



# 2020 END OF YEAR UPDATE



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



# What a Year!

As I look back on 2020, I am amazed at all that has happened. There have been many challenges, and many blessings. There have been some wonderful highs and some difficult lows. Through it all I have been reminded to hold strong to my faith and to have hope.

We have a short promotional video on our website that says, “**For the times you need us, Kerr Street Mission is there**”. (If you haven’t seen it yet, or recently, I encourage you to go to our website [www.kerrstreet.com](http://www.kerrstreet.com) and check it out.) The message in the video captures the essence of what Kerr Street Mission is all about. Every day we try our best to provide care and a community of support for people that have found themselves in need. Every day we try to love our neighbours in a way that helps them today and gives them hope for a better tomorrow.

From day one of the pandemic KSM has been there for so many. We had to change everything we do. We had to provide for a lot more people. We had to find different ways to connect and support children, youth and their families. And we had to be ready to respond to whatever situation presented itself. Thanks to the dedication of our staff and volunteers and the incredible generosity of the community we were able to remain a hub of care, and we were able to provide a life-line to many.

Thank you for your support and encouragement. Thank you for being part of our KSM family.

Gary O'Neill  
Executive Director

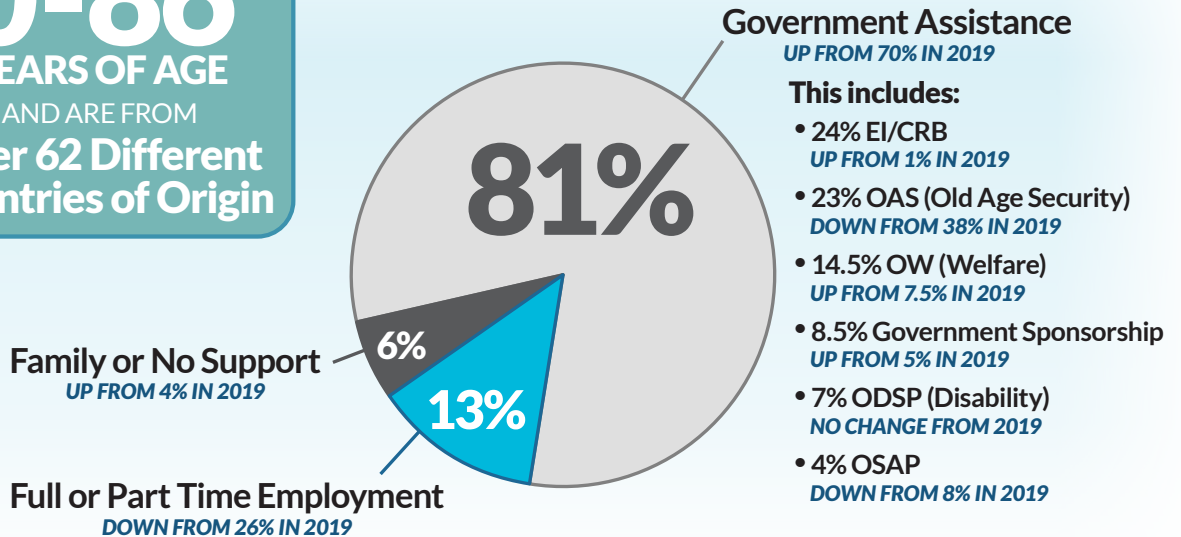
Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23

