

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022

THE PULSE

Open Arms Mission
Gather, Sort & Send

I have been spending more time at the Fresh Food Hub lately. I am blessed to see the hardworking volunteers sort and help send food primarily to the Mission and around the region. They have demonstrated the type of servitude that Christ talks about in John *. They sort through vegetables and meat. But, then, there is the rotten and the uneatable among the incredible bounty of fresh food.

Faithfully the people who sort food show up each week to get their hands dirty so that those needing food can get it.

We need people to serve! We currently need people to help distribute food at the Mission Center. Whether a few hours a month or a morning each week, we need people to help. You can email stacy.oam@gmail.com if you are interested.

We also will need people in the spring to help with the Plant-a-Row project at the Fresh Food Hub. At the Christmas Gala, I announced that we would be expanding our garden area so we could strategically plant a few crops. Groups of people would sign up to plant one row of produce and then harvest it. This volunteering would involve a commitment of a few hours over the summer. Contact Stacy at stacy.oam@gmail.com if you are interested.

By participating in the Plant a Row campaign or distributing food, you are helping in a tangible way to provide food to those who are hungry. You are the hands and feet of Jesus, serving as He did in John *. I want to thank all those who have served and are showing me Christ.

Marty Misener



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need help in Food Distribution

We need help with Plant-A-Row project

JAN-FEB

774 Households were served



I volunteer

Hi I'm Tanya James, an OAM volunteer. For as long as I can remember, Open Arms Mission has always held a special place in my heart. I was looking for a change in 2013, when I was approached by then CEO Jerry Vanderklok, asking if I would take on the management of Redeemed Goods. I always knew there was a need but seeing the need each and everyday broke my heart. I remember one couple who came in close to closing asking if the husband, who had just broken his arm, could shovel the walkway so they could earn just \$10 to take a cab back to St. Catharines. Neither were dressed for the bitterly cold weather. Not only did I provide the funds to get back home, I also made sure they had coats, scarves, mitts and hats. I could tell you hundreds of stories like that. I stayed on as manager until I tragically lost my son in 2015. I took a 2 year break before God began pulling on my heart to return to the store on a volunteer basis. I began volunteering again in 2017 and before long I was hired part time. As the store went through some changes, I stepped in to manage for a bit and then stepped back. I was Stacy's biggest cheerleader and gentle teacher when she was asked to manage the store. It was hard to see the store close and I still miss it. With the closing of the store and of course, COVID, I took another short break from volunteering but the Mission was never far from my heart. I saw that the need for volunteers was urgent and I told Stacy to sign me up. Serving in grocery distribution has shown me that the need for what OAM does has only increased. Two income families, single adults and couples. All are facing food insecurities. Why do I volunteer? I saw a need, That need touched my heart.

Tanya James

O.A.M.

Food Bank stats at a glance

774

Families served

Families OAM has served
Jan-Feb

55,148 lbs

of food has been distributed

Jan-Feb

30%

Families with children

Families with children
represent 30% of
households accessing food