

PENNIES & SPARROWS

2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT



REPORT OUTLINE

OPENING NOTE

PARTNERSHIPS AND NEW HIRES

- New Hires: Miriam Westin and Clare Andrews
- The Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association
- The PRC and Emmaus Way Partnership

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Programs and program descriptions
- Take Aways from the Kids Lead Summer Camp
- Comments from the Foodie Friday Group
- A couple of Stories of Hope

A NOTE ON HOMELESSNESS

FINANCIALS

CLOSING COMMENTS



As we look back on the ninth year of Pennies and Sparrow's Community Outreach work, we are so very grateful for all those who have helped make this ministry happen. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have been able to hire two wonderful people - Miriam Westin and Clare Andrews - to help part-time with our ministry. It is so fulfilling to watch others take part in this work and enrich it with their gifts.

As we have experienced the protection and encouragement of God, we are especially thankful for all those who pray for us. This last year has been challenging as the needs of people in the community have intensified and as we respond in more effective ways.

Our partnership with The Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association - specifically with Penni Eisenhauer, the community Navigator has enabled us to expand the kinds of things that we offer through our programming, bringing attention to the less obvious needs of those who come through our doors.

Ten years ago when we walked into Archbishop Claude Miller's office and said that we were interested in doing ministry that was more rooted in the community, none of us knew where it would lead. We will always be grateful for Archbishop Miller's openness, his advice, and his support as we began a ministry that was very new to us and to the Diocese. We feel the loss in his passing and we pray for peace and comfort for Sharon his wife, their family, and many loved ones.

Receiving Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals, as well as a Commendation Award from Saint John City Council, have demonstrated the value of the work that is being done. We really feel that these awards belong to all that work with us and support us. We don't do anything alone, as you'll notice with our new hires and partnerships, and we are so thankful to be in this together. Yet at the same time, the problems we face are so complex, that as we strive to really improve the lives of those we interact with, as we do what we can to repair the frayed social fabric, we have a lot more collaboration to do. May we, by God's grace, continue in His work.

Jasmine and Terence Chandra

NEW HIRES



In September we hired **Miriam Westin** on part-time to help with our English language classes and drop-in program. She began using her creative gifts right away and soon started up a new program called “Foodie Fridays”. Miriam has also been contributing to our summer camps, helping with both the Community Development and the English Language summer camps. This summer she has been working on her TESL certificate which will

help us as we continue to serve the Newcomer community in Saint John. Miriam has quickly become an integral part of our team and we are so blessed to have her with us.



Clare Andrews was hired on part-time in May to help with our English Language programs. Clare has a number of years experience teaching English and she has quickly formed wonderful partnerships with the YMCA and Saint John Newcomers Centre. She has organized and led our English language summer camps, which have been really well received. Clare will be taking over Terence’s intermediate English language class in September as well as looking at how we can continue to best serve the Newcomer community. We are so impressed with Clare’s attention to details and her efficiency in pulling things together.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WATERLOO VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION



For the past few years we have closely collaborated with Penni Eisenhauer (pictured here) who is the Community Navigator for the Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association. The Waterloo Village neighbourhood is an area with complex needs and yet there is no community centre or space for people to go. The Salvation Army and Stone Church are the only places where people from the neighbourhood can drop-by and spend time. This year Penni started having office hours at Stone Church and has been helping refer people to resources in the city. She has also helped run our Seniors programs. Penni has been instrumental in expanding the services that we are able

to offer. She surveyed the drop-in attendees and asked them what the best services would be for them while they are at Drop-in. Thanks to the input received we are now offering hair cuts, art supplies, and we had someone come in to do literacy assessments. She is working on plans to offer grief support and a reading group. The Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association has recently received funding from Social Development which has enabled them to hire an additional staff person that will expand the way that people in the community find the supports and resources they need. This staff person will also be attending our drop-in programs and helping us navigate how best to serve the needs of our community.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PRC

The Pregnancy Resource Centre in Saint John has partnered with Pennies and Sparrows to run Emmaus Way Programs for those who come to their centre in need of extra support. In the past we have created Emmaus Way groups around single moms who have attended the PRC, these groups have made a significant difference in the lives of all who have been involved. With this new arrangement, we will help create teams around moms going through unstable circumstances and the PRC will help source volunteers for these teams.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS OFFERED

Drop-ins - As mentioned in the partnership with the Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association, our drop-in programs have expanded to offer more services while members attend. Drop-ins run three times a week with a break in July and August. In addition to the new programming that will be offered we will have instruments for people to play (many of our drop-in members are very musically gifted),

English language classes - Both the beginners and Intermediate English classes have been growing in attendance. We look forward to welcoming students back in September. Our beginner ESL class will be on Mondays at 11am starting September 11th and our Intermediate English Classes will be on Wednesdays at 10am starting on September 13th. Clare Andrews will be taking over the Intermediate class and Miriam Westin will be continuing to teach the beginner class.

