



The Salvation Army

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Ontario Division

Centre of Hope - London

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Giving Hope Today

February 16, 2023

London City Council
RE: letter of support

This letter is in support of the work being done regarding the Health & Homelessness Whole of Community System Response.

The Salvation Army Centre of Hope has been involved with the homeless sector for over 70 years. We are the largest emergency shelter in London and support over 200 residents daily with food and lodging. We have been involved in the community by participating on various committees throughout the years and our building hosts various community initiatives (food bank, Housing Stability Bank, Withdrawal Management and the Recovery Community Centre).

We are a respected partner in our community and are pleased to have been part of this community response. We look forward to continued participation. We believe this community response is transformational; it is a true display of a large community coming together to look for solutions that too often work with a vulnerable population with little to no voice. In only three planned meetings, we have seen the London community come together to break down silos and barriers to ensure we are the best we can be in helping to solve a homelessness crisis.

This group of over 150 people, including businesses, health care, the homeless sector, law enforcement, emergency services, etc., have developed a common voice based on common principles and values.

This response is transformational in London and can be a resource to other cities in Ontario and Canada that are struggling with the same issues. The Centre of Hope is committed to this endeavour and to supporting this initiative by playing a role in the process and delivery of the recommendations to be put forward to you as our City Council.

This work is near and dear to everyone participating, as we believe lives will be affected and saved through this process.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to working with all the involved partners with our city employees and our city council

Sincerely

Jon DeActis
Executive Director
Salvation Army – Centre of Hope