

WINTER 2023

# The INN-spire

Our story of Resilience, Needs, Success, Dreams and Gratitude



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## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Hello everyone, and welcome to our 2023 Newsletter.

There have been many changes since we last spoke. Let me start by introducing you to our Executive Director, Brian Elliot. Brian comes to us with a very strong financial background. He has worked on the affordable housing spectrum for over a decade and is a strong advocate for our community.

Over the last year, we have developed a robust organization structure to include a Fund Development and Digital Marketing Manager, Volunteer Coordinator, Program Manager, Case Managers, Support Staff, Kitchen Coordinator, Custodial Support and Security. As the numbers of our guests continue to rise, we are always in need of more staff and volunteers. It takes a minimum of 400 volunteer hours monthly to keep our doors open. We can't do it without YOU!

We continue to grow and develop our Partnership Program both financially and gifts in kind. We brought back our Shamrock Shuffle in March 2023. We saw a very successful day, and thanks to the continued generosity of Central United Church, we are planning for March 23, 2024. Although it is slightly past St Patrick's Day, we are certain the Irish won't hold it against us. You can run, walk, or cheer. Bring your children and your puppy dogs all are welcome.

Look out for our new website, soon to be launched, and it will keep you updated on our activities.

We continue to grow our Board and now have 8 Directors, a very professional team including Finance, Lawyer, Human Resources, Healthcare, St Thomas Business Community, and the St Thomas Police Services. We are hoping to add one more member for a complete 9-member Board of Directors.

As always, thank you for your support, and we look forward to continuing to support all of our St Thomas-Elgin community.

**Margaret Barrie**

905-864-9298 | [board@innelgin.ca](mailto:board@innelgin.ca)

## WHAT'S NEW?

### Unveiling Our New Website Soon!

Get ready for a seamless experience with our upcoming website launch. It's user-friendly, easy to navigate, and promises a fresh new look! Stay tuned for an enhanced online journey with The INN.

### Social Media Expansion

We've expanded our digital presence beyond Facebook! Connect with us on Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn for more updates, stories, and community engagement. Let's stay connected across platforms and continue making a positive impact together. Follow us and be part of our journey!

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**223** unique guests served  
**214** unique guests that stayed overnight



**6014** drop-in day visits  
**13442** overnight stays



**51** individuals housed  
**28** Individuals diverted to their home community



**400** of Volunteers hours



**75** Female  
**140** Male  
**8** Non Binary



**25** Youth (16-24)  
**189** Adults (25-24)  
**9** Seniors (65+)



**30** Indigenous  
**8** Visible minorities  
**13** GSM (generally known as 2SLGBTQIA+)  
**4** Veterans  
**2** Refugees and Immigrants



**28302** of Meals



**2453** Loads of laundry



**1000+** of clothing given



**717** Doctors appointments

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The INN is always so humbled by the generous support we receive from the people and city of St Thomas. This is a city that really does show compassion for those that are most vulnerable, our homeless population.



We can talk about our impact through numbers, which you will see throughout our newsletter but for the team at The INN it really is about the people we serve and by extension our community.

The individuals who need are services did not grow up dreaming of being homeless. The circumstances that brought them here are all very different. The common theme for them all is that they do not want to stay homeless.

The INN is a housing focused organization that works one on one with these individuals. We help them navigate complex situations with the help of numerous community partners to try to make homelessness as short as possible. The team works with them on overcoming mental health and addictions. We support them through meals, laundry, showers, and personal hygiene products. We support them through the journey of new identifications, income supports, employment opportunities and finding the right housing for them.

When you support and donate to The INN, your donation dollars directly impact the individuals we support and truly helps keep St Thomas and Elgin a great place to live and work.

We appreciate all that you do to support us!

On behalf of our clients and team we wish you all a joyous holiday season.

**Brian Elliot**  
 Executive Director

## UNITED IN PURPOSE, STRONGER AS A TEAM!



Behind every successful endeavor, there's a dedicated team driving the vision forward. Here's a snapshot of the fantastic individuals who bring passion and purpose to our cause. Together, we create positive change and build a brighter future

## 2023 FUNDERS AND CORPORATE SUPPORTERS



## 2023 COMMUNITY PARTNERS



# STORIES, EVENTS AND MORE

## SHAMROCK SHUFFLE 2024

Save the Date for the 11th Annual Shamrock Shuffle! Join us on Saturday, March 23, 2024, for this lively event which includes a 5K run, a 5K walk, and a 2K family walk. We're counting on the support of volunteers in various capacities to make this day a success.

Whether you're interested in volunteering or exploring sponsorship opportunities, there's a place for everyone in our community to contribute. Calling on the generous people of St. Thomas! As you plan your charitable donations for 2024, please consider supporting The INN St. Thomas Elgin and the Shamrock Shuffle. Visit the Shamrock Shuffle facebook page or The INN facebook page for ongoing updates and opportunities.

