



# WALK *the* TALK

**2015**  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



# BOARD CHAIR

message from the



I am pleased to present our Annual Report for 2015.

This past year has been a tremendous challenge for St. Matthew’s House. While supporting our community, construction, relocation and day to day challenges, our staff, volunteers and Board have remained committed to the work that we do. Hard decisions have been made with a keen focus on our future success. Despite all of our challenges we have managed to remain a vibrant and active agency.

However, ***it’s people that have made the difference. Kind, caring and generous people – people who believe, have faith and hope in our community and each other.***

We remain grateful to our funders and supporters. Those individuals, agencies and organizations who trust St. Matthew’s House, who believe in social justice and show concern for those who live in poverty. We appreciate your contributions and hope you continue to support us.

In addition to celebrating another year of solid accomplishment, we say goodbye to three board members. Scott Moreton and Debbie McGreal-Dinning both leave a positive legacy of contribution from Hamilton Police Services. We also say a reluctant farewell to Joe Petozzi whose contribution to the board, particularly the finance department overhaul that was conducted this year, is immeasurable. The tradition of strong governance continues today as we welcome Bryan Powell and Andrew Poustie. ***To our staff and volunteers, thank you for enduring the changes and chaos that the construction and upheaval caused. You have shown tremendous strength of character and loyalty and we are grateful to you.*** We also extend a big thank you to Bishop Michael Bird for his faith in us! We move forward with confidence in our Board and staff and optimistic about the impact we are making in Hamilton.

This next year will be equally active as we embark on an aggressive and focused fundraising campaign to ensure that St. Matthew’s House continues on a path of growth and success.

Glenna Swing  
Board Chair

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

message from the



It was an eventful year for St. Matthew’s House. We were busy – busy making changes that will continue to move the organization in the right direction.

We ***walked the talk.*** We held ourselves accountable. In other words, ***we did what we said we would and should, in order to provide the best service we can to our clients.***

This year the Board and senior management team worked together to complete a review of the agency’s Mission, Vision and Values. We worked to ensure they reflect the growth and future potential of St. Matthew’s House.

We’re addressing some of our capital needs by moving forward in the renovations at the St. Matthew’s Children’s Centre and the food bank at 412 Barton Street East. These short term challenges will lead to long term successes.

We continued to be fiscally responsible. We reduced our program delivery costs allowing us to support more people in our community.

This year our senior management team worked cohesively across departments. This unity positively affected our staff. There was more confidence, passion and enthusiasm across the organization. I want to thank our staff for their hard work. Your dedication to this organization is inspiring.

To our Board, your leadership is essential. Thank you for recognizing the need for this organization and dedicating time to help us succeed.

***As always though, the success of this organization wouldn’t be possible without our donors and sponsors. Your contributions allow us to continue our mission and for that we thank you. We hope you continue to support us in the future.***

There’s still work to be done but we’re on the right path. There’s a renewed energy evolving the organization and our potential is limitless.

Steve Leighfield  
Executive Director



# food services

food prices have increased by 35% since 2004

*St. Matthew's House operates two food banks in the city. Each month we provide three days worth of food to low income families to help them make ends meet.*

Last year, **29,201** people received help from our food banks.

Our Christmas program provides assistance to families and children during the holiday season. Last year, **2,727** individuals were helped. Of those **1,481** were children and **75** were vulnerable seniors.

St. Matthew's House sends children from less fortunate families to summer camp each year. Last year, we were able to give **11** children the opportunity to meet new friends and enjoy an authentic outdoor experience.



# seniors' care



1 in 5 Canadian renters spend more than half their income on housing, which puts them at risk of homelessness

*Our Seniors Outreach and Support Programs provide seniors with a variety of services. Our staff work with our seniors on a regular basis to ensure they have stable housing, food security and crisis management.*

Last year, St. Matthew's House moved **68** homeless seniors into safe, permanent housing. Another **89** seniors who were at imminent risk of homelessness remained housed.

**92** seniors received crisis management support, allowing them to return to a state of stability.

**7,466** nutritious meals were served at our Seniors' Centre throughout the year.

# children services

for every \$1 invested in childcare, society gets a \$7 return

*St. Matthew's House truly believes in the value of early childhood education. Our goal is to provide children with the highest quality care in a safe and loving environment.*

Our ECISS (Early Childhood Integration Support Services) Program supported **305** children with multiple disabilities and transitioned **84** of those children into a school environment.

Our Children's Centre provided care to **77** pre-school children last year.



## more than just housing

Before June's husband passed away they lived a humble life.

They made a living by collecting scraps and selling them at the junkyard.

"Salvage, we called it salvage," says June. It wasn't glamorous but it was how they made ends meet.

After June's husband passed away she didn't know how to support herself. June has a significant cognitive impairment. She can't read or write. She no longer had her partner of 42 years. She needed help.

