

April 1, 2020

Dear Friends,

We're fired up and here's why!

We recently had to put our Drop-In services on pause in order to find ways to provide community services in a safe, sustainable manner during the pandemic. **Now, the kitchen has re-opened and the stoves are back on!**

Food security has rapidly become an emergency issue. Many community meal and food programs have closed or reduced services while demand for food banks and food supports has increased dramatically. ehm has been exploring ways to address this rapidly emerging gap in our local community.

Last week, we started by providing food supports to tenants in our affordable housing Residence. Many tenants are forced to isolate during the pandemic as they are highly vulnerable to illness and/or face mobility issues. Combined with significant financial challenges and the closure of the Drop-In programs meals many residents relied on, access to food became an urgent issue for many of our residents.

While we still lacked the health and safety equipment to provide meals for the broader community, we did have enough resources to provide food hampers. And, last Thursday, the stoves were turned back on as the kitchen team created meals that were delivered to each apartment. We'll keep finding ways to assist our residents to be safe and nourished in their homes.

And, we are re-starting food supports for the broader community! We have secured adequate safety equipment, food, and take out containers to start providing take-away meals.

We don't have all the answers yet on what our new 'normal' will be in terms of long-term food programming. But **we will continue to find ways to fill empty bellies.**

You, our donor community, make this all possible.

ehm has stood with community members through the Great Depression, both world wars, and multiple recessions. We stand with our community through the current public health crisis and



Evangel Hall Mission

A community of compassion. A place of hope.™

will continue to find ways to help. Donors like you have stood with ehm throughout the decades, extending a helping hand to people in need.

And, during this crisis, you are finding ways to help. You have sent financial gifts, Loblaw gift cards, beautiful pictures drawn by your children, and messages of encouragement. Each gesture of kindness is a spark of hope. Together, you are shining such a strong, gracious light that is reaching everyone ehm assists. **Thank you for your support. Thank you for your care.**

Providing community supports during this current public health crisis has required more than a little creative problem-solving, collaboration and, at times, sheer tenacity. This changed landscape has required agencies like ehm develop new approaches to community work.

Every day we've found ways to expand services. And we'll keep finding new ways to serve people facing homelessness, poverty, and mental and physical health illnesses.

Please, continue to send your financial donations. Continue to stand by the many people who are coping with the pandemic while also challenged by poverty, homelessness and illness.

With deepest thanks for your support and understanding,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ainsley".

Ainsley Chapman
Executive Director