



CCSAC NEWSLETTER

CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL
ACTION COMMITTEE

December 2023

Executive:

Chair: Kristine Burr
Vice-Chair: Emmy Verdun
Secretaries: Elizabeth Demaray &
Mary Mussell
Treasurer: Emmy Verdun
Communications & Newsletter
Editors: Mary Mussell &
Lorna Kingston
Facebook Coordinator: Anisha Eipe

Member Churches:

Blessed Sacrament
Canadian Martyrs
Centretown United
Christ Church Cathedral
Church of the Ascension
Dominion-Chalmers United
Eglise unie St-Marc
First Baptist
Fourth Avenue Baptist
Glebe-St. James United
Knox Presbyterian
Quaker Ottawa Meeting
St. Andrew's Presbyterian
St. Barnabas Anglican
St. Giles Presbyterian
St. John the Evangelist Anglican
St. Matthew's Anglican
St. Patrick's Basilica
St. Peter's Lutheran
St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican
St. Teresa's Roman Catholic
Southminster United
Trinity Anglican

Our Mission:

To unite Christians of all
denominations through joint
participation in social projects and
prayer.

Get in Touch!

We would love to hear from you!
507 Bank St.
Ottawa, Ont. K2P 1Z5
613-232-3059

Contact@centretownchurches.org
www.centretownchurches.org

Walkathon 2023 – A Great Success

October 1 was a glorious fall day to enjoy the 8th Annual Walk for the Centre along the Rideau Canal on the Queen Elizabeth Pathway.



Photo: Heather Duggan

The event, hosted by the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee (CCSAC), raised funds for the Centretown Community Food Centre (CCFC) and drew attention to the growing need for food security for many people living in downtown Ottawa.

Social media played a key role in promoting our event with regular updates on the CCSAC website (<https://www.centretownchurches.org/>) and the CCSAC Facebook page. The Walk Committee, under the capable leadership of its chair, Elizabeth Kent, met frequently to make plans. Posters and other publicity materials were distributed to churches and the community. A number of local businesses sponsored the Walk with generous donations.

CCSAC churches formed teams. There were contests and prizes for the best decorated Walk poster and best photos in a variety of categories. Excellent prizes were donated by our business sponsors! Individuals were encouraged to make online donations on our web page through CanadaHelps. Altogether the Walk raised **close to \$40,000!**

The success of another Walk for the Centre is due to the generosity of so many! We are grateful to everyone who contributed to this fine event!

CCSAC at the Roundtable

By: *Chris Kincaid*

The city is in the process of developing a strategy to address poverty and CCSAC has been invited to the table – specifically the Ottawa Poverty Reduction Strategy Community Roundtable – to aid in this important effort. The work on this strategy is City of Ottawa-supported but community-led by the Ottawa Food Bank, the Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres, and the Ottawa Community Food Partnership. Community leaders and stakeholders, including CCSAC, met at the first community roundtable in June, to determine the priorities for the poverty reduction strategy under the pillars of economic development, employment, financial security, food security and system-level change. Listening sessions were then held during September to review and validate the emerging priorities. On November 17, a second community roundtable was held to begin the work on action planning under the identified priorities. To quote the organizers of the roundtable, this “collective-impact approach is designed to foster co-ownership of the priorities and solutions among a diverse array of stakeholders”. CCSAC is honoured to be included as a stakeholder and will keep the member churches informed on the progress of this vital initiative.

A Special Presentation

Christine Kincaid presented Diana Mahaffy, the Manager of the Centretown Community Food Centre, with a token of appreciation from CCSAC for all the work that Diana did with the Food Centre's move from the location at 507 Bank Street to its new location at 370 Catherine Street. This new location is both accessible and respectful of client needs with its "shopping cart" model.

The gift was a painting by the well known local artist Christopher Griffin. It was particularly apt as the artist has been auctioning some of his paintings and donating the proceeds to the Ottawa Food Bank.



The Christmas Hamper Project

The Christmas Hamper project lets recipients know that they are not forgotten in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season.

A Centretown social service agency identifies the families and individuals who would benefit from this project. The hamper includes a week of food and supplies, including a Christmas dinner, as well as small gifts and special requests if available. Since the COVID pandemic, hampers supply gift cards from Loblaws or Your Independent Grocer equivalent to the food and supplies, as well as small gifts.

A single person receives a gift card of \$160; a small family of up to 6 members receives a gift card of \$225 and large families and group homes (10 adults) receive a gift card of \$300. In addition each hamper includes a separate gift card in an amount equivalent to the normal cost of meat.

There are many ways that you can help. You can:

- Adopt a hamper by providing the gift cards. The specific needs and general information about the recipients will be provided for the purpose of purchasing gifts. Contact centretownunited.org/index.php/xmashamperproject
- Help label, organize and carry hampers for a two hour period on Tuesday, December 19.
- Deliver hampers on Thursday, December 21; this is generally a 2 hour commitment.
- Donate cash to cover the cost of supplies and meat with a cheque made out to “Centretown United Church” located at 507 Bank Street, K2P 1Z5, indicating on the cheque that it is for the “Christmas Hamper Project.”

In December 2022, Centretown United Church delivered 172 Christmas hampers. The need is even greater this year and every little bit helps.