

Tuesday, August 13, 2024



Hamilton Police Service Board  
155 King William Street  
Hamilton, ON L8R 1A7

Dear Hamilton Police Service Board,

**Re: Expression of interest in a contribution towards the Cathedral Café.**

St. Matthew's House (SMH) is an agile, innovative and forward-thinking community support agency located in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. It is a frontline non-profit charitable organization committed to lifting up the most vulnerable people among us – connecting them with the necessities of life such as food, housing and financial security.

One of the many programs operated by SMH is the **Cathedral Café**, a drop-in day centre located at Christ's Church Cathedral. Open to all members of the public, 9am to 4pm Monday to Saturday, the day centre serves predominately unhoused clients. In operation since December 2023, this program offers breakfast and lunch each operating day, served completely free to all guests. Various items are also available to guests including clothes and hygiene supplies, thanks to generous donations from the community. Our team provides additional support to guests, discussing specific needs and goals, and works with them to find out how best to access these services. Some of these services include (but are not limited to):

- Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Services
- Legal Clinic
- Home Community Care Support Services
- Government Income Support
- City of Hamilton (Housing applications)
- Medical Services via Health Bus programs
- Ontario Works (OW)
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- Dental Bus
- Intensive Case Mgmt Access Coordination

The end of June sees us having completed seven consecutive months of service at the Cathedral Café, having served **over 29,000 guests** and **35,736 meals** since December 2023! This has been an extraordinary time for learning, growth, and development for the SMH team and our partners at Christ's Church Cathedral the Niagara Anglican Diocese, and the over 100 volunteers who help make this program possible. AND, there's so much more work to do!

A contribution from the Hamilton Police Service Board will support all aspects of the Cathedral Café program, and ensure that SMH has the capacity to continue to deliver where the most acute need is. Thank you for your consideration and we would be happy to provide additional information or answer any questions you may have. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Renée Wetselaar  
Executive Director  
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