

MAYA'S JOURNEY

TO STABLE HOUSING

After fleeing violence, Maya and her children found safety and stability through Bethlehem Housing and Support Services, gaining access to mental health care, education, and the chance to rebuild their lives with hope for the future.

“I came to Bethlehem Housing and Support Services to be helped because I was coming from a violent relationship and was living in a shelter at the time.

Some of my goals have been to get a job so that I can sustain my family, and to get myself back to school so I can get a better job. My goal is also to get my refugee application approved by working with the lawyers and making sure my children are living comfortably. Bethlehem has been so supportive that I have been able to understand my surroundings where we live. My children go to school, and they have provided a safe place for me and my children. They have assisted with treatment for mental health for me and my children. Now I can apply for college and can try and get a job for myself.

The support given to my life personally is help with my mental health and children's mental health, a safe and affordable place to stay. They have encouraged me to be able to meet my goals and have supported my growth.

I see myself in the future meeting my goals and having a sustainable job that will be able to take care of me and my family. I hope that I may be able to support and help others, as I was given this chance to a better life with my children. My children and I are really grateful for the opportunity that has been given to us by Bethlehem. Thank you so much,”
Maya

What You Helped Us Achieve in 2025

93% of those who moved out of supportive housing transitioned to stable & secure housing. 100% continued to retain housing for 180 days after.

108 groups, including lifeskills, psychoeducational groups, low-cost fresh produce markets & coffee time have been offered at Bethlehem Place

40 families including 44 children lived at Bethlehem Place

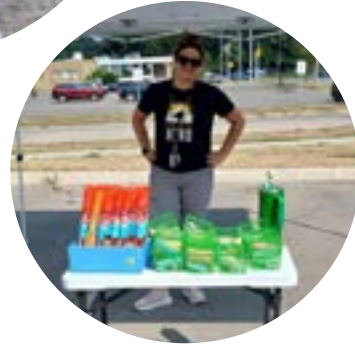
223 households lived in our permanent supportive housing

139 people were served through our community outreach program

65 women were victims of domestic violence

115 children made 2348 visits to our EarlyON Centre

18 additional transitional housing units for women & children



Empty Bowls

Soup Competition & Fundraiser

bethlehem
housing and support services

presented by: **FirstOntario**
CREDIT UNION

Wednesday, March 4, 2026



Holiday Inn & Suites
Parkway Conference Centre,
St. Catharines

5pm VIP Reception | 6pm Main Event

Reserved Seating Only - Get Tickets Today, They Make a Great Christmas Gift!

www.bethlehemhousing.ca/empty-bowls

VISIT BETHLEHEMHOUSING.CA AND SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR STORIES AND UPDATES

bethlehem
housing and support services

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Warmest Greetings

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

bethlehem

housing and support services

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2025 Winter Newsletter

BETHLEHEMHOUSING.CA

2025 Message & Reflections

FROM BETHLEHEM'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"We live in a world where we have to sacrifice our comfort for the sake of others. Where we have to go an extra mile to meet others' needs."

- Mitta Xinindlu

The holiday season is often described as a time of comfort, joy, and togetherness but for many families in our community, those feelings can seem out of reach. The rising cost of living, growing food insecurity, unaffordable housing, and the mental health strain that comes with financial hardship continue to impact families across Niagara in profound ways.

At Bethlehem Housing and Support Services, we know that safe housing is just the beginning of a family's journey toward stability. What truly makes the difference and what sets our organization apart, is how we go above and beyond to wrap families in compassion, encouragement, and the extra supports that remind them that they matter and are not alone.

We see every day how small moments of care can lift a heavy burden. A hot family meal delivered during the holidays so parents can enjoy dinner with their children, without the worry of how to afford it. A personalized gift for every child, so no young person wakes up on Christmas morning without something to smile about. Special family activities, celebrations, school readiness support, homework help, wellness workshops, and year-round programs that nurture emotional well-being, these are the **"extras"** that bring hope, dignity, and a sense of belonging to the families we serve.

These are not services funded by government programs. These are the gifts made possible because of you.

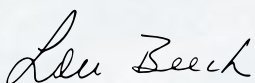
Your generosity fuels the counselling, parenting support, children's programming, holiday celebrations, community-building activities, and mental health supports that help families heal, grow, and thrive. You help us reduce the impact of poverty, lessen the emotional strain on parents, and help children feel safe enough to simply be children again.

This year, more than ever, your support ensures that families don't just survive the holidays, they experience the warmth, joy, and magic that every family deserves. You help us show them that they are valued, that they belong, and that their community believes in them.

As we approach this season of giving, I invite you to continue walking alongside us. Together, we can keep going above and beyond for the families who need it most—because when a community extends kindness, transformation happens.

Thank you for sharing your heart, your generosity, and your belief in brighter futures. From our Bethlehem family to yours, we wish you a peaceful and joy-filled holiday season.

Warmly,



Lori Beech
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





A Souper Success!

Thank You for Making Our 3rd Annual Country Harvest Soup Fest a Community Win! This event isn't just about delicious soup—it helps ensure individuals and families across Niagara have access to safe, affordable housing and the support they need to thrive.

A heartfelt thank you to the Niagara Pen Centre for hosting us, and to our amazing sponsors - our community's true Housing Heroes! A special shout-out to our returning Title Sponsor, Essentials Cremation and Burial Services Inc. To everyone who attended, tasted, and supported the event - thank you for bringing the energy and making the day memorable!

We're also deeply grateful to our dedicated volunteers, especially teams from Walker Industries and FirstOntario Credit Union, whose support helped the day run seamlessly. Thank you for being part of this meaningful event. We can't wait to welcome you back next year!

Together, we're creating change, one bowl at a time!

Gifts of Purpose

Because a home is just the beginning—your gift helps families thrive.

HOUSING & FURNISHINGS

Apartment Upkeep	\$1,000
Bed & Linens	\$1,500
Furnish Apartment	\$2,000

MAINTENANCE

Essential Unit Repairs	\$1,000
Cleaning & Supplies Kit	\$1,000
Accessibility Modifications	\$2,000
New Window & AC Unit	\$2,000
Unit Appliances	\$3,000

SUPPORT SERVICES PER CLIENT

Individual Therapy-1 Month	\$100
Individual Bus Fare-1 Year	\$250
Transportation to Appts	\$500
Holiday Gifts for Kids	\$500
Senior Supports-1 Year	\$1,000
Adult Supports-1 Year	\$1,000
Child Supports-1 Year	\$1,500
Family Supports-1 Year	\$2,500

FOOD & COMMUNITY MEALS

Fresh Fruit Market	\$500
Tenant BBQ at NCC	\$500
Tenant BBQ at GC	\$500
Tenant BBQ at BP	\$500
Tenant BBQ at KC	\$500
Community Social Programs	\$2,000
Holiday Meal-all Buildings	\$5,000

Special giving opportunities like **GIFTS OF PURPOSE**, empower vulnerable individuals and families to obtain not just a roof over their heads, but the resources and confidence they need to thrive.



You made Housing Heroes Rock! Fest a huge success!

On behalf of all of us at BHSS, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this event possible, especially our title sponsor - Jordan Engineering.

To the incredible artists, our MC, our volunteers and of course, all of you who came out to join us, thank you for filling the day with music and energy. Your support helps us continue building brighter futures by providing affordable housing and vital services for individuals and families across Niagara.

Together, we rocked the stage and strengthened our community.

