

The Hamilton Dream Center

Dreaming of Christmas Campaign

THE IMPACT OF THE DREAM CENTER

Leon Blais, age 7

This year we are expanding our Christmas Hamper Program to reach more families in need. Every year we see people struggle to make ends meet and it is challenging for them to purchase toys for the kids in the family.

You can help! \$250.00 will sponsor a family for a complete Christmas Meal, including the turkey and also provide two brand new gift wrapped toys for each child in the family.

Help us keep the wonder and joy of Christmas alive for a working family in need.

Call 905-527-8605 and donate now!

STORIES THAT HELP SHAPE THE BACKBONE OF THE DREAM CENTER



Last year we found ourselves in a shortfall for toys for our

Dreaming of Christmas Campaign. Jim Watts, owner of Vagabond Saints hosted a toy drive for us and it was amazing. 2 Pickup trucks full of toys were collected for our Dreaming of Christmas Campaign! So AWESOME!



This is his story.

When I was 13/14, my family fell on hard times and Christmas wasn't in the cards for us. So I took on the responsibility to call around to volunteer fire departments, churches etc. to make sure my siblings didn't wake up to an empty morning. The turn-out was tremendous and I vowed to one day be one of the people who helps facilitate donation drives for those in need. Having my shop has enabled me to do just that. I'm also the grandson of a Santa Claus and have that obligation to fulfill as part of my heritage.

Leon and his family live across the road from The Hamilton Dream Center. They can see the Blue Door Food Pantry from their front window. When they are out riding bikes Leon and his brothers have peeked in the windows to see the shelves that hold the food. Each Wednesday they also see people lining up for food when Blessings Church comes and offers free hot "take away" meals.

Leon, a grade 2 student at St. Ann School, recently started telling his mom Sarah that he wants to run a food bank when he gets older. He talks ongoing about turning his house into a foodbank, and giving away 'all the food' in their house, so they can help people right now. He sees people in need, and states he is "happy when they are getting food".

The desire to serve others and make sure people have their basic needs met is a message that Leon and his brother Porter, age 5, are learning at a young age.

The presence of the Hamilton Dream Center in downtown Hamilton plants seeds of hope and demonstrates compassion not only to the clients that it serves, but to the neighbourhood and the city.

Thank you for the part you play when you give to the Hamilton Dream Center.



*Empowering Families and Individuals
to Succeed with Dignity and Purpose*

BOWL A THON



Saturday, March 2nd, 2019

1-4 pm

Skyway Lanes

235 Melvin Avenue Hamilton

Call the office @ 905-527-8605

to get your sponsorship forms now.

It's going to be AWESOME!

Food, Fun, Prizes!!!!



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

WE NEED:

- A handy person to help with odd jobs around the Dream Center.
- Food drive coordinator
- Day time volunteers needed!

If you would like to join the team, please call the office at 905-527-8605

or email Rebekah

rebekah@hamiltondreamcenter.ca



GENTLY USED WINTER WEAR

Again this year we are collecting gently used winter coats, hats, boots, mitts and scarves.

Drop off can be done to the Dream Center
Tuesday – Thursday from 9:00 – 5:00 pm.

Help give the gift of warmth to someone this winter, you will be glad you did!

Here we **GROW!**

A number of amazing things happened at the Dream Center this year. Things beyond the food pantry!

2436 Client Visits!

We expanded our boundaries to serve people with jobs but still living in poverty, as well as old age pension, students and people on CPP. Since doing that we have seen a significant increase in those clients, specifically those receiving pension. We've had 4 new wonderful volunteers, bringing our total to 10 regular day time volunteers. We have been able to hire 2 new staff in part time positions with the anticipation of growth.

We kept our salary expenses under 2% of all revenue generated.

For every \$1 donated in 2017, we turned it into \$2.83 worth of food and clothing given out through the Blue Door Food Pantry. This number does not include the 813 toys given out or the Christmas Hampers that all those children's families received with full turkey dinners (thank you to Calvary Church and the other many donors)

Over 80 income tax returns were filed by Chartered accountants for individuals living below the poverty level.

With the help of Blessings Church we planted a community garden and harvested vegetables for the pantry right in our own parking lot.

We became partners with Woodview Learning Centre to provide opportunities for teens with physical and developmental disabilities. We became home to 4 Hamilton run, owned and operated grass roots businesses within our building.

The Dream Center is more than just a food bank! We will however continue to help improve the quality of lives for those that need us. We are expanding our service area to an additional 20 appointments per week for residents on other forms of assistance.

We have a great year of growth in store!