Foodie Fridays - The Foodie Friday program has been a wonderful opportunity for people of all levels of experience to come and cook together as well as eat together. Usually we are preparing meals that are new to most participants and we have had a very diverse menu! The opportunity to invite friends to come and share in the meal has led to many happy moments - celebrating birthdays, encouraging people on the next step forward on their lives, and providing lunch for the construction crew working on the Stone Church Restoration Project. Naomi Chandra is pictured helping out with her “I go stir crazy with my Wok” apron.



Emmaus Way Teams - one team currently forming through our partnership with PRC. Two other teams running, and one team that was formed has had to come to an end. This will be the 10th Emmaus Way team that will be formed and as we look back we can see how these teams have helped get people to a more stable place in life. We are very thankful for all the volunteers who are on teams or who have been in the past. We are also grateful for the wisdom and advice that is shared on our Emmaus Way Oversight Committee.



Seniors Step it Up: Our Seniors Step-it-Up program has been going well with around 35-40 people attending every month. A few of the Seniors are going to be volunteering with our drop-in program. We are also offering a seniors chat and craft on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The Craft and Chat times will be held just before the bi-weekly Zoomers exercise classes doubling up the programs being offered for those who are 55+.

Youth Group: In September we began a youth group for kids in grades 4-10 in partnership with Inner City Youth Ministry. We start youth group with a meal and then have activities and a time of reflection. We've been to hockey games, basketball games, and the Imperial Theatre. While we have had our moments of relearning what it is like to lead such an energetic group, we have enjoyed providing a place for youth to gather on Friday nights.

Summer Camps: This year we were able to provide 3 weeks of summer day camps for the kids in our community. The first week we had 18 kids come to our Kids Lead Camp and discover community development through visiting non-profit organizations and engaging in issues such as homelessness and poverty. We were really impressed with everyone who attended and we hope you take a moment to read the take aways from the camp. We also offered two ESL language camps led by Clare Andrews along with Miriam and some wonderful volunteers. These camps offer newcomer kids an opportunity to learn some more English before school starts back. All our camps have been well attended and they are all free of charge.

Here are the take aways that the kids had from the Kids Lead summer day camp:

"I'm going to take away how they are so many people who care"

"I learned about the issues and solutions around homelessness"

"There are kids who are on the streets and struggling."

"I learned about places in the community that we didn't know were there."

"I'm more aware of poverty and homelessness"

"I learned new things, it was interesting."

"I learned about helping others."

"I liked everything and spending time with my friends."

"I would come to these camps again."

"I learned about littering."

"Be kind to everyone unconditionally."

"Take your responsibility (to the community) seriously."

"I leaned about issues in the community"

"I liked playing with friends"

"I am taking away with me the knowledge that there are people with harder lives than us."

"I feel that I now have a general awareness of the problems that are in Saint John."



Some of the Kids Lead Participants visiting the roof of the Social Enterprise Hub and a craft they created at Creative Connections.



Terence teaches the Kids Lead Camp about the value of ministry to Newcomers and how Jesus encouraged people to Welcome the Stranger.



Foodie Friday Participants were asked what they like about Foodie Fridays. Here are their responses:

“[I come] for the cooking class. I’m enjoying it... I like cutting the mushrooms up.”

“I like coming because I’ve tried a couple of new things I never tried before. And I like coming just to hang out with the people.”

“I just like the food and I like connecting with the people.”

“Well the food’s good, but also the actual activity: doing it. And I find it actually, like it’s good you’re in a church. And it’s also very therapeutic; I find it really feels good to be in there just doing it. The fellowship, it’s friendly, you’re in a beautiful place. You just enjoy it. Everything!”

“I love Foodie Fridays because it gives me an opportunity to get out, spend some good quality time with people, and learning how to cook better, and just some good old food.”

