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The Miracle on Spadina

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR 85 YEARS

scottmission.com

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2026



A CHILD'S SMILE WARMS A MOTHER'S HEART

Zorayda and her husband carry hope for a better future for their family, but high living costs and limited access to support make their path challenging...

Read how Zorayda rebuilt her life inside

Scott MISSION

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A Message of Thanks

This Christmas season, my heart is full of gratitude for *you*. Your partnership helps everyday miracles continue at Scott Mission, just as they have for the past 85 years.

Our Mission has long been a place that feels like home to many. A place where everyone who arrives is warmly welcomed, and where every need is met with grace and generosity. These moments are signs of God's faithful care, provided through neighbours, volunteers, and generous people like you.

Your generosity means we can continue extending hope and home, strengthening our impact, and trusting God to guide this ministry into all He has prepared.

Thank you for standing with us. May the peace of Christ fill your Christmas, and may His light continue to shine through your kindness.

With gratitude and hope,

Rockwell Dundas
Chief Executive Officer
Scott Mission



A CHILD'S SMILE WARMS A MOTHER'S HEART

(continued story from front cover...)

"I'm very happy. Christmas is more joyful when the kids have toys."

They've met each hurdle with faith and determination, working toward the future they dreamed of. But even with all their effort, they are still struggling to keep up

Zorayda's husband works long hours to try to make ends meet, but it's not enough for the family to stay afloat. Zorayda must spend her days managing the busy rhythm of caring for their five children — including doctor visits, appointments, school needs, and everything in between.

That's why the moment her children open their gifts from donors like you feels like a small miracle. It's more than toys. It's relief. It's a mother watching her children light up with excitement — something she longs to give them, even when resources are stretched thin.

"The kids are very happy and excited when they receive the toys," Zorayda says. *"And the food helps a lot."*

Every mother deserves to see her child's face burst into a smile on Christmas morning. And because Scott Mission is always there, **Zorayda's family can experience a Christmas filled with happiness. For that, she is deeply grateful.**





GOOD ACTS THAT NEVER STOPPED

Just before Christmas in 1958, the *Toronto Star* published a story about Scott Mission called "The Miracle on Spadina Avenue." It described how 600 men were expected to arrive on Christmas morning, hoping to sit down for a full turkey dinner, and that somehow, **Scott Mission always had exactly what was needed to welcome every person.**

Turkeys arrived "out of the blue." Cases of canned gravy showed up just when the shelves were bare. Wool socks appeared in the exact number needed for the cold feet walking through the door. **The timing was miraculous!**

Decades later, staff still remember desserts arriving just when a women's program ran short. Meat pies showing up when the kitchen had none left. Again and again, Scott Mission receives what is needed, at the exact time.

When Morris and Annie Zeidman started Scott Mission in 1941, they told themselves they would serve the needs of the poor and lost in the community as long as God provided the means. **Looking back, it's clear that God has blessed Scott Mission in every way.**

As their daughter Elaine once said, *"I never get tired of the miracles... It may be the smallest response from us that makes the change. But when you see the miracle of a changed life at just the right moment, it knocks you off your feet."*

Everyday miracles are happening at Scott Mission as they have for 85 years. And with your compassion, they continue today.

Where Simple Toys Go Far

A visit to the Toy Room makes Christmas magic possible

The Toy Room at Scott Mission is a warm, welcoming space where parents and caregivers stretched thin during the holiday season can come in and choose new toys for their children. **Parents arrive with worry in their eyes and leave with hope in their hearts — a gift chosen with love, a small miracle wrapped in dignity.**

Every toy, every game, every winter coat in the Toy Room is there because someone cared enough to give. Together, we've made it possible for a mother to choose a gift her child will cherish; for a father to go home with something he never thought he could afford.





Kindness and generosity turn this simple Toy Room into a place where Christmas feels possible again — a lifeline for families who have been stretched thin while carrying so much.

