



FACT SHEET: October 2020

What is Out of the Cold - Centre 120? On the Saturday nights of the 5 coldest months of the year, Knox Presbyterian Church opens its doors to disadvantaged people of Ottawa. We serve 80 to 150 people a good hot meal in a warm and friendly atmosphere – over 56,540 guests since opening in 1995 to the end of March, 2020 (about 105 guests each evening).

When and where is Out of the Cold - Centre 120? We open at 4 pm every Saturday from the beginning of November until the end of March every year. This spring, in response to shutdowns to other outreach services, we continued to serve meals until the end of July. We normally serve dinner from 5:30-6:30 pm, but during the pandemic are serving from 5-6 pm. This spring we pivoted to takeout; we are now working to implement a new safe format for the upcoming season, hopefully with some indoor dining at some point. We are at Knox Presbyterian Church at the corner of Elgin and Lisgar Streets, entrance at 120 Lisgar.

Who do we serve? We are open to all but it is clear that our guests are on a low income, often social assistance for medical reasons, although some work. Most are single adults; some live on the street, but many live in rooming houses. They come not just for the food, but also the welcoming atmosphere and friendly smiles - our smaller numbers mean that we are able to provide personalized service and frequently seconds to take home.

Volunteering: Every week, 35-40+ volunteers come from across the city to deliver the food in bulk, set up, prepare and serve the meal at the tables, socialize with guests and, finally, clean up. Our dedicated leaders are there most of the day, but otherwise we have shifts so as not to exhaust volunteers. Team members are from Knox, other churches, friends, family and colleagues and the community more widely, including the Centretown Community Association and their volunteers. Interested in volunteering? Please email knoxvolunteers.ootc@gmail.com and we will match your interests with our needs.

What does it cost? Our food costs for last season were over \$10,000 or about \$460 each evening, with additional costs for takeout containers etc. We have no overhead since we are a volunteer-run ministry of Knox. We do fundraising (Big Soul Project, The Wild Cards band in 2019) as well as relying on the generous donations of many individuals from within and outside Knox, other churches plus some organizations or businesses. We acknowledge and thank the contributions in 2019 and 2020 of St. Andrews Presbyterian church Kars, St. Theresa's Roman Catholic church, Liberté City church, Faulkner Real Estate, Massine's Independent, Johnny Farina's and Loblaws (Pretoria).

Donations are greatly appreciated, especially given the increased costs and difficulty holding fundraisers during the pandemic. Knox Church is a registered charity #1298 8023 RR0001. Donations should be sent to Knox Church, and designated to Out of the Cold (or Centre 120). You may donate by cash or cheque (payable to Knox), through Canadahelps.org (it retains 3%), or by E-transfer to knoxottawa@rogers.com. Knox issues tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more.



Serving Christ in the heart of the nation's capital
Knox Presbyterian Church, 120 Lisgar St., Ottawa, ON K2P 0C2
Tel: 613-238-4774 Fax: 613-238-4775
Email: knoxottawa@rogers.com Web: www.knoxottawa.ca