



# 2018 END OF YEAR UPDATE



**Kerr Street Mission**  
Oakville's Mission of Hope



# To our Kerr Street Mission Friends

## THANK YOU!!!

Your support again this year has been amazing. We are so very grateful that you believe in what we are trying to do, and that you continue to support our efforts. I am just beginning my 7th year at Kerr Street Mission (KSM) and I can say that my passion to make a difference is stronger than ever. The people we are trying to help, along with their stories of struggle and hardship drive me to do more. The passion of the volunteers and staff inspire me to never give up. And the trust that you, our donors, have placed in us encourages me to do my best to maximize the value of every dollar.

In my first few years I dreamed that Kerr Street Mission would become a **'Hub of Care'** for the community. My hope was that we would be able to respond more effectively to the needs of all those seeking help through our programs, partner programs, or community connections. This past year we struggled with space and parking because of the 75,000+ visits to the mission. Yes, we have become a Hub of Care.

I also dreamed that Kerr Street Mission would become a **'Catalyst for Good Work'**. My hope was that we would inspire the community to Love their Neighbour. Today I think of the 11 year old young lady who has raised over \$25,791 and collected over 8,885 food items for our food market (so far). I think of the many school groups, companies and hundreds of volunteers that come to serve meals or do special projects on a weekly basis. And I think of the individuals, foundations and companies that have donated to make it all possible. Kerr Street Mission truly is the community caring for the community and I am so thankful to be a part of it.

In the pages that follow you will be able to read about two of our core programs; Christmas Wonders and Kerr Street Summer Day Camp, and two very important partner programs: Neighbour Care Network and Gary Allan High School STEP Program at KSM. I hope you are encouraged by the impact of these programs and the difference your support has made. Thank you again for making it all possible through your ongoing and faithful support.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary O'Neill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary O'Neill  
Executive Director

## SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

Thank you for helping us to meet our financial objectives in 2018. Not only have we hit our budget target again this year, but many of you have also given additional gifts over the last three years, that have helped us to pay off our \$2,000,000 mortgage and build a reserve fund of \$500,000.

Having increased financial stability will help us put more focus on improving programming and achieving our mission.

# The Most Wonderful Time of Year

To many families in Oakville, this past holiday season was truly the most wonderful time of their year. As part of our **Christmas Wonders and Beyond** program, over 1300 people were blessed and their Christmas was made much brighter.

For many of us, the Christmas season is filled with special gatherings, traditions and celebrations. However for some in our community, the holidays can be difficult, as more than 11% of Oakville residents are living below the poverty line and struggle to make ends meet.

For these families the help they received from us was a special blessing. Being able to enjoy Christmas, the food, fellowship, and gifts knowing they didn't have more debt to weigh them down, truly has given them hope.

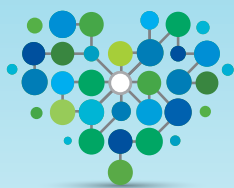
For more than 15 years, Kerr Street Mission has rallied the community together to make sure families in need have been able to celebrate this joyous occasion. This past year, even more individuals, more newcomers and families supporting more children turned to KSM for assistance.

We feel so blessed and thankful for our strong community, with many generous donors and more than 100 volunteers, who helped us provide for these families. **Together we raised \$420,000** - an amazing accomplishment. Our largest fundraising effort to date! Thank you all for your generous support. This program would not be a success without you. Your generosity truly helped to make it the most wonderful time of the year for so many.



“ Thank you for helping my family through this difficult time of year. And thank you for helping so many other families like mine. It helps ease the burden and helps bring joy to the holidays. My children will be very happy to wake up on Christmas Day to have presents under the tree. Thank you for your kindness and support.

| Christmas Wonders Recipient



NEIGHBOUR  
CARE  
NETWORK



Thanks for all the emotional and financial support, it has been a journey but I am somehow still standing. Thank you for walking alongside me, if I didn't have your help Lord only knows what could have become of my family. I really appreciate everything you have done for me and my family.

| NCN Participant

**A community coming together to love their neighbour in times of difficulty and distress.**

Neighbour Care Network is a shared initiative of local church compassion ministries, organized, facilitated and supported by Kerr Street Mission. It provides ongoing support and mentorship to Care Support Volunteers so they can come alongside individuals and families in difficulty and distress. The Care Support volunteers work with clients to identify and access available resources so they can get to a more stable and sustainable situation and improve their health and well-being.



# Summer Memories



It's an exciting time for us as planning for our summer day camp and youth development have begun!

2018 was the first time that the Kerr Street Day Camp was hosted at KSM and it was a great success. We had 7 fun filled weeks of camp packed with interactive activities, traditional camp games, workshops and of course exciting field trips. Hosting summer camp at KSM, allowed us the opportunity to foster community for the children, youth and their families.

We also offered all staff an opportunity to be part of a full week of staff training and development. Thanks to a partnership with Upward Sports, families received an extra week of camp fun and KSM was able to support development of our future leaders. Additionally, three KSM youth were offered enhanced volunteer positions and were mentored by one of our camp leadership staff.

It was so rewarding to watch the kids enjoy so many different activities and to see them build friendship and confidence over the summer. Thank you for your faithful support of summer day camp and KSM families!



*We got to go swimming every week. Every week! That means I practiced my cannonballs so much, they got big enough to splash the lifeguard. My friends and I had dance parties on the deck and swimming races too.*

| 2018 Camper

## It takes a village to raise a child!

Program offerings for children and youth have been part of the KSM story for many years. We have always embraced the opportunity to love and care for the children and youth in our community. Kerr Street Mission has partnered with Gary Allan High School (Halton District School Board) to run the STEP program out of the KSM facility. The Secondary Teen Engagement Program (STEP) is a closely tracked, integrated program that combines career and life education with individualized instruction for compulsory courses in a small class setting. Teachers endeavor to build a caring and inclusive learning community centered on wellness, equity, respect, and collaboration. This partnership has also made it easier to offer students meaningful volunteering opportunities, from helping with KSM's youth drop-in or after school programs, to helping with community meal programs and events. We are inspired on a daily basis by the students who are fighting their way through challenges and hardships but continue to be active participants in their future and for a better life.



*A school is never just a building, but it's the teachers, students and administrative staff, and those are the characteristics that make a school great. This has kept me from going too far astray from the tracks. Without this program I don't know where I'd be, but I know it wouldn't be good. I still have a long way to go with my mental health, but there is a way these classrooms bring a smile to your face every morning, and makes you want to do better.*

| Student

### UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information or to become a sponsor please e-mail [heidi@kerrstreet.com](mailto:heidi@kerrstreet.com)



**Thursday, May 2, 2019**  
at Kerr Street Mission  
A donor appreciation event and celebration of KSM achievements.



**Wednesday, June 5, 2019**  
at Pipers Heath Golf Course in Milton  
Registration is now open!



**Thursday, July 11, 2019**  
at Trafalgar Park in Oakville  
Registration is now open!



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Charitable Reg. No. 897106845RR0001