MYSTIE'S JOY



"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."
— PSALM 126:3 NIV

Mystie lost her job three years ago and now cares full-time for her two toddler grandchildren. With a tight budget and pressing responsibilities, she turns to Scott Mission for support that helps her stay afloat. **This Christmas, the Mission's food and toy assistance meant she could give her grandsons joy without sacrificing essentials like rent or groceries.**

"This is my first Christmas with my grandsons living with me," Mystie says. *"So to see them open toys — even though I didn't buy them — at least I know there's something under the tree for them."*

Mystie is deeply grateful for the support that helps her keep food on the table while still giving her grandsons a Christmas to remember.

When she shares her gratitude, her voice carries the quiet relief of being seen and welcomed:

"I'm grateful to Scott Mission for all the help they not only give myself and my family, but to the rest of the community. They don't judge. They don't send anybody away. They always welcome people back."



"Getting home with all these toys is so exciting. I'm very happy, and [my kids] will enjoy their Christmas. I'm grateful to Scott Mission for everything they have done for me."

— OLAYINKA



"We are very happy that you helped us so much with toys, food, Christmas gifts... we thank the donor very much."

— ANDRII



"This Christmas will be a very happy Christmas — with lots of smiles. Very thankful!"

— ZORAYDA

Update: A Fresh Wave of Hope for Kids

Our new pool brings a new season of possibility

For years, swimming has been one of the brightest parts of summer at Scott Mission Camp — a place where kids are able to laugh, play, and feel free. But the old swimming pool, built in the 1980s and beloved for decades, had reached a point where it could no longer meet today's safety standards. The pool had served generations well, but it was time for something new.

With the faithful support of our community, a brand-new pool has opened. We are so grateful for this splash of hope for kids in need!

This past summer, more than 800 children and youth from low-income households were able to enjoy the new pool. They swam, played, and made memories that will stay with them long after summer ends.

It's a simple thing, a pool. But for many kids, it's a place where excitement erupts, where confidence grows, and where they feel the kind of freedom every child deserves. This is another one of the small miracles offered by Scott Mission — with thanks to caring donors like you.



WAYS TO BRING CHRISTMAS JOY TO NEIGHBOURS IN NEED

GIVE

Your compassion and generosity will help provide delicious holiday meals and the tools to bless our neighbours during this Christmas season.

PRAY

Pray with us that the hungry and vulnerable neighbours who come to Scott Mission for meals, encouragement, and so much more will feel the love of God.

HOST A FOOD DRIVE

Visit **scottmission.com/food-drive** to learn how you can host a Christmas food drive to help our neighbours in need this Christmas!!

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?



Sharing the causes you are passionate about with your family and loved ones is a meaningful way to make a difference.

When you include Scott Mission in your estate plans, you can leave a legacy that will mean lasting transformation for Torontonians in need.

If you have any questions about making a gift in your Will that is right for you and your family, we're here to help!

Send a message to Inna, our Philanthropy Manager, at ibarcarlos@scottmission.com to get in touch about your Will.

QUIET SERVICE. **STEADY COMPASSION.**

For 18 years, Arja has walked through the doors of Scott Mission as a volunteer twice a week. She serves because she wants to give back and stand with people who should never be left without a place to call home.

"The Mission is in my DNA," says Arja, and you can hear the truth of it in her voice.

What keeps her returning are the faces of neighbours who arrive tired, worried, or unsure, but leave with grateful smiles and a sense of belonging. In those small moments, she feels it: **the quiet miracle of a neighbour finally feeling at home.**



Experience the contentment that comes with volunteering this Christmas season! For current opportunities, visit **scottmission.com/volunteer**

- ☐ Grocery gift card for a special feast
- ☐ Fresh produce and other items from our food bank
- ☐ Warm winter clothing, including coats and boots
- ☐ Toys for children 12 years old and under (parents get to choose from our Christmas Toy Room!)

Thank you for bringing hope during the Christmas season!

SHARING BLESSINGS THIS WINTER

Support from donors like you will bring the feeling of home to families with extra help this holiday season.

Please Give Generously this Christmas.



Ben's Soft Place to Land

After a work slowdown, Ben could no longer afford his rent and spent years living on the streets. He was found by a Good Samaritan who encouraged him to come to Scott Mission for help. Ben walked through our doors into a warm, welcoming place where everyone is wanted.

"It feels really good to have a safe place to sleep at night," says Ben.

Scott MISSION

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SCAN TO GIVE