# Who do we serve?



## Their main source of income comes from...



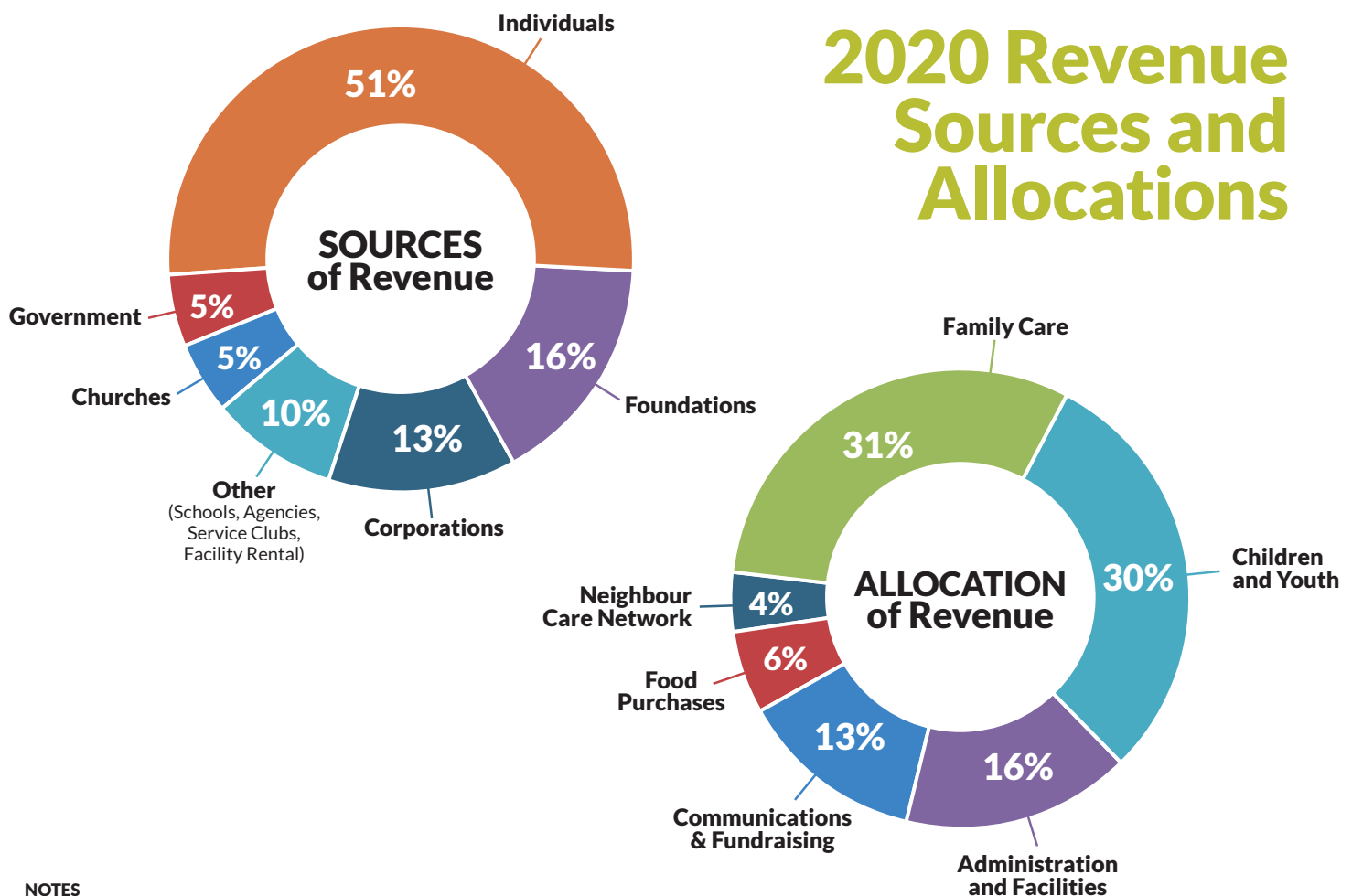
# SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

A key strategic priority for Kerr Street Mission has been the long-term financial sustainability of KSM. Over the last few years we have worked really hard to establish greater financial stability to ensure that KSM would be here for the long term, and that we would be able to provide well for people who have found themselves in need.

When the pandemic was first declared there were concerns across the not-for-profit sector on the impact on giving, and how that would affect the health of charities. At KSM we wondered how needs might increase in our community. We wondered how best to care for those in need. And we wondered if we would have the funds to do all that we needed to do.

