



MONTHLY UPDATE



Lawson Ministries
Hamilton



Hello,

Please visit www.ontario.ca/reopen for most up-to-date information regarding the continued journey to reopening Ontario as we continue in Stage 3 of the plan. Thank you everyone for following all the guidelines as set out to ensure a safe transition! We have started to resume community activity plans as well as family home visits! We will continue to assess activity plans to ensure we are minimizing risk of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant.

Vaccine Update, Surveillance Self-Swabbing, Rapid Antigen Testing

Ontario is taking action to further encourage vaccination and help limit the spread of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant. These measures will help reduce the risk of transmission during the winter months and further encourage everyone to get their shot so that Ontario's hospital capacity is protected and we keep each other safe. The guidance document on recommendations for COVID-19 vaccine third doses has been posted to the [Ministry's website](#).

COVID-19 Booster Vaccines

The Ontario government is expanding [eligibility for booster](#) doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Starting **Monday December 20, 2021**, individuals 18 years of age and older will be able to book an appointment if it has been three months (84 days) after their second dose. Pharmacies and other channels may provide boosters for 18 and over at the three-month interval starting Friday December 17 for walk-ins.



**2021 Christmas Greeting from
Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd**

[Watch Video Here](#)

Christmas Candle Light Service 🕯️

Tuesday December 21, 2021 at 6pm

Please mark your calendars and join us for a special candle light service with Chaplain Dora Keeping. To attend RSVP to Dora Keeping [here](#)!

Binbrook Farm: Christmas Lights 🎄

The farm team has worked hard again this year to spread Christmas cheer to all who visit! We held our annual "light up the farm" event on Dec 16 with great success.

From collecting light donations, to orchestrating this year's design, staff and clients have really put their heart into shining their light brightly throughout this season. Everyone participated with roles small and large, and after completion enjoyed some homemade treats and hot chocolate. If you are in the area be sure to check it out, you will see it glowing as you drive down the road!



Christmas Kettles

Some of our Lawson individuals & staff have been giving back and volunteering their time to man Christmas kettles at Fortino's Main St. West. Stop by for a visit and feel free to make a donation! If you are interested in volunteering at any local kettles please contact Dan Millar at danmillar@salvationarmy.ca.

Housing 🏠

As we continue to work on our Strategic Plan I am pleased to confirm we have entered into a partnership with the City of Hamilton & the YWCA Hamilton and have been able to safely house 6 individuals over the last 3 months. These individuals are now living in safe, clean and affordable apartments. Huge shout out to the Supported Independent Living program for all their time and work to support these individuals to meet their goals.



Years of Service Awards 🏆

On Thursday December 16, 2021 our FUEL committee hosted our Christmas party virtually, the event was filled with games, laughter and our annual Years of Service Awards. The night had a special video from the guys supported in our programs which is being shared on our [TikTok account](#)! This year, we not only celebrated every employee that is committed to their employment with us but 21 individuals that reached the following milestones:

25 Years

Lisa Schumpp

15 Years

Kirah Coulson-Gillespie

Cindi Pitt

Brenda Trotter

Mark Van Noord

Natasha Boyd

10 Years

Arlene Schweyer

5 Years

John Henry

Josh Wyngaarden

Jennifer Nielson

Pierre-Etzer Momplaisir

Sarah Bradshaw

Tania Baca

Rachel Wilson

Jasmina Lepojevic

Danny Blank
Katie Bridge
Karen Lair
Brad Schweyer
Alex Grevatt
Elisa Scattolon



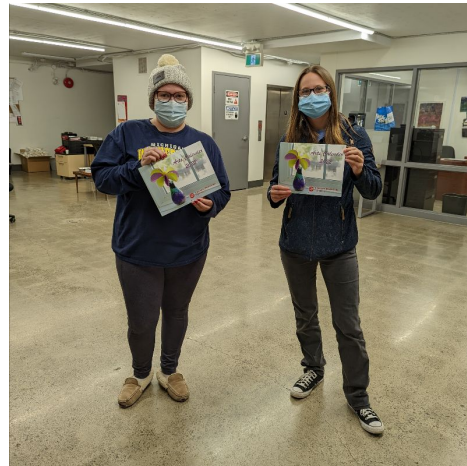
We are currently looking for new members of our team who are eager to make a real, positive impact in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. Compassionate, innovating caring individuals are needed! Enrich your life while enriching others! Visit www.lawsonministries.org and click the **careers** button!

S.A.F.E. (Sexuality, Abuse Awareness, Family Supports, and Education) Hub 🧡

An advisory committee has been established and we will be implementing framework activities and further training to support the S.A.F.E. Hub. The S.A.F.E. Hub will address the barriers and the limitations we have faced in the supports we provide. We will be providing tools, resources, education, clinical assessments, and support structures for people who may be experiencing abuse, or face other challenges that require an innovative approach to meet the needs of the individual where they are at.

Autism Speaks Canada Imagination for Autism: Community Art Hub 🎨

This project targets adults with ASD 18-65 in the Hamilton region and provides 10 weeks of creative movement, music, and digital art expressive sessions virtually. Digital art and the combination of music and movement has been shown through strength-based and person-centred approaches to decrease feelings of isolation, and expand cognitive, creative, physical and social capabilities. Through this grant a clinical program manuscript for the Canadian Art Therapy Journal has been developed and will be presented to the public at the OADD conference on April 13, 2022. We have 2022 Art Calendars featuring many of our artists' work created through this initiative. Please contact us if you have not received a calendar and would like one.



Agriculture Canada Grant 🌱

I am pleased to announce that we have been approved for another round of the Agro Grant. During the pandemic, Agriculture Canada has been extremely generous and we were able to create and operate the Mountain Community Kitchen. Stay tuned in 2022 for some exciting meal opportunities we are currently working on!

Caledonia Thrift Store

We are welcoming donations, please stop by for a visit or you can also visit our online site for great deals at our Thrift store. Visit sacts.ca for amazing and awesome tax-free vintage, one-of-a-kind items!



To celebrate the holiday season, we would like to offer all Lawson Ministries staff 50% off their entire purchase at checkout. Please use coupon code **EMPLOYEE50** to start saving!

Not Myself Today

It is so important that we take care of ourselves, so if you are not enrolled in NMT yet please take the time to log on www.notmyselftoday.ca. Spending a few minutes, a day checking out the Mental Health tip of the Week, posting your mood on the company mood wall, completing your Mission Impossible of the day or viewing some of the pre-recorded learning modules are all great ways to focus on yourselves! Thanks to all our NMT Ambassadors for their continued work promoting this initiative across the agency.

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Coldest Night of the Year ❄️

Please help Salvation Army Hamilton Booth Center as they are sponsoring the Coldest Night of the Year. It is a winterrific family-friendly walk to raise money for local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. Team up, walk, and fundraise! Visit cnoy.org to sponsor someone or register to be a participant!

Follow us on Social Media to keep up to date on the various virtual sessions and current information:



SALMH Twitter



SALMH Instagram



SALMH Facebook



SALMH YouTube



SALMH Website

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