Link to register: <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/79625/the-shamrock-shuffle-2024>

## SUCCESS STORIES

### Story 1

Emily (name changed for privacy) presented at shelter after no longer being able to stay in supportive housing. She was provided a space after staying outside for over a month. She discovered she was pregnant not too long after. Right away, Emily was assisted by The INN staff who reached out a program that would be able to support her and her future child. Emily found support from a local clinic, and she met with a doctor and nurse each week at The INN. She was able to access the hospital when experiencing complications with her health, The INN provided transportation to and from hospital by taxi vouchers. Once a housing program that was a fit for her needs accepted the referral, case managers from The INN connected with community partners to help arrange transport to the intake appointment and a few weeks later, her move in date. Staff at The INN supported her in organizing the items she needed to bring with her including supplies for her expected child. Both are healthy and housed still.

### Story 2

Walter (name changed for privacy) had experienced homelessness for just over 5 years and was recently housed. This client had many barriers facing him when it came to finding and securing safe and affordable housing. The staff at the shelter, with the assistance of community partners such as Social Services, Indwell, our local MP's office and a few others helped Walter overcome those barriers. We were able to help him get ID, fill out required housing paperwork, complete assessments, ensure his taxes were completed, and attended meetings to help him be his best self. With all the support that was offered to this client, he was able to move into his own apartment.

## VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS

For years I hoped that I could find ways to help others who had life struggles. I prayed about it and as the time neared, working at The INN came up.

I thought I would try it. Honestly, at first it was a bit intimidating, but once I got to know the staff and had opportunities to interact with the guests, I have grown to really care about them.

There is great satisfaction in helping others who can't help themselves. Some of the guests have on several occasions thanked me for helping them.

Even without that I am still glad I came here to volunteer!

**John (The INN Volunteer)**

For almost 2 years I have volunteered at The INN and it has challenged my assumptions and biases and definitely put me outside of my comfort zone.

I am thankful to be a volunteer at The INN for a couple of reasons. I work with a wonderful team. We share many funny stories and laugh a lot in that kitchen. I enjoy having them as friends and I am glad that we all share a bond of helping others. I look forward to seeing them every Friday night. It makes my week.

By far the most rewarding experience is when I leave after a typical night of serving dinner to the guests. Many of them will look your way, nod appreciatively and say "Thank you!" You then realize that your time and effort has made a very small difference but in a positive way You feel valued. But you also ask yourself " how can we do better as a truly caring community to help those in need?"

**Mark (The INN Volunteer)**

# Donate Today!

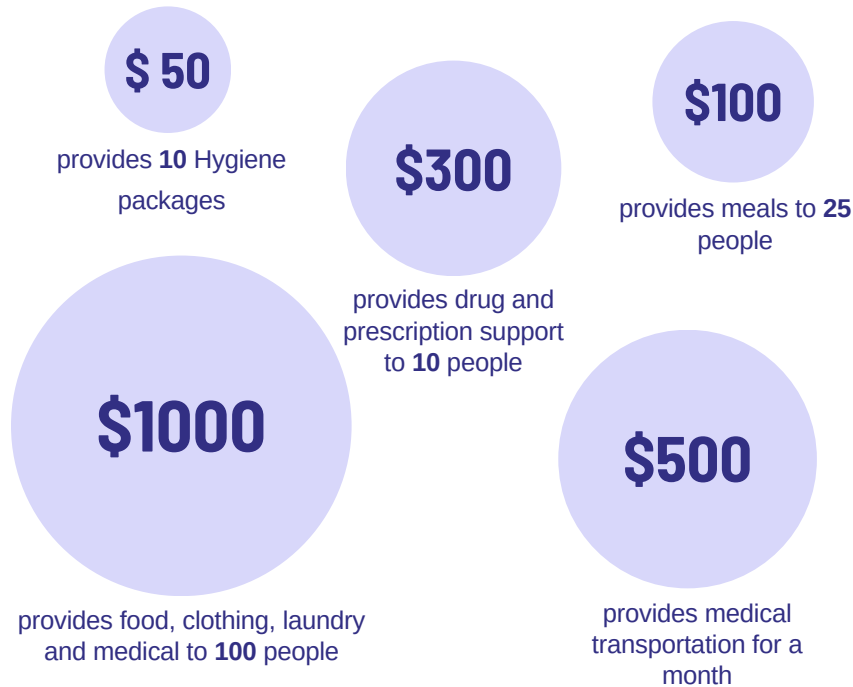
Support The INN with Your Generosity

Every Dollar Counts! Your contribution can make an immense difference in the lives of those facing homelessness insecurity. Each dollar paves the way for vital support, providing comfort, warmth, and hope. Your generosity goes beyond the amount – it creates positive ripples that touch lives in ways unimaginable. Join us in making a lasting impact today!



## What your donations can do?

REMEMBER, NO DOLLAR IS TOO SMALL



### Our Wish List:



- Handwarmers
- Gloves
- Boots
- Hoodies
- Gifts Cards
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Soap Bars
- Small Tissue packs
- Backpacks
- Sleeping Bags
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Brush & Combs
- Belts



Scan the QR code or visit <https://www.innoutofthecoldelgin.com/donate> to make your donation

### Contact Us:

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Shelter : 519-637-9898  
Executive Director : 519-636-2726 or [director@innelgin.ca](mailto:director@innelgin.ca)

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