“I just come to Foodie Fridays because it feels good, it’s good for my mental health to be around people, and I really enjoy the skills that I’m learning. And I like to sit down and have a nice meal with other people. It feels good.”

“I love cooking all the different meals.”

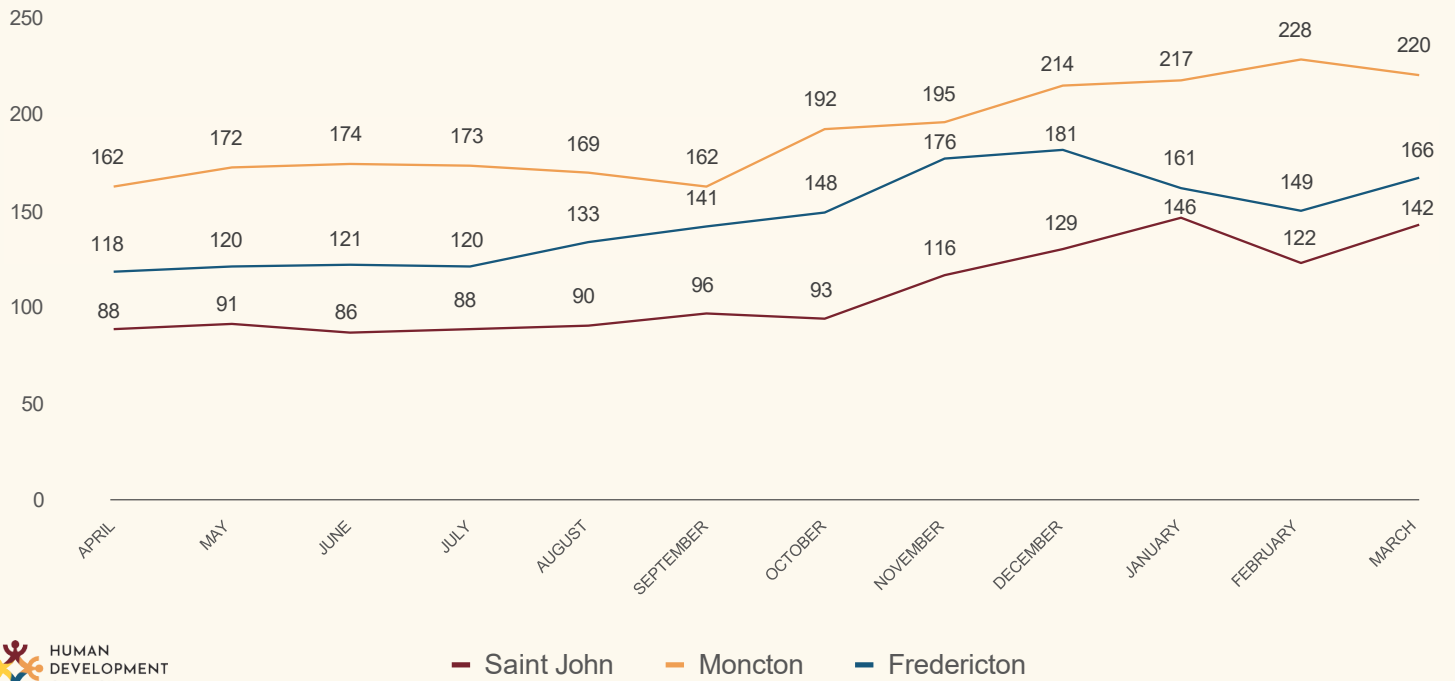
SOME STORIES

It is often difficult to have a real sense of traction and progress when it comes to community work. There are days when we might get a bit cynical and wonder if the people we see come through our doors are going to be able to make the changes they need in order to survive. As we've had some of our friends die of overdoses this year, we also struggle with the realities of the addictions crisis that has a firm grasp on our neighbourhood. But then, someone will move through our space, attend a program, and show us why we need to persevere in this work. As I Corinthians 15:58 says: "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (NIV). So here are a couple stories of hope:

A - had been stopping into Stone Church for several years by the time our paths crossed. He usually came in to do his laundry but would also stop in to chat to the administrative assistant or anyone he could find in the church. He struggled with addictions and tried several recovery programs without much success. Sometime in the Fall of 2022 he stated getting into some trouble with people in the community. He was robbed, beaten up, and frequently harassed. One Sunday morning as we were setting up for Church he came in desperately asking for help to leave the city. We bought him a bus ticket and prayed for him. He recently called to tell us that he is doing well, is sober, and has started attending 3 churches - all of different denominations! He wanted to thank the people of Stone Church for being there for him.

