



The Inn
Of The Good Shepherd
Caring hands of the community

Est. 1981

2025-26 *INN*pact Report

Who We Are

Vision

A community where everyone has access to food, shelter, support, and the opportunity to move forward with dignity.

Mission

To provide service with dignity to those in need of food, shelter, and other essentials.

Organizational values

- Dignity First
- Community-Centered
- Compassion with Accountability
- Hope in Action
- Integrity & Transparency
- Inclusivity & Belonging
- Consistency & Reliability



Territorial acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Sarnia-Lambton is located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg peoples, including the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations, who are collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy.

We recognize the enduring presence, contributions, and stewardship of Indigenous peoples throughout this region and across Turtle Island. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and serve within this community, and we remain committed to learning, respect, and reconciliation.

A Year That Tested Us, A Community That Lifted Us

If there is one word that defines 2025, it is change.

Every day at The Inn of the Good Shepherd, we witness the realities of life in Sarnia-Lambton. This past year, those realities became impossible to ignore. More people than ever before came through our doors, many seeking help for the very first time. They were families with full time jobs struggling to afford groceries, seniors choosing between medication and food, individuals facing unexpected job loss, and parents doing everything they could to ensure their children never knew how difficult things had become.

The face of food insecurity continues to change, but the need remains the same. No one should have to wonder where their next meal will come from or whether they can keep a roof over their head. As staff, we have had the privilege of meeting thousands of people this year. While every story is different, they all share one thing in common: courage. It takes strength to ask for help. It takes resilience to keep moving forward when life feels uncertain. We are continually humbled by the trust our clients place in us during some of the most challenging moments of their lives.

There were days when the demand felt overwhelming. Shelves emptied faster than they could be restocked. Lineups grew longer. Difficult decisions had to be made to ensure we could continue serving as many people as possible. Yet, even during those moments, hope never disappeared. That hope came from this community.

It came from the volunteers who gave countless hours of their time. It came from donors who filled our warehouse with food and made financial gifts that allowed us to continue our work. It came from local businesses, schools, churches, service clubs, community groups, and individuals who reminded us, time and again, that Sarnia-Lambton takes care of its own.

Every food drive, every fundraiser, every volunteer shift, and every dollar donated became more than an act of generosity. It became a meal on someone's table, a family staying housed, a child going to school with the supplies they needed, or a neighbour finding hope when they needed it most.

Working at The Inn is about much more than providing food or shelter. It is about restoring dignity, building relationships, and reminding every person who walks through our doors that they matter.

As we reflect on the year behind us, we are filled with gratitude. Gratitude for our staff who continue to serve with compassion every single day. Gratitude for our volunteers whose dedication makes our work possible. Gratitude for a community that continues to answer the call whenever help is needed.

The challenges facing our community have not disappeared, and we know there is still much work ahead. But if 2025 has shown us anything, it is that compassion is stronger when it is shared.

Together, we have proven that hope grows when a community comes together.

On behalf of all of us at The Inn of the Good Shepherd, thank you for standing with us and with the thousands of individuals and families we are honoured to serve. We look forward to continuing this work together in the year ahead.

A Message from Our Leaders

Liz Koetsier
Board Chair



The 2025-2026 financial year has been a significant one in the life of The Inn. From an internal standpoint, we said good bye to our long time Executive Director, Myles Vanni. We are thankful for his many dedicated years of service, and for his significant contributions to The Inn and the promotion of its mission in the community. We were thrilled to welcome Jack Christine as our new ED last November, and are equally thankful for the skill set, energy, and dedication he brings to the role. Externally, global economic pressures are increasingly impacting our local economy, with the heaviest burden falling on our most vulnerable members.

As you will read in this report, the programs The Inn provides have supported thousands of individuals in myriad ways this past year. The opening of one of 18 provincial Hart Hubs at the former SCITS location on Wellington Street has helped ease pressure on our existing shelter locations. We have made progress in reducing the number of emergency shelter beds needed, and we continue to work with the County on solutions for managing this need, in order to ensure adequate emergency capacity. We continue to explore how to best support those in need of affordable housing. This year has also been a challenging financial one, and our Executive Director and staff continue to work hard to strengthen our financial position, service delivery and income streams.

