

Shelter  
from the  
DARKNESS

The INN  
St. Thomas-Elgin

"The INN  
St. Thomas-Elgin  
seeks to provide safe,  
temporary shelter to  
individuals 16 and over  
while supporting all  
basic human needs and  
reducing barriers to  
obtain housing."

MAY 2022

Operated by Inn Out of the Cold St. Thomas-Elgin | REGISTERED CHARITY #807524467RR0001

**SHELTER:** Open 24/7

10 Princess Avenue  
St. Thomas ON N5R 3V2  
519-637-9898

## Let's Talk

### NEED A SPEAKER FOR YOUR GROUP OR EVENT?

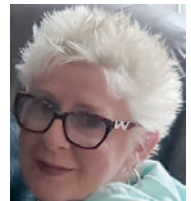
From a business conference with over 200 people, to an employee lunch & learn, to a local church or service group gathered in a circle, we would welcome the opportunity to give an inspirational, informative presentation. Please contact our Executive Director Lori Fitzgerald at 519-933-9895 to make the arrangements! We enjoy sharing our mission and vision with groups large and small and can travel to your location or participate live online.

### DID YOU Know?

The INN shelters up to 40 guests each night and serves 3 meals per day as well as supplies laundry machines for guest use, showers, lockers, personal care items and access to professionals to assist with reducing barriers to housing!

## Message from the BOARD PRESIDENT

board@innelgin.ca | 905-864-9298



Welcome everyone to our first newsletter of 2022. We are very excited to start speaking to the community in this way. We have had a very busy, exciting year with moving to our new facility. Our being in one place and not having to pick up and go to another site to complete our day is so much better for us, for the guests and for the community.

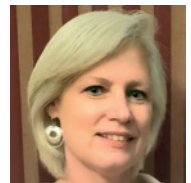
We are very grateful to the City and the community for your generous and compassionate support for The INN. We are settling in and so are our guests. Many of those who stay with us are enjoying the comforts of having their own bed instead of a portable cot, as well as a locker to safely store their belongings. We have begun a new journey and with our new stable location we will be able to help guests and our community.

With hope and gratitude.

Margaret Barrie

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S Report

director@innelgin.ca | 519-933-9895



With the warmer weather upon us, The INN is a bustle of activity as our guests spend more time outside enjoying our new patio and the relief the sunshine brings from the dark days of winter. We are happy to see that many of our guests enjoy helping out around The INN, from sweeping outside to helping serve coffee and making meals. Spring brings new hope and with new housing initiatives underway around the City as well as many community partners joining us on site, guests are a step closer to finding a home of their own. We so appreciate all who are supportive of the good work our community, volunteers and staff are doing to support those experiencing homelessness. From dropping off much needed supplies, making financial donations to serving coffee or a meal, there is a way everyone can make a difference. Thanks so much for all you do. Happy Spring!

Lori Fitzgerald

# Volunteer **CONNIE SANDERS**



Anyone who has ever volunteered at The INN appreciates the team effort it takes to successfully coordinate care for others.

If you ask Connie Sanders, she believes that nothing is quite as special as a community coming together to care and to give back. It's part of the reason she has been involved with The INN for more than 11 years.

Compelled to give back, Connie began to contribute her volunteer hours as a kitchen assistant by prepping dinner for as many as 50-100 people a few nights each week. Through over a decade of service, Connie's spirit of generosity continues to speak to her commitment. When COVID 19 became a household name, Connie increased her involvement with The INN by shopping for groceries, seeking out food donors, and coordinating a steady stream of consumable supplies to guests left with nowhere to go. When asked about her stalwart dedication to volunteering at The INN, Connie simply says that she would hope for the same care if ever down on her luck.

The INN tremendously appreciates Connie's empathetic outlook. Following relocation to a new facility, Connie devotes time to coordinating volunteer teams at The INN. She plans regular menus and maintains the standard integrity of a well-run kitchen, so very central to the operations of The INN. We appreciate her tireless assistance, and her expertise. The INN agrees with Connie, that indeed, there is nothing quite as special as a community coming together to care and to give back.

2022		January	February	March	April
Guests	unique individuals	95	71	67	62
Overnight stays	total for month	996	891	1150	870
	average per night	32	32	37	29
Moved into housing	total for month	5	4	6	3
Meals	total for month	1560	2432	2492	1144
	average per day	50	87	80	70

## Fundraising COMMITTEE

If you are interested in becoming involved with The INN by volunteering to help us to create strategies with regards to all avenues of fundraising including events, individual donations, and accessing new donor groups and additional granting agencies... please contact our Board President Margaret Barrie at [board@innelgin.ca](mailto:board@innelgin.ca) to discuss the possibilities! Currently the Committee meets for approximately one hour, online, each month via zoom.