P and family - We met P - who came from Nigeria to do his MBA in the Fall of 2022 - through his attendance at Stone Church. Among the many things he had to adjust to culturally, he was initially shocked at the lack of children in our churches in Canada, but he remained a faithful member. When we found out in the Spring that his wife and two children - whom he deeply missed - were approved to move to Canada, we asked what the next step was for them to be able to come. It turned out that the only thing standing between P and his family was the cost of 3 plane tickets. We felt that with some extra donations that had been received in 2021 that we were in a position to help. We purchased the tickets and P was reunited with his family on July 30th! We are blessed by the life and encouragement that they bring to us.

Growth in Chronic Homelessness 43% Increase - BNL



HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness continues to be an issue that we are increasingly faced with in Saint John as in many urban centres around the Province, the Country, and the World. As we were walking through the neighbourhood during our Kids Lead Summer Camp, one of the kids pointed out a man on the street who seemed to be in difficulty. I sent the kids on ahead with the other leaders and went to see what was happening as the man was someone who stayed with us when we ran our emergency shelter. It turns out the man could not walk and was trying to get to the men's shelter. I was able to call an ambulance but it is very likely that he will be back out on the street soon. How he has survived so long is a mystery. I cannot imagine what it is like for him to feel such a desperate need to turn away from help time and time again in order to feed his addiction. He is a constant reminder for me to slow down, have patience, and pay attention to the needs of those around us.

I once heard that the homeless are like our conscience - telling us that we are only as healthy and good as a society as those who would be considered the least among us.

Winter will be coming soon, and once again the City and the Province have yet to come up with a sustainable long-term solution to shelter those that are currently living in tents and on people's couches. We know from experience how difficult this job can be and yet it is our combined responsibility to address homelessness and poverty, especially in these times of economic crisis.

I (Jasmine) sit on the Canadian Council on Homelessness Committee for the City of Saint John. This has been a good learning opportunity as well as a way to coordinate efforts. Thanks to the Diocese of Fredericton I will also be attending the 2023 National Conference on Ending Homelessness being held in Halifax in November. I am looking forward to learning about better ways of engaging with this growing issue.

2022 FINANCIALS

Money In	
Diocese of Fredericton	\$10,000
Stone Church	\$7,000
Monthly Donors	\$9,565
Other Donors and Foundations	\$35,976
Total income	\$62,541

Money Out	
Program Materials and supports to individuals	\$6,768
Support for Homeless initiatives	\$5,000
Payroll	\$44,351
Employer Expenses	\$17,258
Total expenses	\$73,376
Difference between income and expenses	-\$10,835

2023 Budget

Category	Budget
Payroll	\$68,800.00
Employer expenses	\$19,000.00
Program Materials and supports to individuals	\$20,000.00
Relocating a family	\$9,000.00
Facility costs	\$10,000.00
Total	\$126,800.00

The 2023 budget takes into consideration the increased costs of having more staff and the costs of running more programming. This growth is a reflection of the increase in needs in our community.

CLOSING NOTE



Thank you for reading through our annual report. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. If you would like to volunteer, donate, or pray for us we would be very grateful! We are especially in need of prayer for safety and strength for our staff and volunteers as we look to get our main programming up and running this September. Please pray for the people of our community - for newcomers to feel a sense of belonging, for struggling families and individuals to have a renewed sense of hope and be directed to services and people that can support them, for our leaders that there may be a great sense of collaboration and wisdom as we seek creative solutions and ways forward in this difficult season. May we be daily reminded of God's love and grace.

Terence and Jasmine Chandra

We largely rely on donations to make our work possible. Tax receiptable donations can be made to the Anglican Diocese of Fredericton with a note that funds are to go to Pennies and Sparrows. This can be done in several ways:

Online through Canada Helps (using the drop down tab on the page to select Pennies and Sparrows) <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/13778>.

By cheque sent to the Diocese of Fredericton with Pennies and Sparrows in the memo line - 168 Church Street Fredericton, NB E3B 4C9. Or by cheque sent to Stone Church again with Pennies and Sparrows in the memo line - 87 Carleton Street Saint John NB E2L 2Z2.

By etransfer to Stone Church with a note that the funds are to go to Pennies and Sparrows - stjstone@nb.aibn.com.

How to Contact us:

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