The Inn's mission is to be The Caring Hands of the Community, which is a vision we cannot achieve without the caring hands of this community. Over the past year, you have stepped up in countless ways to support those we serve. Whether you donated meals, volunteered your time, provided services, or supported us financially, you have helped us to ensure our clients received the help they need with the dignity they deserve. We remain deeply grateful for this vital partnership.

As a Board, we continue to be humbled by the generosity of the people and businesses of Sarnia/Lambton. We remain committed to honouring your generosity and contributions, and to fulfilling our mission to provide services assisting those who find themselves in precarious financial circumstances. As we encounter a challenging financial year in an increasingly unpredictable economic climate, it's our hope that we can continue to work together to be the caring hands of this community.

On behalf of the Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Liz Koetsier'.

Liz Koetsier

A Message from Our Leaders



Jack Christine
Executive Director

Coming into an organization like The Inn of the Good Shepherd, in a community like Lambton County, I was quick to learn that The Inn has been a steady presence since 1981, providing food, shelter, and support to individuals and families 365 days a year.

When I walked through the doors in November 2025, I knew there would be challenges, but I was confident that I could face them alongside The Inn's dedicated staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, donors, and community partners. For more than four decades, The Inn has adapted to meet the changing needs of our community, and today those needs are greater than ever. As we look ahead, two priorities continue to guide our work: addressing food insecurity and supporting those without shelter.

Across Ontario, food insecurity has reached unprecedented levels, with more than one million people relying on food banks over the past year. Here in Lambton County, more than 2,200 households access The Inn's food bank each month. These numbers represent individuals, children, seniors, and families who are struggling to afford the basic necessities of life. No one should have to choose between paying rent, heating their home, or putting food on the table.

At the same time, homelessness continues to affect far too many people in our community. Rising housing costs, limited affordable housing options, and increasing financial pressures have left many individuals and families without stable housing. While progress is being made through collaboration and community partnerships, there is still much work to be done to ensure everyone has access to safe, affordable, and appropriate housing.

As you read through this year's INNpact Report, you will see stories of hope, resilience, and positive change. You will learn about the lives impacted through emergency shelter, food programs, supportive housing, outreach services, and the many other programs that make up The Inn's continuum of care. These successes are possible because of the dedication of our staff and volunteers, the generosity of our donors, and the strength of our community partnerships.

While we are proud of what has been accomplished this past year, we remain focused on the work ahead. Until no one in our community goes hungry and everyone has a safe place to call home, we will continue to provide support with dignity, compassion, and respect while advocating for the long-term solutions needed to address the root causes of food insecurity and homelessness.

Thank you for your continued support of The Inn of the Good Shepherd. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier, and more compassionate community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack Christine', written in a cursive style.

Jack Christine

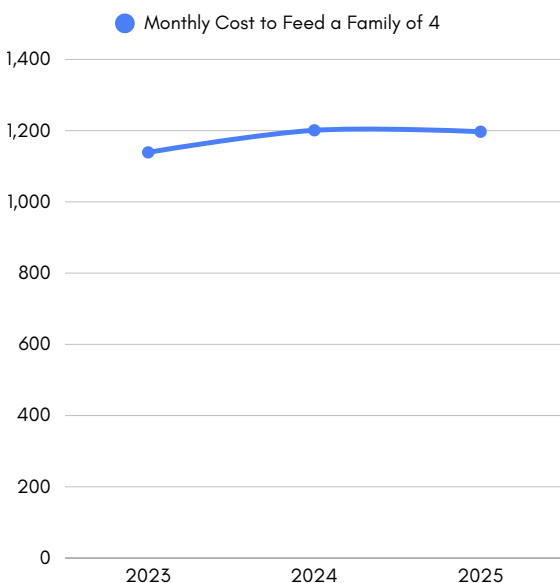
HUNGER IN

Sarnia-Lambton

Between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026, thousands of adults and children across Sarnia-Lambton turned to The Inn of the Good Shepherd for food support through our Food Bank, Mobile Market, Soup Kitchen, and community programs. On average, more than 800 households access our Food Bank each month, while our Soup Kitchen serves approximately 100 meals every single day of the year.