St. Matthew's House supported June and moved her into City Housing but **this year she faced eviction**. She was behind on rent and there were concerns over the state of her apartment. **The Home2Stay (H2S) Program stepped in and put an eviction prevention plan into place.** By working with other community partners June's rent arrears were paid. H2S decluttered her apartment and represented June at tribunal where they mediated an agreement that allowed her to remain in City Housing.

Now the 70-year-old meets with H2S weekly.

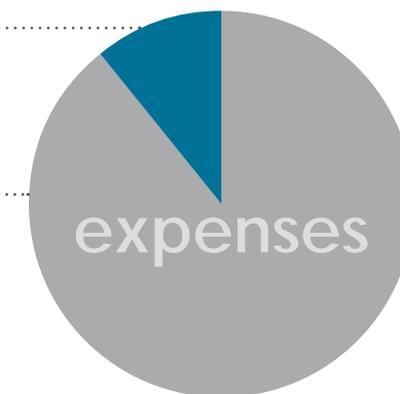
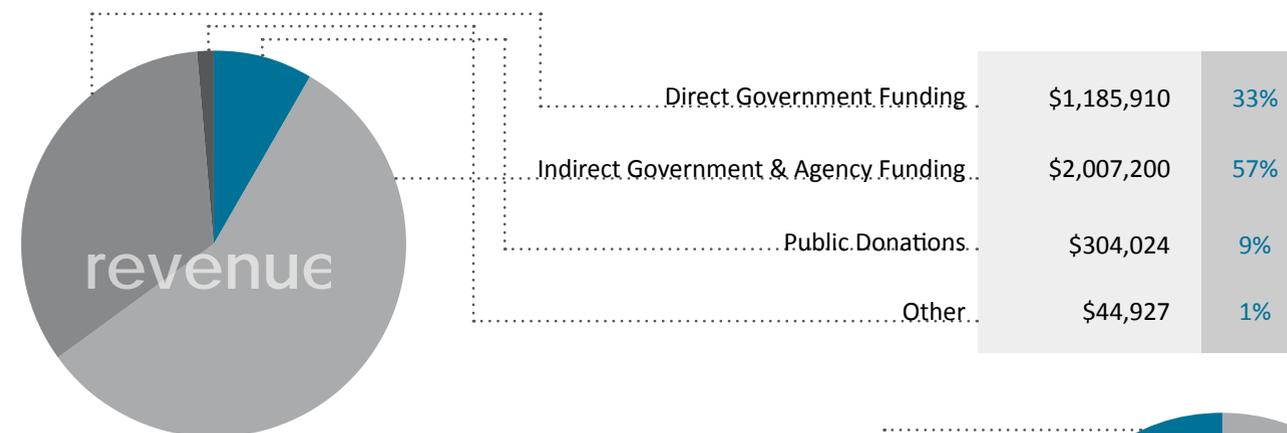
**There's a trust and bond between June and H2S.** June's medication is delivered to the seniors' centre so they can make sure she gets her refills each month. H2S takes June to the doctor. When it's too hot they'll taxi her home. They read June her mail and take her cat to the vet.

**Home2Stay supports June in ways she can't support herself.**

June comes to the St. Matthew's House Seniors' Centre for breakfast and lunch. She likes doing puzzles and spending time with her sister who lives in the same building as her. She likes shopping and being in the community. June continues to live her life as she likes with help from H2S.

For St. Matthew's House **the goal is to ensure June and other seniors are able to live on their own, manage their home and health, knowing that they have support behind them.**

# financial summary



## special thanks

Without the generous financial support of our donors and grantors we would not be able to do the work that we do!

### Community Builders (\$5,000-\$9,999)

- Hamilton Community Foundation
- Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC)
- The Landmark Foundation
- St. Paul's Anglican Church (Westdale)

- Christ's Church Cathedral
- Dundas Valley Foundation
- Knights Hospitaller Foundation Inc.
- The Parish Church of St. Luke
- St. James Anglican Church

### Community Leaders (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

- Hamilton Burlington Society of Architects

### Community Pillar (\$25,000 +)

- Dofasco Employee Donations Fund

### Funders

- City of Hamilton
- HNHB LHIN
- United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## 2014/2015

|                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Glenna Swing</b> .....   | <i>Chair</i>            |
| Scott Moreton .....         | <i>Vice Chair</i>       |
| Barbara Busing .....        | Board Member            |
| Sara Collyer.....           | Board Member            |
| Fred Hall .....             | Board Member            |
| Debbie McGreal-Dinning..... | Board Member            |
| The Rev. Bill Mous .....    | Board Member            |
| Jim O’Keeffe.....           | Board Member            |
| Joe Petozi .....            | Treasurer               |
| Mike Rehill.....            | Board Member            |
| Bishop Michael Bird.....    | Ex Officio Board Member |
| Steve Leighfield .....      | Executive Director      |



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