

BLYTHWOOD OUT OF THE COLD

For 26 years, from the beginning of November until the end of March, Blythwood provided a safe place for the homeless and those in need. Hot meals and clothing were offered with open arms, compassion, and fellowship every Saturday night and Sunday morning. As of March 2020, Blythwood and the other Out of the Cold sites throughout Toronto closed their doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We pray that our former Out of the Cold guests are safe and have found refuge in the various shelters located in the Toronto Area.

Although we can no longer safely open our doors, we need to continue to reach out to those who are currently living in city shelters, encampments, and on the streets. Blythwood's Out of the Cold is providing financial support to a select group of charities that work with the homeless who are in desperate need. We have also partnered with several other Out of the Cold programs financially to serve hot meals at downtown shelters and the encampments. A small group of Blythwood volunteers is helping out in the distribution of hot meals, clothing, and basic necessities.

We wish to thank our volunteers who came from many churches, organizations, and walks of life. We, at Blythwood, simply couldn't have run the program without the help of others. In addition, we thank the staff from Dixon Hall, a social services agency, who provided us with security and educational support. We will continue to be forever grateful for the help and involvement of all who have a heart for the poor and destitute of our city.

We would like to thank our very kind and generous donors who have continued to support the Out of the Cold program over all these years.

Since Out of the Cold cannot operate safely within the church during the COVID-19 crisis, we have given one-time grants to agencies in support of front-line programs aiding homeless individuals and people at high risk of homelessness without intervention and /or people experiencing food insecurity issues.

The following are the agencies: Horizons For Youth, St. Luke's United Church, Youth Unlimited, The Yonge Street Mission, Sanctuary Ministries of Toronto, Seeds of Hope, and City Street Outreach. Financial support has also been designated to support hot meals delivered to the front lines for the All Saints Community Centre and the Encampments Network during the Christmas holidays and Seeds of Hope from January to the end of April.

BLYTHWOOD OOTC OUTREACH



Blythwood Road's Out of the Cold (OOTC) in partnership with three other OOTC programs is supporting Hot Meals run out of Seeds of Hope Foundation. The encampments are scattered throughout the city core from Moss Park to the Rosedale ravines as well as those living rough in the subways, underpasses and tunnels. Hot meals are packed in heat bags and delivered by Bundle Buggy and Bike Brigade volunteers.