These numbers reflect more than growing food insecurity. They highlight the increasing number of individuals and families in our community who are struggling to make ends meet and relying on essential supports to help bridge the gap.

**1 IN 4
HOUSEHOLDS RELY ON
FOOD ASSISTANCE
IN SARNIA-LAMBTON**



In their own words

There is incredible power in hearing directly from the people we serve. While statistics help tell part of the story, personal experiences remind us that behind every number is a real person navigating hardship, resilience, and hope.

At The Inn, clients often share how access to food support, shelter, housing assistance, and compassionate care helped them through some of the most difficult moments of their lives. By sharing their experiences in their own words, we aim to create greater understanding of the realities many individuals and families in Sarnia-Lambton are facing every day.

These stories are not shared to define people by their struggles, but to highlight their strength, humanity, and the impact that community support can have when people need it most.

“ I absolutely love what the Inn of the Good Shepherd is doing for the low income families and the homeless in Sarnia. So many people are in need every day now, especially with all the high food costs and rent expenses continuing to escalate. They offer all services, including income tax services and have an on-site food bank and soup kitchen. You can ask their front desk workers for any info or services you need help with. Bless them all!” -Christie

“ One of the places that help those in need. Thank you all for you help.” - Judi

“ This is a true life line to our community. The food is always warm and so are the people. Sarnia has some of the most Beautiful souls in the world.” - SJ

“ The Haven has helped me in many aspects of my life, the support has gotten me through some tough times” -Hailey

“ The Haven was a source of structure and support when I had none” -Brody



The Haven



52 unique
individuals
in 2025

Transitional Housing



33 unique
individuals
in 2025

The Lodge



316 unique
individuals
in 2025

Feeding our community

Access to nutritious food is one of the most basic human needs, yet for thousands of people across Sarnia-Lambton, it has become increasingly difficult to put enough food on the table. Rising food costs, housing expenses, and financial pressures continue to push more individuals and families toward food insecurity.

At The Inn, food is more than what fills a plate. It provides comfort, stability, and hope during difficult times. Through our Food Bank, Red Cross Food Box Delivery, Mobile Market, Soup Kitchen, and Shelter Meals, we help ensure our neighbours have access to nutritious food with dignity. This work is only possible because of the generosity of our community, whose donations, volunteer hours, and food drives help turn compassion into action every day.



ACQUIRE ESSENTIAL FOOD

Government Funding, Farms, Grocery Retailers, Producers, Community, etc.



SORT & PACK ALL INCOMING FOOD DONATIONS & PURCHASES



FEED THE HUNGRY PEOPLE OF THE SARNIA-LAMBTON AREA



OUR ORGANIZATION PROVIDES



THE FOOD BANK

Fresh, frozen and non-perishable food.



FOOD BOX DELIVERY

Nourishing food delivered to those unable to make it to The Food Bank.



THE SOUP KITCHEN

Meals made for up to 125 patrons per day, 365 days per year.



SHELTER MEALS

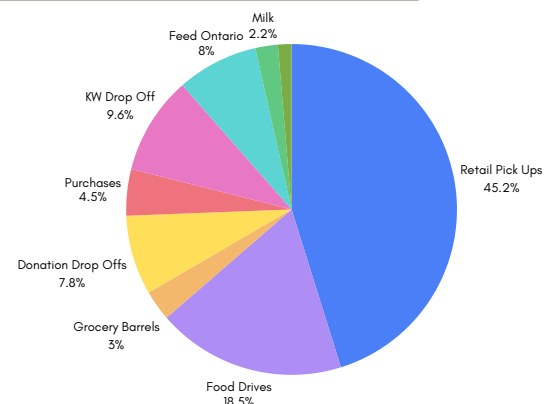
Prepared meals for shelter guests.

The Inn of the Good Shepherd ensures that adults, children, and families in every city and township in Sarnia-Lambton have access to essential food support close to home.

FOOD DONATION SOURCES

In 2025-2026, The Inn of the Good Shepherd received food from a variety of community partners, businesses, organizations, and individuals. These contributions help ensure that individuals and families across Sarnia-Lambton have access to nutritious food when they need it most.

