



HOPE COTTAGE

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The Friends of Hope Cottage

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Dear Friend,

August 20, 2020

HUNGER KNOWS NO HOLIDAY

Hope Cottage has been feeding the hungry in Halifax for more than 50 years. Thanks to the very generous contributions from you, our dedicated supporters, The Friends of Hope Cottage have been able to supply a significant amount of the funds to cover the annual operating costs for the past 31 years, with the vast majority of those funds going directly to purchasing food. We've also been able to make essential improvements to the facilities, including the addition of a walk-in freezer, air quality control, and a new roof, to name just a few of the many projects. The Friends are a completely volunteer group, with no staff, and 100% of the funds we raise go directly to Hope Cottage. The incredible sponsorship we've enjoyed from the Hotel Halifax and the Barrington Hotel was invaluable in the hosting of our Thanksgiving Dinner, allowing around 94% of the funds raised to go directly to Hope Cottage.

Due to the uncertainty and restrictions associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic, both the Halifax Employers Association (HEA) Drive For Hope and the Friends Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Hope Cottage fundraisers have to be postponed until 2021. These excellent events are the largest fundraisers for Hope Cottage, accounting for approximately one-third of the annual operating revenues.

Hope Cottage has persevered, and continued to provide daily meals while adjusting for various COVID-19 related concerns. Operations have been severely affected, forcing us to a take-out model, drastically affecting logistics and costs. We adapted quickly to ensure high-quality, nutritious meals were provided, changing up food options, adding hot meals, etc. We just now have the return of our volunteer dinner service providers as we get ready for less agreeable temperatures. Our dedicated staff of 4 have been nothing short of amazing during this challenging time.

Our demand is as great if not greater than it has ever been. The HEA and the Friends of Hope Cottage have joined forces to launch a pure fundraising campaign to offset the expected loss of revenue from our postponement of the aforementioned events.

How can you help? Before we'd even had the opportunity to formally ask, community minded organizations have reached out to support us even with no golf tournament or dinner. The Halifax Port Authority has stepped up, and others from the Drive for Hope, both sponsors and participants, are doing the same. Thanksgiving Dinner supporters have expressed the desire to do their part as well.

We are asking everyone who purchased tables (\$1200 for 8 or \$150/person) to do the same as last year. Those that supported us in other ways, we ask you do the same. We are hoping that you are willing to continue your generous support even though our events cannot be held this year.

We have created a new challenge – THE FABULOUS 500. We encourage you to help us enlist others to each donate \$100 with hopes that 500 people will contribute, and raise \$50,000 on top of whatever "saved" revenues for the support from our two historically fantastic events.

Donations can be made at www.hopecottage.ca Click on the "Donate" button and scroll down under "Fund". **TAX RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED.** Or, please call one of our Friends of Hope Cottage listed on this letter for more information.

With kind regards,
Your Friends of Hope