

Rev. Jennifer Prince,

Minister of Pastoral Care and Outreach at Metropolitan United Church, London, ON

Congregational Minister at Richards Memorial United Church, London, ON

jenprince

ATTN: SPPC Committee

Dear Committee Members & Citizens of London,

I am writing to express my strong support for the vital services provided by Ark Aid Street Mission in London, Ontario, and to urge your continued advocacy and support for their work in our community.

As a resident of London and community partner and supporter of Ark Aid Street Mission, I have personally witnessed the profound impact that Ark Aid Street Mission has on our homeless population. Their dedication to providing essential services such as meals, shelter, clothing, and outreach programs not only meets immediate needs but also serves as a beacon of hope and stability for individuals facing homelessness. These services are not just about meeting basic needs; they are about restoring dignity and fostering a sense of belonging in those who are most vulnerable. Our congregation at Metropolitan have partnered with Ark Aid to distribute socks and food to those in need. Through the Centre for Practical Theology, which is a ministry of Metropolitan operating on our Fairmont United Church community site, we have worked with Ark Aid to distribute fresh produce from the Fairmont garden, and in partnership with First Saint Andrew's United Church I have witnessed Ark Aid's dedication to increase needed access to a safe place for vulnerable neighbours to sleep in the coldest months.

I have had the privilege of interacting with the employees and volunteers at Ark Aid Street Mission, and their compassion, professionalism, and tireless commitment to their work are truly commendable. They go above and beyond their duties to ensure that each person who walks through their doors receives the support and respect they deserve.

The presence of stable, year-round services provided by Ark Aid Street Mission is crucial for our community. It ensures that individuals experiencing homelessness have access to consistent support regardless of the season or external circumstances. This stability is essential in helping people transition out of homelessness and regain stability in their lives.

I believe that investing in Ark Aid Street Mission is not only a moral imperative but also a wise investment in our community's well-being. The services they provide not only alleviate immediate hardships but also contribute to long-term solutions by addressing the root causes of homelessness through empowerment and support.

I respectfully urge you to continue your support for Ark Aid Street Mission and to advocate for increased resources and recognition of their invaluable contributions to our community. Together, we can ensure that every individual in London, Ontario, has access to the support and opportunities they need to thrive.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important matter.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Jennifer L. Prince*

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