Retail Pick-Ups accounted for 45.2% of all food received, making them our largest source of food donations, followed by Food Drives at 18.5%. Additional contributions came through KW Drop Offs (9.8%), Feed Ontario (8%), Donation Drop Offs (7.8%), Purchases (4.5%), Grocery Barrels (3%), and Milk (2.2%). Together, these sources represent the incredible support of our community and the partnerships that make our work possible every day.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



The team at Progressive are not only champions for us here at The Inn, but for the entire Lambton County community. They consistently step up whenever help is needed. Their donations over the years have supported our food bank, our shelters, and events like CANstruction, which helps collect more than 30,000 pounds of food annually. Their generosity has continued to make a lasting impact. This year, Progressive Auto Sales made an extraordinary donation of \$100,000 to The Inn, demonstrating once again their unwavering commitment to helping those in need in our community.



What makes The Inn food bank unique is the fresh produce we have available. Berryhill Farms is a large donator of that produce to us here at The Inn. Just to give you an idea - Berryhill donated over 7000lbs of produce to the Mobile Market last year which ran from July to October. And on top of that at least another 5,000lbs which went to the food bank. We are talking squash, cabbage, cauliflower, pumpkin, spaghetti squash, napa cabbage, and broccoli.



The family-owned home furnishing store is one that is always willing to step up to help those in its community. From donating auction items, to selling our Holiday Cash Calendars, to running the Tepperman's Family to Family donation event, the store is always ready to say what can we do. The Family-to-Family donation event which encourages people to donate non-traditional items like hygiene products, pet food, cleaning supplies and toilet paper has brought in over 24,000lbs of donations since 2012.



Michelle Parks is a local realtor who started the Tampon Tuesday Sarnia chapter in 2019. Every first Tuesday of the month they run an event at Stokes Inland - where people can drop off menstrual products. Since 2019, Michelle is a constant presence here, dropping off bags of donations and being the point person for local businesses and groups who want to do their own period drives. From 2019 to October 2025, they provided over 11,983 boxes of both donated and purchased menstruation product to The Inn. Michelle is always willing to give a helping hand.

NETWORK PARTNERS

Blackburn Media
Bluewater Power
Bluewaterland Rotary
Catherine Wilson Foundation
CF Industries
County of Lambton
Food Basics
George O'Mahony Orthotics
Giresi's Pizza
GLSS Key Club
Home Depot
Hughes Intelligence
Imperial
Jackpot Time & OCGA
Kyle's No Frills

Lambton College
Lambton Mall
Lamsar
Marcotte
Mazon
McDonald's
Metro Exmouth St
Metro London Rd
Noelle's Gift
Nova Chemicals
Pembina
Plains Midstream
Race to Erase
Real Canadian Superstore
ReMAX

Rotary Afterhours
Rotary Club of Sarnia
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 62
Sarnia Construction Association
Sarnia Lambton Golden "K" Kiwanis
Sarnia Police Services
Sarnia Sting
Sarnia Sturgeons
Shell
Shoppers Drug Mart
Siskinds
Suncor
United Way
Walmart
Worley
YMCA SW Ontario

Neighbours helping neighbours

The strength of our community is reflected in the generosity of the people who call it home. Every year, individuals, families, local businesses, schools, unions, service clubs, faith groups, and community organizations come together with one shared purpose: helping their neighbours through difficult times.

From food drives and fundraising events to workplace campaigns, corporate partnerships, and individual donations, every contribution helps ensure The Inn can continue providing essential programs and services to those who need them most.

At The Inn, we often say that our community takes care of its own. The incredible support we receive throughout the year is a powerful reminder that when neighbours help neighbours, lives are changed, hope is restored, and no one has to face hardship alone.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Mike's Story

From July to the end of October, The Inn's Mobile Market provides 92,312 lbs of produce to 8,371 households. The Mobile Market makes 18 scheduled stops across Lambton County per week, providing fresh produce and snack packs to community members in need.

One of the sponsors of the Mobile Market is Pembina Pipeline Corp. The energy infrastructure company located in Corunna has been a large supporter of The Inn and the Mobile Market.

Mike Edgar, an East NGL manager at Pembina, grew up in the Petrolia area. When he returned to Lambton County and was hired at Pembina, he got involved with The Inn and the Mobile Market through the company's community investment program.

