



A SAFE PLACE TO HEAL, A COMMUNITY TO THRIVE.

Dear Donors,

You may agree, the holiday season brings familiar traditions and a sense of belonging that comforts us even on the coldest days.

But, for some in our community, it is a reminder of what they are missing — a warm meal, connection with family, or even a safe place to sleep.

With you beside us, Shepherds of Good Hope is working to change this reality.

The bitter cold Ottawa winters and the long, dark nights make finding shelter a lifesaving priority. At times like this, the impact of your kindness is felt most.

You bring hope and healing to people in need, giving them more than a roof over their heads — you give them a place to call home and a community to thrive. **This holiday season, will you help keep this essential promise alive?**

Your kindness is powerful. A gift today helps us continue to be a place to call home for people in our community who need it most.



Alvin with Erin, Program Manager at Shepherds of Good Hope, standing together outside the supportive housing residence he calls home.

Your donation provides someone like Alvin, with warmth, safety, and the resources to rebuild their life.

Alvin is a long way from his original home of Kugluktuk, Nunavut. When he was young, Alvin went to live with his Granny.

“She wanted to take care of me. And she, well, she did,” recalls Alvin. “I learned a lot from her. Just before she passed away, she told my mom’s sister and her husband to adopt me. Which they did.”

His Auntie was a social worker, his Uncle, a counsellor, together they raised Alvin as their own.

“I stayed with my auntie and my uncle after they adopted me. I call them my parents now.”

Through their guidance, Alvin was given many gifts, including how to connect with his feelings.

“I used to be shy. I didn’t say too much,” says Alvin. “My auntie taught me to speak about my feelings.”

Alvin experienced a lot of trauma throughout his life. It is proven that substance use and mental health challenges are related to trauma. Alvin’s childhood trauma, the loss of his community and the death of his thirteen-year-old daughter all conspired against him.

When Alvin moved to Ottawa, he found meaningful work in the kitchen of a sports bar in the east end, putting the skills he learned at home into a profession he truly loves.

It was going well until Alvin’s drinking cost him his job. From there, Alvin soon found himself sleeping rough; He spent part of one winter sleeping in a tent and eventually found his way to Shepherds of Good Hope’s shelter on King Edward Avenue”.

Please consider making a life-changing gift today – so individuals like Alvin have somewhere to turn during the darkest times in their life!

At Shepherds of Good Hope, we provide more than a bed. Together with you, we create a place where people feel seen, valued, and supported. A place where they can thrive.

“YOUR KINDESS IS A POWERFUL FORCE, GIVING HOPE TO OUR NEIGHBOURS IN NEED.”

It's here they can find stability, form friendships, and feel connected to our community again.

The first time Alvin visited a friend in the same Shepherds supportive housing residence where he lives now, Alvin was intrigued. There is a full kitchen, a common space to socialize, everyone has a room of their own, and the staff are caring and friendly.

“Alvin would come to the program to see his friends who lived here,” says Erin Kelly, Program Manager in Shepherds supportive housing.

“He was so helpful. When a bed became available in our residence, we advocated for Alvin to move out of the emergency shelter and into our supportive housing residence. It's been good for him, and great for us. He's a great influence on all of us who live and work here.”

Imagine what it would be like to spend the holidays with nowhere to go, no familiar faces, and no feeling of safety.

Imagine how it would feel to walk through the cold streets without a place to come in from the harsh winter weather.

It's a reality that too many people face, but it's a reality we are changing together.

With your generosity, we will make this holiday season brighter for those who would otherwise feel alone.

Your kindness directly impacts the lives of people who are ready for a second chance. **You are providing:**

- A safe place to heal
- A community of care
- A path forward

For so many people, this is where the journey begins. **Your kindness is a powerful force, giving hope to our neighbors in need.**

Thanks to the guidance of his adoptive parents, and a new home where people listen and offer wrap-around support, Alvin's past does not define his future.

“When I was younger, my shoulders were so sore from holding all my emotions in,” he says. “My parents taught me to talk about what you've been through, so I started talking. I do the programs. I've been doing the treatment.”

And that is what we are making possible together!

When you support Shepherds of Good Hope, you support Alvin, and the thousands of other individuals just like him.

This year, the need is greater than ever. Rising costs and a shortage of affordable housing mean more people are turning to Shepherds for help. We meet people every day with no place to go, from young adults dealing with generational trauma, to seniors no longer being able to afford groceries. People just like Alvin.

Please consider a donation today. **Your gift of \$5 will provides a warm meal, \$100 provides two people with warm, new bedding, a gift of \$1000 provides a new bed and mattress for someone moving into their new home.**

You see, every gift you make, no matter the size, let's someone know they are not alone.

The journey from homelessness to home can be challenging. But, with your help, everything becomes possible! By giving today, you're not only supporting an individual in need; you're lifting our entire community.

Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of those who need it most and creating a world where everyone feels safe, connected, and valued.

May your generosity bring warmth to your own home and heart, as you bring hope to others.

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Gourlay', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Gourlay
CEO, Shepherds of Good Hope Foundation

P.S. By giving today, you will make this season one of hope and healing for someone in need. Your support will keep our doors open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, offering a place of comfort and care where people can find refuge and the strength to move forward.

SHEPHERDS OF GOOD HOPE FOUNDATION ✨