

FALL 2024

# The INN-spire

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



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Hello everyone, and welcome to our 2024 Newsletter.

It is time to connect again for 2025. We have had a busy year as you will see when you read our statistics. It was busy and productive. Our Case Managers this year were directly involved in the housing of **38** people. This is the pride of our team the reason we keep doing what we do.

There are so many people that need the services we provide at The INN. There always seems to be someone to fill the spaces freed up by people who have been housed. We would not be able to do our jobs or keep the doors open without the support we receive from the community. We are so grateful for your generosity and the compassion we see and feel.

We will be holding our **12th Annual Shamrock Shuffle** in **March 22, 2025**. Be sure to save the date and plan to come out and join us for a day of fun and fresh air. Always a good time and we have decided to make a couple of changes based on some welcomed feedback to make the day even better. Hope to see you there!

**Margaret Barrie**

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



## WHAT'S NEW!

- We are honored to be recognized by the **Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness** as a leader in Homelessness Prevention across Canada. This recognition reflects our commitment to innovative programs that not only support individuals experiencing homelessness but also work to prevent it from happening in the first place.
- The INN St. Thomas Elgin was named a finalist for the **St. Thomas Chamber of Commerce RBC Impact Award 2024 for Unsung Heroes**. This recognition celebrates our dedicated team and volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make a difference in our community
- We have expanded our facility to include **40 beds**, along with **15 emergency warming and cooling spaces**
- This year, we're thrilled to partner with **St. Thomas Gaming Association - Jackpot Time for Charitable Gaming**, providing us with an exciting new avenue to raise funds and support our programs.



Registered Charity 807524467RR0001

## IN THIS EDITION

Message from the Board  
President - Margaret Barrie

2024 Highlights

Message from the Executive  
Director - Brian Elliot

Shamrock Shuffle 2024: A huge  
success

2024 Funders, Corporate  
Supporters and Community  
Partners

Testimonials and Success Stories

## TOGETHER WE THRIVE: COMMUNITY MOMENTS





## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



**261** unique guests served  
**238** unique guests that stayed overnight



**5440** drop-in day visits  
**15118** overnight stays



**38** individuals housed  
**51** Individuals diverted



**400** hours of Volunteers hours



**146** Female  
**85** Male  
**7** Non Binary



**20** Youth (16-24)  
**213** Adults (25-24)  
**5** Seniors (65+)



**28** Indigenous  
**9** BIPOC  
**16** GSM known as **2**SLGBTQ+  
**1** Veterans  
**3** Refugees and Immigrants



**31043** of Meals



**3976** Loads of laundry



**1000+** of clothing given



**1229** Doctors appointments

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Each year, like many of you, Thanksgiving is a time to gather with friends and family. We share laughter and tears as we reminisce about the past and look forward to what lies ahead. These moments in time, reflections of what was, gives us a feeling of belonging. It helps shape the future that is in front of us.

There are so many in our community, who do not have that same experience. Their lives have somehow taken a turn that has impacted their lives. Homelessness is never a destination you plan for; it is the outcome of circumstances. As a low barrier shelter our role is to help them overcome those circumstances, advocate, and support in an inclusive way, and find solutions that allow them to find housing and supports for their future. The INN can do this based on the support of amazing community partners, volunteers, and the kindness and compassion of our donors.

Your donations go directly to help us provide meals, showers, clothing, hygiene products, prescriptions, transportation, employment supports, and access to affordable and supportive housing. The results have been amazing, and there is a sense of pride around the community of St Thomas-Elgin of the dignity and respect we show for each other and those that are vulnerable.

The impact that each individual, and business has is real. The stories from those that have moved from homelessness are not fictional and everyone who supports The INN plays a role in that success.

Thank You, for all that you do, we appreciate you all for the support you give us so we can support those in need.

**Brian Elliot**  
Executive Director



## THE INN-SIDE STORY *A Heart for Service, Beyond Retirement*



I've been volunteering at The INN for over 11 years now. It all began at Central United Church, which I'm proud to be a part of. When they were in need of volunteers to help with cooking and serving, I jumped at the chance to lend a hand. Cooking has always been a passion of mine, so I knew I could make a difference in this way.