Mike and his team have been involved in the Mobile Market for the last ten years, and for Mike, giving back means so much more when you can see the impact.

"It's incredible to know that you're helping people on such a deep level," Mike shares. "A lot of charities are large organizations where you may get lost in the shuffle and you don't really see the impact of what you're doing or the impact of your donations. The Inn is very different that way."

Every Monday starting July 6 to the end of October, you'll see Mike and the Pembina team volunteering at all four market stops that day. Because of this, Mike sees firsthand the increased need for the Mobile Market and The Inn's many other programs.

"I think it's very critical in our community, based on the depth of needs that people are facing these days, and the increased need that is in our community," says Mike.

"If somebody is dealing with issues, they're cold, they're struggling, they may not have a place to live, The Inn is there with dignity and compassion to step up and fill that need for people."

Another reason Mike is a firm supporter of The Inn and the Mobile Market is the hope they give to the community.

"You can see the benefit," says Mike. "You can feel the benefit affecting the entire community. It's like the tide lifting all the boats."



OUR CANADA HELPS DONOR METRICS

88

NEW DONORS
IN 2025

\$191.14

AVG DONATION
(NEW DONORS)

204

REPEAT DONORS
IN 2025

\$120.89

AVG DONATION
(REPEAT
DONORS)

Bill's Story

Volunteers are an essential part of The Inn of the Good Shepherd and help drive our daily operations. The Inn has over 450 volunteers who do everything from guiding in our food bank, sorting food, assembling food boxes, making deliveries, supporting events, and, of course, advocating for us out in the community, and we couldn't do it without them!

One of those amazing volunteers is Bill Chapple, who began his journey with The Inn as a client and decided after getting back on his feet to give back to the organization and staff that helped him.

Now almost ten years later, Bill is a familiar face at The Inn.

Volunteering at least three days a week, you'll mostly find Bill down in the warehouse or out doing deliveries or pick-ups in the van. But that isn't all Bill does.

He's the first to volunteer for CANstruction, helping teams unload and set up. And he's right back on deck night packing up cans and organizing the shipment back to The Inn. Bill has stocked the food bank, volunteered at outside Inn events, he is always that extra set of hands when needed.

"Anybody that says they want my help, I'm right there to help," says Bill.

According to Bill, it's the organization's dynamic that is the major factor in his decision to continue donating his time.

"It's a great environment, people that I volunteer and work with are amazing people, and you get attached to some of the clients," says Bill.

"Volunteering here, at the end of the day, makes me feel better knowing that I helped people out."

*To become a volunteer,
visit our website:
www.theinnsarnia.ca*



VOLUNTEERS MAKE WHAT WE DO POSSIBLE



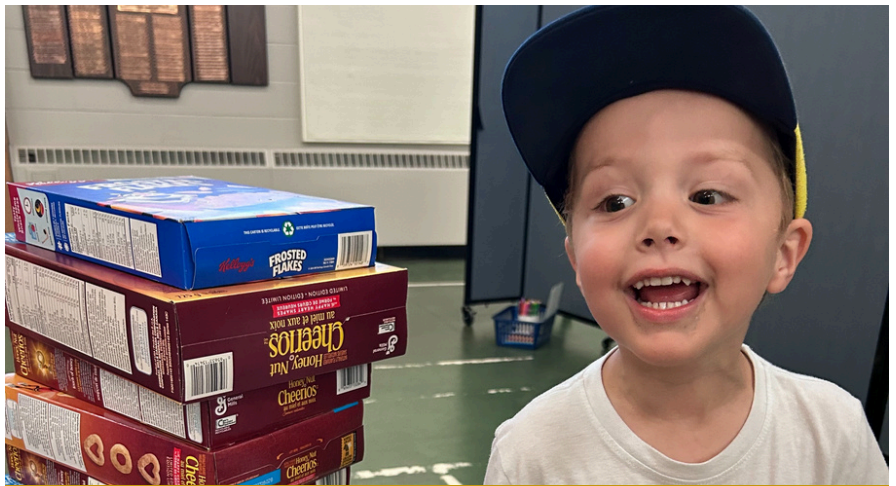
Building Hope TOGETHER!





