



Giving Hope Today

February 7, 2023

New partnership between The Salvation Army London Centre of Hope and King's University College offers free counselling to people impacted by trauma

London, ON – An innovative partnership between The Salvation Army London Centre of Hope and King's University College's School of Social Work is helping the most vulnerable rebuild dignity and renew hope through counselling services to overcome trauma.

The new King's Community Support Centre brings six students enrolled in the Master of Social Work (MSW) and Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) programs at King's University College to The Salvation Army London Centre of Hope every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Working under the clinical supervision of Kylene Dube, MSW Practicum Coordinator at King's, the new partnership offers the students practical counselling experience while providing support to individuals and families impacted by homelessness, substance use recovery, mental health, and other traumas.

"We are grateful for this collaboration with King's University College as this will significantly help London's most vulnerable access essential counselling services with the goal of achieving long-term positive outcomes that will create a pathway of stability," says Jon DeActis, Executive Director, The Salvation Army London Centre of Hope. "Professional one-on-one counselling services is a vital component in addressing root causes of personal adversity. This will complement existing programs offered at The Salvation Army London Centre of Hope to help those we serve."

The free counselling and support program began in January to Salvation Army clients and will continue until the end of July, before starting up again this coming September. Up to 12 King's social work students will participate in the placement during the academic year.

The King's Community Support Centre addresses the significant demand for community support around homelessness and health, with a view to reducing barriers to service and subsequently improving life circumstances for those in need, says M.K. Arundel, Coordinator of Field Education at King's School of Social Work.

"King's School of Social Work is excited to expand our partnership with The Salvation Army London Centre of Hope where we can provide free accessible direct practice social work support to its service users," says Arundel. "In response to the health and homelessness

initiative, this is a collaborative effort with the provision of supplementary support to our hard-working frontline, and rich learning opportunities for our students in preparation for their professional practice.”

The King’s Community Support Centre is located on the main floor of The Salvation Army London Centre of Hope, in the Community Corner. The centre is now open every Monday and Wednesday, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm and 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm for in-person intakes. Appointments will be booked on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

About King’s University College

King’s is a public Catholic University College that provides general and honours degree programs in the liberal arts, social sciences, management, and a master's degree in social work. It is positioned in the top rank of institutions of higher learning in Canada for the high quality of its teaching faculty and student experience. Institutionally autonomous, King’s is academically affiliated with Western University, and King’s graduates receive a Western University degree. King’s is open to students of all faith backgrounds, with its community centered on the values of social justice, equality and the education of the whole person.

About The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory

The Salvation Army is an international faith-based organization that began its work in Canada in 1882 and has grown to become the largest non-governmental direct provider of social services in the country. The Salvation Army gives hope and support to vulnerable people today and every day in over 400 communities across Canada and in 131 countries around the world. The Salvation Army offers practical assistance for children and families, often tending to the basic necessities of life, providing shelter for homeless people and rehabilitation for people who have lost control of their lives to an addiction. When you give to The Salvation Army, you are investing in the future of marginalized and overlooked people in your community.

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