## COLUMBUS CLUB PRESENTS SUMMERFEST 2022

**Saturday, June 25, 2022**

St. Anne's Centre, 20 Morrison Drive, St. Thomas  
 3:00 – 5:00 pm **50's & 60's Rock & Roll**  
 6:00 – 9:00 pm **Tribute to CCR & John Fogerty**

Cash 50/50 Draw

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT The INN, 10 Princess Avenue

A day to support The INN, the Grace Cafe and St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital

For more info: [www.columbusclubstthomas.com](http://www.columbusclubstthomas.com)

## Wish List

- ..... Coffee
- ..... Powdered creamer
- ..... Cookies (store bought)
- ..... Fresh fruit
- ..... Sugar
- ..... **Personal care items:** razors, sunscreen (mini size), 2 in one shampoo and body wash, deodorant
- ..... New undergarments (boxer briefs, sports bras and women's underwear-all sizes)
- ..... Shorts, sweats and leggings with elastic waist, and t-shirts
- ..... Sleep pants

(see our website <https://www.innelgin.ca> for more items and updated list)

## WAYS TO HELP

- ..... Donate needed items
- ..... Make a financial contribution (become a monthly donor)
- ..... Volunteer to serve coffee or help prepare or serve a meal
- ..... Hold a fundraiser
- ..... Visit [www.innelgin.ca](http://www.innelgin.ca) for more info or call Lori 519-933-9895.



# The INN

St. Thomas-Elgin

Shelter  
from the  
DARKNESS

## Become a Monthly Donor

Every day of the year, help us help the homeless.

When you make a monthly contribution to The INN, you provide us with a reliable stream of revenue that helps to offset the cost of our ongoing operating expenses. To join, you simply pre-authorize a monthly deduction from your bank account or credit card. As a monthly supporter, you are spreading your donation out over the year.

### EASY WAYS TO BECOME A MONTHLY INN DONOR

#### 1. Sign up by MAIL

Send us the information by mail to:  
The INN, 10 Princess Avenue, St. Thomas, ON N5R 3V2

#### 2. Sign up by PHONE

Sign up as a monthly donor by calling our Bookkeeper Iona at 519-637-6373.

To join by mail or phone, you will need to provide The INN with the following information:

**Option 1:** charge to your credit card – you will need to provide the credit card type, number and expiry date, and the amount you would like to give each month

**Option 2:** direct debit from your chequing account – you will need to provide the following banking information for donations directly from your bank account:

(a) Account number (b) Bank number (c) Transit number

**Note:** if you are joining by mail, you can provide us with this information by including a cheque marked "VOID", or if you are joining by phone, please read the entire row of numbers across the bottom of one your cheques (including zeroes).

If you choose the credit card option, you will notice on your credit card statement that the donation was processed through the Canada Helps platform.

#### 3. Sign up ONLINE now

Go to our webpage [www.innelgin.ca](http://www.innelgin.ca) and select the green "donate now" option.

All online donation platforms deduct an administration fee from your donation. Choosing to give via a void cheque will ensure that 100% of your donation goes directly to The INN.

Once you start your monthly gifts, withdrawals continue each month until you notify The INN of a change.

We are here to help you. You can contact us anytime by emailing [donations@innelgin.ca](mailto:donations@innelgin.ca) or calling our Bookkeeper Iona at 519-637-6373.

## DONOR FORM

### PRE-APPROVED MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

- I would like to join the Pre-Approved Monthly Payment Plan (please fill out the information below)

name: (print) \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

city: \_\_\_\_\_

province: \_\_\_\_\_ postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

signature: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize The INN to withdraw

- \$100.00  \$50.00  \$25.00  other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

from my account on the 15th of each month starting the month of \_\_\_\_\_ Please attach a void cheque.

- Please increase my monthly donation to \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

### MAKE A ONE-TIME GIFT

- I would like to give a one-time donation at this time of  
 \$150.00  \$100.00  \$25.00  other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Method of payment

- E-transfer: [donations@innelgin.ca](mailto:donations@innelgin.ca)  Cash  
 Cheque: payable to The INN  Credit Card

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

expiry: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit CVC \_\_\_\_\_

#### E-transfer Donations

Did you know that if you send The INN a donation via e-transfer, this method does not provide us with sufficient information to acknowledge your gift? Please be sure to include your name and Canada Post mailing address so that we are able to acknowledge your generosity and generate and send you an official receipt for income tax purposes. Including your telephone number and email address would be wonderful too.

- I do not wish to be updated/contacted regarding The INN.  
Remove from mailing list.

Thank you for your generous support!