As we look back we can say we have been blessed beyond our expectations. Thank you for your compassionate hearts and generosity. We have had many faithful donors increase their giving and we have received gifts from many first-time donors. It has been amazing. It has made a difference. And we are so very thankful!

Please know that your generosity and commitment has been important, and has really made a difference. It not only made it possible for us to provide for all of the clients that have come seeking help, but has also helped us to take steps to improve the quality of care we provide. It has helped us to make plans for 2021 and beyond that will make it possible for KSM to help more people and have an even greater impact in our community.



**NOTES**

- Donated food valued at well over \$500,000, is not included in the above.
- Percentages are based on unaudited preliminary year end numbers.
- Audited statements will be completed in April and are available upon request.

# FOOD SERVICES UPDATE

KSM's Food Market and Meal programs have been an important part of our program offering for many years. These programs enable us to provide important basic needs for our clients and reduce their financial burden. It also helps us create community and personal connections that give people a sense of belonging and the knowledge that they are loved. Both are powerful feelings that make a difference.



KSM's Food Market provides both food and hygiene products. Clients are invited to come and shop each week, choosing the products that they need and prefer. In 2020 we invested to ensure that we have consistent supplies of healthy non-perishable food options and adequate supplies of needed hygiene products.

**545** was the average number of people that depended on our Food Market on a weekly basis in 2020. *(compared to 407 in 2019)*



Based on food market use in November and December, we expect weekly use of the food market to increase to over

**650 PEOPLE**

In total KSM distributed more than **229,105 lbs** OF FOOD in 2020!



An important addition to our Food Market has been our Choose Fresh program. Clients who register get a big bag of fresh produce one week and a dozen eggs, 4 litres of milk, and 3-5 lbs of halal chicken or fish in alternating weeks. We purchase from local producers to ensure families have access to top quality fresh food.

We had **173** families registered by the end of 2020. *(compared to 132 in 2019)*

In total KSM distributed...



**14,596 L of Milk**  
APPROX. VALUE: \$18,584



**3,234 Dozen Eggs**  
APPROX. VALUE: \$6,758

**11,827 lbs of Protein**  
APPROX. VALUE: \$27,032



**41,976 lbs of Fruits and Vegetables**  
APPROX. VALUE: \$52,470



# Our Response to COVID-19

During the pandemic many programs had to be paused at times, and when restarted had to be limited in terms of numbers of participants. The need to distribute food was essential and as expected the number of people needing help increased significantly. With the uncertainty about gatherings and program delivery, which we realize will continue for another six months or more, we will continue to focus our efforts and resources to improve our food programming and to help other food banks and churches who are providing for people in their community.

## Community Delivery

In the first days of the pandemic many of our seniors and other clients with health conditions were not able to come to our Food Market. We introduced a delivery program to make sure all those who needed food would have access to it. We added additional staff resources to call clients each week to let them know what items are available and to check in with them.



We had **2,356** conversations and packages delivered in 2020.

Each week clients were called to determine their needs and packages were carefully assembled and delivered to their door.

## Meals To-Go

Community Meals have been an important part of Kerr Street Mission for many years. Some people depend on the meals because they don't have a home, others don't have proper facilities or the know how to cook. And many come regularly for social connections. Although we were not able to have a sit-down meal we were able to provide warm, healthy meals options for those that needed it.



We prepared & distributed **10,960** meals in 2020.

Five times per week fresh healthy meals were lovingly prepared and made available for pick up through our kitchen or in our Food Market.



# Stories of Hope



Pandemic or not the Kerr Street After School team wanted to make sure children got to feel the magic of Christmas and Santa! With donations from our community partners and wonderful donors, we were able to do that! Every child received a gift, a gingerbread house to make as a family, kits with treats and activities, homemade gift and so much more! Our hearts were so full! Santa even came for a visit! The kids were so excited and everyone could feel the spirit of Christmas!