I joined the Monday Night team initially, and I'm still with them today. Now, we operate out of 10 Princess Ave, our very own shelter. Volunteering with my Monday night crew has been incredibly fulfilling. We not only have a blast together but also find immense joy in assisting those who are less fortunate. It's heartwarming to see the gratitude in our guests when they receive a hot meal. Hearing them express their thanks and complimenting the food truly brightens my day.

For me, there's nothing quite like witnessing a community come together to support and give back to one another. As long as I'm able, I'll continue to dedicate my time to volunteering at the shelter. It's an honour to be part of such an incredible team of staff and volunteers who selflessly give back to our community on a daily basis.

**Connie Sanders** (Volunteer (former Food Service Coordinator))



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## OUR FUNDERS AND CORPORATE SUPPORTERS



## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



To learn or inquire about our corporate sponsorship or community partnership opportunities, please contact us at 519-636-2726 or [director@innelgin.ca](mailto:director@innelgin.ca)

visit us at [www.innelgin.ca](http://www.innelgin.ca)

## 11TH ANNUAL SHAMROCK SHUFFLE 2024: A HUGE SUCCESS!

On March 23, 2024, we hosted the 11th Annual Shamrock Shuffle, and it was an incredible day! With 155 enthusiastic participants and the generous support of 9 sponsors, we raised over \$24,000—all of which will go directly to supporting The INN Shelter. We are so grateful to everyone who laced up their shoes, cheered from the sidelines, and contributed to making this year's event such a success.



## SUCCESS STORIES

### Story 1

Victoria came to The INN after leaving an unsafe situation. She experienced significant health complications while at the shelter. Our team assisted by connecting her to health resources through our community partners. The next step was to find safe accommodations so she could stabilize her health further and begin the next chapter of her life. Due to the advocacy and work of our Housing-Focused Case Managers, Victoria was accepted to a housing program that could meet all her needs. We are pleased that she can continue her journey to wellness in a safe, accessible and affordable space.

### Story 2

Clive had been experiencing chronic homelessness in our community. Many factors contributed to his length of homelessness. Mental wellness, physical health, and legal complications were the focus of our Housing-Focused Case Manager's interventions. Clive received assistance from our staff and several community partners to address the areas of need. Through consistent collaboration and advocacy, Clive was able to move into housing with wrap-around support to continue meeting his needs. We are grateful that we can collaborate with our community partners to secure housing for the most vulnerable members of our community.

## VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS



Volunteering at The INN has been such a good experience, working as a group and making food for those that are in need is both fulfilling and rewarding. I love the fact that we can come and make dinner as well as serve it. Interacting with those that we make food for is my highlight. The staff at The Inn is also very easy to work with. Thankful for this opportunity to serve the St. Thomas community.

Isabel Ulrich (The INN Volunteer)

My name is Joan Atchison, and I started working as a volunteer at the Inn a year ago. I help prepare lunch, serve and clean up. I love working there. It's a lot of fun. I like giving to the community and connecting with others.

Joan Atchison (The INN Volunteer)

### Volunteer with Us!

Looking to make a difference? For volunteer opportunities, contact Lacy Van Horne, our Kitchen & Food Service Coordinator, at [laceyV@innelgin.ca](mailto:laceyV@innelgin.ca) or call 226-545-0899. Join us in supporting our community!

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The INN  
St. Thomas-Elgin

# 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

**\$ 50**

provides **10** Hygiene packages

**\$300**

provides over the counter medication and prescription support to **10** people

**\$100**

provides meals to **25** people

**\$1000**

provides food, clothing, laundry and medical to **100** people

**\$500**

provides medical transportation for a month

### Our Wish List:

- Handwarmers & Gloves
- Boots
- Hoodies
- Socks
- Blankets
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Soap Bars
- Backpacks
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Brush & Combs
- Belts
- Gifts Cards



Scan the QR code or visit [innelgin.ca](http://innelgin.ca) to make your donation

### Contact Us:

10 Princess Ave., St. Thomas, ON N5R 3V2  
Shelter : 519-637-9898  
Executive Director : 519-636-2726 or [director@innelgin.ca](mailto:director@innelgin.ca)  
Website: [www.innelgin.ca](http://www.innelgin.ca)

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