meal together at this time.

In addition, Stonegate senior staff are facing challenges of their own: Natalie has had a wonderful change in her life with the birth of her first child, a baby girl, but she is still dealing with Multiple Sclerosis and will be on maternity leave for some time. Her absence will be felt in a number of significant ways. One major impact has been the extra challenge for Jeannie to not only manage the Food Bank, but also minister to our food bank client families who may be suffering from trauma, grief, and loss.

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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.

(from page 1) In light of all this, the Ministry is asking you, our faithful support community, to give generously allowing the Food Bank to meet the ever-growing demand and enabling us to continue our ministry programs that provide encouragement, practical instruction and new relationships for many lonely residents.

You may make a donation through our website stonegateministry.ca ,by e-transfers to donations@stonegateministry.ca ,or by mail to 71 Riverview Gardens, M6S 4E6.

Thank you for your past support as you consider your gift to the Ministry.

God Bless,
Peter Patterson, Chair



COMMUNITY AWARD TO GORD GLANDFIELD

At the recent Stonegate Community Health Centre's Annual General Meeting, Gord Glandfield – one of CCSJ Food Pantry's Co-Directors and Stonegate Ministry Board Member – was honoured with the **Stronger Together Community Health Champion Award**.

Julia Graham is the SCHC Community Programs & Engagement Coordinator, and during her presentation, she described Gord as a prominent community leader who has donated his time to the community for over 30 years. He was instrumental in bringing local churches together to establish Stonegate Ministry and is presently the Co-Director of our local food bank at Christ Church St. James Anglican Church. Gord sits on the Stonegate Food Access Committee and is the link between the Health Centre, the church and CCSJ Food pantry collaborations. Gord has been central to fundraising for increasing the capacity of the food bank. Gord takes on many roles: coordination, administration, unloading deliveries, fundraising, and picking up food.



He always puts the needs of our community first. Gord

has worked tirelessly to ensure that children and families in the Stonegate community have access to affordable food, clothing and shelter.

Congratulations to Gord for his continuous commitment and dedication to serving our community!

Jeannie Martinez
CCSJ Food Pantry Co-Director



Ministry Program Highlights

While Natalie, our Ministry Program Director, is on maternity leave, *our program activities and needs continue.*

- For the 2023 back-to-school season, we partnered with All Saints Kingsway Anglican Church to provide over 50 filled backpacks and pencil cases to students in the community. Students and their families were thrilled to receive these support tools for their new school year.
- *We are seeking individuals with pastoral or counseling experience* to support our clients at the CCSJ Food Bank. Many clients come to us seeking solace, support and a compassionate ear.
- We have been thrilled with the response of Toronto's Ukrainian community to our clients' needs for translation services and a sense of community. We plan to expand these partnerships as our client base of Ukrainian newcomers continues to grow.
- Our *Prayer 4 You* group has entered a quiet phase, and we are hoping to re-energize this valued source of prayerful intention.
- Our past grief counseling and CAP (Christians Against Poverty) financial guidance courses were very well received, and we are working with our partners to offer these again in the coming months.

We welcome offers of support and expertise for these programs. Please contact our office (see bottom page 4)

Natalie Sharpe, Ministry Program Director

Moira Grant, Stonegate Ministry Board member

Thanksgiving at the Food Pantry



As we gather with friends and family on this holiday, we think of those who are less fortunate and give thanks to **you**, our donors and supporters.

Our Food Pantry is located at Christ Church St. James Anglican Church who celebrate Harvest Sunday by having parishioners bring a donation for the Food Bank. Alderwood United (see picture) holds a grocery rally for CCSJ Food Pantry, while still other churches have food drives.

With an increasing number of needs, donations (either financial or goods), are very much needed and greatly appreciated. Donations of food can be dropped off at Christ Church St. James, 194 Park Lawn Rd. See the bottom of page 4 for options on how to give financially.

Items that are needed most-

Canned meat or fish – Cereal/Oatmeal/Granola – Crackers and cookies – Flour & Baking products – Soup – Canned fruit & Vegetables – Granola/protein bars – Sugar or alternatives/salt/spices – Beans – Pastes/tomato sauce – Powdered milk – Rice – Tea,/coffee/juice boxes etc – Nutritional meal supplements (Ensure, etc.) – Baby food and formula – Personal care supplies (soap, shampoo, etc.)



Jeannie Martinez,
Food Pantry Co-Director

“COME APART...

...with me to a quiet place and get some rest” - Jesus (Mark 6:31)

Someone said to me years ago *‘if you don’t come apart and rest a while - you may just come apart’*.

Wise words, especially in a world where we almost need to jog just to stand still! It doesn’t take much to get caught up in the whirlwind and lose our grounding. That’s the reason for our annual *‘coming apart’* for our *“God, Coffee and Me?”* friends, up at Camp Koinonia near Parry Sound.

Each August, we join in with many others for four days of *‘worship and wonder, to pray and play’*. Hikes, canoes, kayaks, campfires, games, Bible studies, table tennis, volleyball, and just *‘being’* with one another *‘under the big blue sky’* fill each day to the brim. On a weekly basis, this is what *‘God, Coffee and Me?’* is all about. We only have an hour or so as we gather around the coffee tables at Nimman’s Thai Restaurant on Lake Shore Blvd West. But that hour is rich in fellowship and encouragement as we regain our focus on-



‘Who is Jesus? What has He done? And what will our lives look like if we become more acquainted with Him?’

This weekly *‘coming apart’* is a time to remind ourselves that we are not alone, that we belong, and that we have purpose. This fall, every week is a building block study on *‘keeping it together’* when all around us is *‘coming apart’* at the seams.

The door is always open. There is a chair with your name on it...

2:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

Why not consider *‘coming apart’* and joining us?

Bruce Smith

On assignment to Stonegate Ministry



CONTACT US

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You can contribute by:

- Cheque mailed to 71 Riverview Gardens, Toronto, M6S 4E6
- Online on our website www.stonegateministry.ca
- e-Transfer to donations@stonegateministry.ca

Stonegate Ministry is a registered non-profit charity, and all donations are promptly acknowledged, and a receipt will be provided. This email is available by email or post mail. To change your preference or unsubscribe, please contact the office.