

Responding to COVID-19

Southridge Shelter is taking steps to ensure the well-being and safety of our guests, donors and staff. We are in constant communicating with Niagara Public Health and The Niagara Region Homelessness Services and are acting on their advice.

THE SHELTER'S HOMELESS CLIENTS ARE AT HIGHER RISK

People experiencing homelessness are among the population most highly at risk of infectious diseases such as coronavirus; at least 40% of our guests and clients have pre-existing health conditions. With compromised immune systems, limited medical care, and poor nutrition, they already have a life expectancy of 30-40 years less than the general population.

COVID-19 poses a new threat to our most vulnerable citizens. Their survival is at risk and we must continue to care for them with dignity and respect.

WHAT IS SOUTHRIDGE DOING?

Despite the Ontario lockdown, Southridge, as an emergency service, will continue to provide essential services such as food and shelter to people in need. We are taking

precautionary measures to protect both our community and the public at large by:

- Increasing sanitation and hygiene measures at our shelter.
- Notifying our clients and staff on how to recognize COVID-19
- Implementing safety protocols to prevent the spread of disease as recommended by Public Health Services
- Offering non-essential services such as coaching, advocacy, and diversion via phone
- Cancelling volunteer shifts until further notice
- Working with the Niagara Region and Public Health to proactively plan our next steps

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Your continued prayers and support will be needed as we face this together. Pray for our most vulnerable citizens, for each other, and for the community at large. Please pray that God protects the shelter from COVID-19 and gives the residents and staff the strength to stay healthy through this difficult time. Please consider sending a message of encouragement to the shelter community by emailing [**encouragements@southridgechurch.ca**](mailto:encouragements@southridgechurch.ca)

WE NEED YOUR HELP as we face COVID-19 together.

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS:

- New twin sized sheets
- New bath towels
- New men's & women's underwear
- Juice boxes or cans of pop
- Granola bars/other packaged snacks
- Canned goods/non-perishable food items
- Cereal (maybe consider a 'fun' variety to lift some spirits in this time?)
- Single serve yogurt
- Shaving foam
- Toothbrushes
- Water bottles
- Fresh fruit

You can also donate dollars to be used for general purposes to support the shelter during this time, by [clicking here](#).

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

~Psalm 9:9-10

Thank you for supporting Southridge during this pandemic.