CAMPAIGNS AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Fundraising is essential to helping The Inn of the Good Shepherd meet the growing needs of our community. Through signature events, community partnerships, third party fundraisers, and generous donor support, every dollar raised helps provide food, shelter, and vital programs for individuals and families facing hardship. Together, our community makes hope possible.



Cereal Dom-INN-Os

Cereal dom-INN-Os is an annual community food drive that brings schools together to collect cereal for The Inn's food bank. Through fun domino displays, participants help provide thousands of breakfast meals for local individuals and families in need.



Loonies for Lunches

Loonies for Lunches is an annual community fundraiser in partnership with McDonald's that helps support The Inn of the Good Shepherd's meal program. Every donation helps provide nutritious meals to individuals experiencing food insecurity, showing how even a small contribution can make a meaningful difference in our community.



Holiday Cash Calendars

The Inn's Cash Calendar fundraiser gives supporters the chance to win cash prizes throughout the year while making a lasting impact in the community. Proceeds help fund essential programs and services, ensuring individuals and families have access to food, shelter, and other basic needs when they need them most.



Surf INN Turf

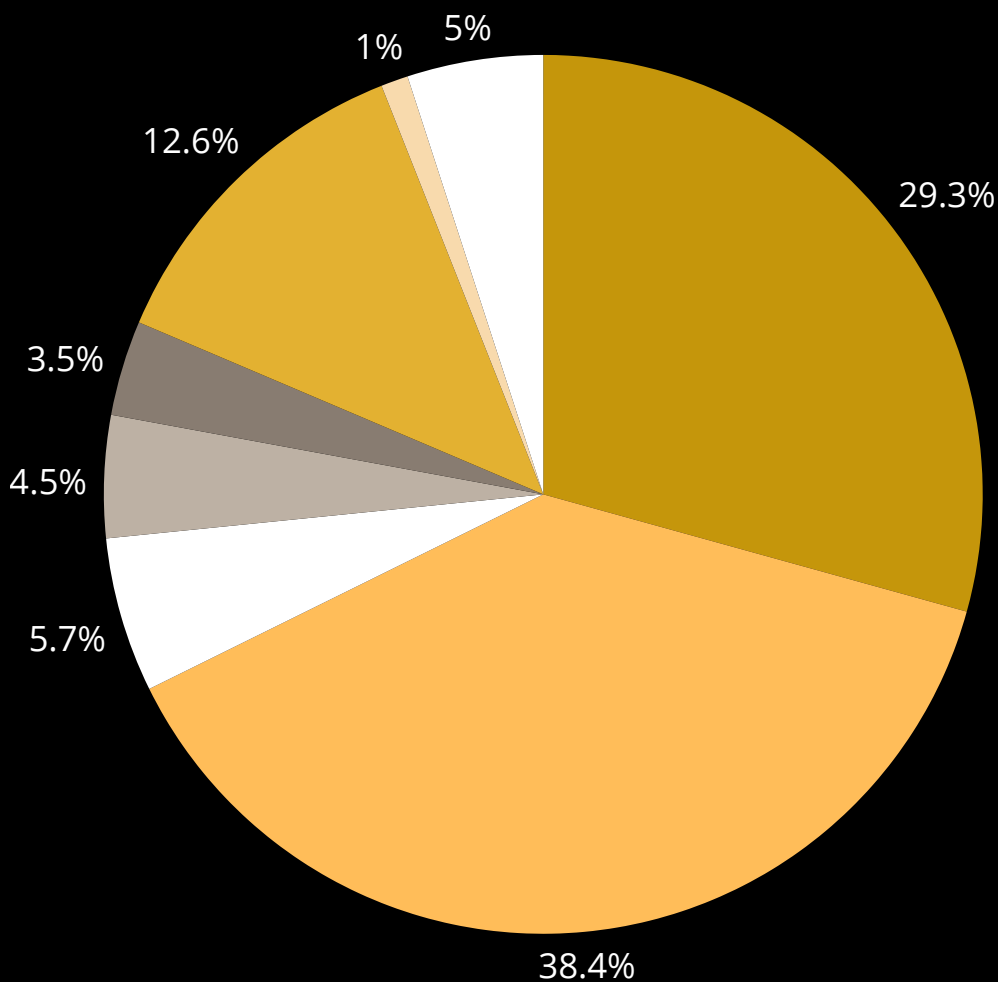
Surf Inn Turf is The Inn of the Good Shepherd's signature summer fundraising event, bringing the community together for an evening of great food, entertainment, and exciting auctions. Every dollar raised helps support our essential programs and services for individuals and families in need throughout Sarnia-Lambton.