For several years, KSM has partnered with Gary Allan High school. However, COVID has impacted the way the program was run but we are happy to be able to invest and support students through Co-op and volunteer opportunities with KSM. Atalia is a current student with the Gary Allan High School program and has been doing her co-op placement at Kerr Street Mission since September 2020. We wanted to share her story and the passion she has for KSM.

*"I am really lucky for this opportunity because I was able to work with some of the most encouraging and supportive people in the Kerr Street After School Program. I have learned how to properly communicate with parents, staff and the children. Working with the Kerr Street Mission staff has taught me to value teamwork. I was able to see first hand all the hard work and effort the staff do behind the scenes so that the children have a fun and engaging learning experience. Kerr Street Mission is really just a huge family working together and I'm so grateful to be a part of it. I hope to take on more leadership roles before my time at KSM comes to an end."*

An expecting mother came through our doors before Christmas. Her and her husband, like so many of our other clients had lost income during COVID and were barely covering their expenses. When she found out she was pregnant she didn't want to make any plans because she had a number of miscarriages in the past. When she went for her check up her doctor informed her she had made it past the critical point and, to her surprise, she was expecting twins. Excited as they were, they were also in a panic about how they would afford all the things they needed. Our Neighbour Care Network (NCN) staff jumped into action, contacting our network and telling them her story. There was an overwhelming response from local churches. Within days the team was able to purchase two car seats and provide gift cards for the additional supplies a mom of twins is going to need.



KSM is often asked to come alongside clients when other agencies are not able to provide for all the families need. John is a young man who was living with his mom in an apartment nearby. John's mom had Alzheimer's and her condition had deteriorated to the point John had to quit his job to look after her. When we met John we discovered they barely had enough to pay rent. They had almost no furniture and they had no food. Not long after we connected with John, his mom passed away and he was left all alone. He continued to pick up food weekly at our Food Market, and the Neighbour Care Network worked to get him into more stable housing, and empowered him to find work. It was the help he needed to start fresh. We are thankful that we could help and we remain a critical support as he navigates his new life.

# THANK YOU!

We feel so blessed to have such a generous community. Thank you to our faithful donors and organizations for helping us to continue to provide a lifeline for families in need. We would like to recognize the following corporations who donated \$2,500 or more to help our neighbours in need.



We would like to thank our generous community for coming together to support hundreds of Oakville families in need. As part of our **Christmas Wonders and Beyond** program, over 1,700 of our neighbours were blessed and their Christmases were made much brighter this year. The number of individuals needing our help this Christmas rose by over 200 due to COVID-19. Families navigating a reality they never saw coming found peace and sanctuary at Kerr Street Mission and thanks to your help we didn't have to turn a single one away.

**Together we were able to exceed our goal of raising \$450,000!**

Thank you for the generous support of our donors as well as the volunteers who work tirelessly to provide an amazing Christmas to our clients. Your kindness truly helped to make it the most wonderful time of the year for so many.

*"Christmas Wonders is a program that astounds me, due to the great generosity involved. In addition to that, the volunteers & employees are very respectful and friendly. They are always very helpful and go above and beyond their scope to help anyone out."*

- Christmas Wonders Recipient



Christmas  
Wonders  
AND BEYOND

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**Thursday, May 6, 2021**

a Virtual Event

From the comfort of your home enjoy a catered meal, entertainment and stories of inspiration!

***Stay tuned for more details!***



**Monday, September 27, 2021**

at Pipers Heath Golf Course in Milton

Enjoy a day on the links with your foursome while supporting the work of KSM.

***Registration is now open!***

For more information or for sponsorship opportunities please e-mail [heidi@kerrstreet.com](mailto:heidi@kerrstreet.com).



## Kerr Street Mission

Oakville's Mission of Hope

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Charitable Reg. No. 897106845RR0001