

From: [Good Shepherd](#)
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: A Message From Brother Richard
Date: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 8:05:26 AM

A Message From Brother Richard

Dear ,



For more than a year, the coronavirus has affected every corner of our society, especially the people who are most vulnerable to the disease, either due to health issues or their socio-economic status. From the very beginning of the pandemic, Good Shepherd has refused to abandon our commitment to those who need our help. When health officials and political leaders required the population to distance themselves from each other, Good Shepherd's co-workers leaned into the pandemic.

We are nearing the end of the third wave of this health crisis and finally beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel. We can expect that some aspects of daily life will begin to look normal as restrictions are lifted and businesses slowly start opening up. Throughout this challenging year, from our volunteers and donors to our dedicated co-workers, we have continued to live by the motto, "we're all in this together."

Good Shepherd staff have continued to extend hospitality and share their knowledge, skills and compassion in service of some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community. We have been leaders in the health and social service sector's response to the pandemic.

Vaccine clinics have been open to the public and Good Shepherd's staff, volunteers and clients have been rolling up their sleeves to get their shot and help eradicate the virus.

With your support, Good Shepherd operates two overflow shelters in Hamilton as a temporary measure to help ease the stress on the city's shelter system due to the pandemic. With physical distancing measures in place, emergency shelters had to significantly reduce capacity, leaving many vulnerable people displaced. Women are able to find safety in a local hotel and the surge shelter at the former Cathedral Boys High School is able to accommodate up to 94 men at one time.

Recently, Good Shepherd opened a 10-bed overflow isolation centre for people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and who are experiencing homelessness. The isolation centre adds to the City of Hamilton's capacity to offer safe spaces

for women and men to quarantine and recover from COVID.

During the pandemic, the Good Shepherd Marketplace has continued to provide services while adhering to appropriate infection prevention and control measures. It has averaged more than **103 visits per day** from households, which equaled **5,562 individuals served**. So far in 2021, Good Shepherd's Hot Meal Program has served **14,716 nutritious meals** to the community.

The pandemic has forced us to reshape how we offer our seniors services. In addition to ensuring food, medications and other essential needs are met, staff offer socially and mentally stimulating group and individual activities remotely throughout this crisis. They conduct telephone wellness checks, support calls, and virtual exercise programs. Registered Practical Nurses meet virtually with seniors and their doctors to evaluate their health and map out health plans while they are isolated.

Good Shepherd has not shied away from the dangers and restrictions associated with the pandemic. The words of our corporate Vision, which says, in part, "we are committed to working together to build healthy and resilient communities" guide us in our mission as we provide vital services for people whose life circumstances put them at extreme risk of contracting COVID-19. There are many other services that have been redesigned for at-risk people in our community ... and we're proud of every one of them.

Sincerely,

Brother Richard MacPhee

Chief Executive Officer
Good Shepherd

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