Outgoing Executive Director, Myles Vanni welcomes Incoming Executive Director, Jack Christine, October 2025

Statement of Operations

REVENUES



Gifts in Kind (Donated Food)

Donations & Fundraising

Overflow Shelter

Government Programs

Transit & Other

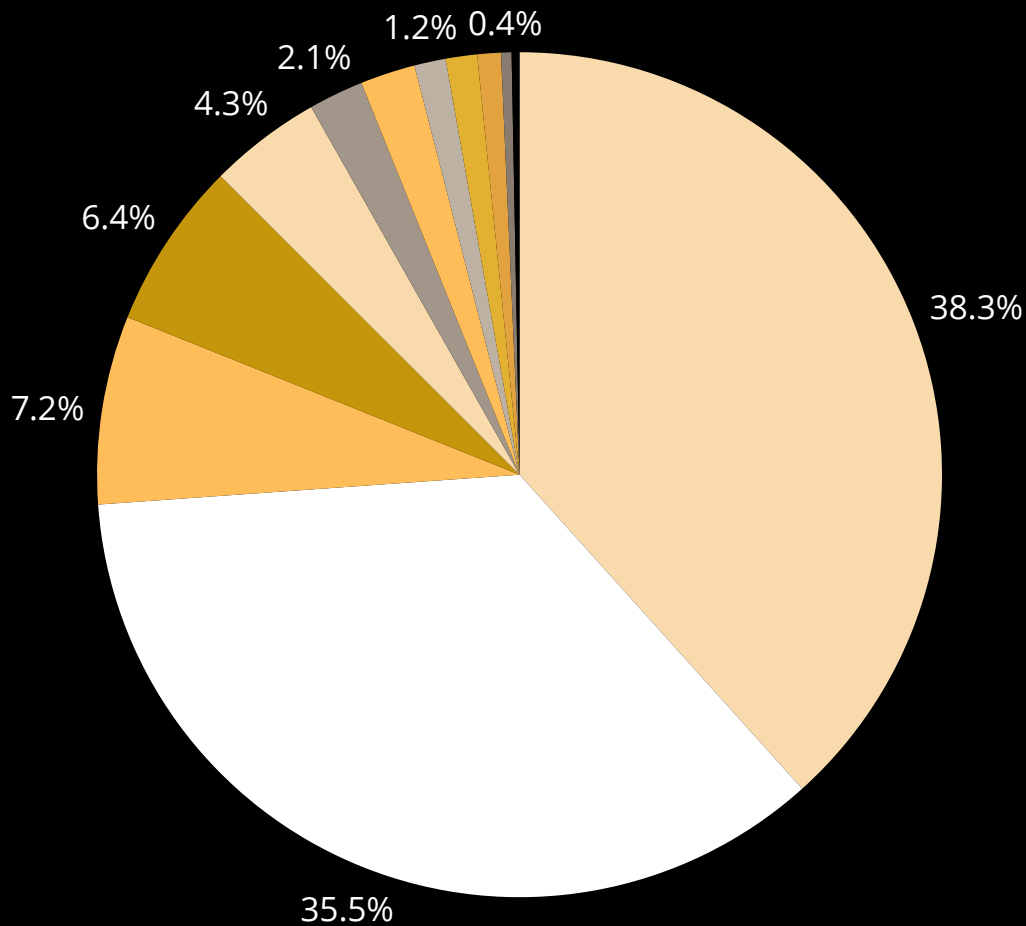
Government Salaries

Ministry of Community & Social Services

Transitional Housing Rent

Statement of Operations

EXPENDITURES



Salaries & Benefits

Gifts in Kind (Donated Food)

Client Personal Needs

Overflow Shelter Expenditure

Transit

Building Occupancy

Food Services

Office

Fundraising Expenses

Professional Services

Training & Travel

Miscellaneous



The Inn
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Caring hands of the community
Est. 1981

Thank you
for an amazing
year.