

# 2021 Christmas Greetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance MINISTRY



“It was time for me to leave the hospital after giving birth to my son but I had no one to take me home. A social worker at the hospital suggested that I call Second Chance Ministry for a ride. Not only did they pick me up but they brought me a bassinet, diapers, wipes, formula and baby clothes and promised to deliver a crib to me in a couple of weeks. I am so grateful to Second Chance Ministry for helping me and my baby.”

## Serving the Poor, Homeless and Marginalized – Living the Gospel Message

Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, “Stay where you are. Find your own Calcutta. Find the poor, the suffering, and the lonely right where you are—in your own towns, in your families, in your workplaces and in your schools.”

Second Chance Ministry took those words to heart. Our organization is an outreach ministry serving those in our community who are in immediate need of practical assistance. Initiated by Mr. Michael J. Rovers, our ministry aims to serve those who are poor, struggling or marginalized from society. We are all volunteers. Nobody gets paid, everyone contributes. We depend on your generosity to continue to offer help, hope and second chances.

Our mission is to provide immediate, practical, charitable help to those requesting assistance on a daily basis for basic needs such as food vouchers, bus tickets, help with dentures, eyeglasses, rides, or spiritual and emotional support. We go out on the road six days a week responding to those who call on us with in person visits.

We often mentor individuals or couples to lift them out of social environments, which on an on-going basis, may get a person in trouble. Quite a few men and women tend to be very lonely as they may have ‘burned their bridges,’ and often have been ‘written off’ by their families.

They need a caring, positive, and encouraging presence in their lives and Second Chance Ministry provides that support! The folks we serve sometimes need our help navigating through bureaucracy. This includes help with bankruptcies, evictions, registrations, bill payments, appointments, etc. We frequently walk them through these processes, and we cooperate with all relevant agencies and social services.

With many of the people we help coming out of places like shelters, rehab centres and jail they often call on us for help furnishing their apartments or rooms. We have been blessed with a cadre of volunteers who devote themselves to this aspect of our ministry. Our volunteer furniture moving crew are out on the road a couple of days a week picking up donated furniture and then delivering those furniture pieces to folks in dire need of beds, mattresses, tables & chairs, dressers and other home goods.

This group of volunteers are the true unsung heroes of Second Chance Ministry as they do this work week in and week out without much fanfare. Second Chance Ministry is the only organization in Windsor Essex that will pick up furniture from donors and deliver that furniture and set it up free of charge to folks moving into housing -- many having just come out of shelters and other facilities.



“After months of couch surfing we ended up in a shelter and when we finally got an apartment Second Chance Ministry was there to help us with furnishing it. They brought us beds, a table and chairs, some dressers and even an air conditioner! We also received bedding, towels and toiletries. It was like Christmas in July. We can never thank them enough!”



“As a single mother on disability I often call on Second Chance Ministry for help with groceries. Most of my cheque goes to pay for rent, heat and hydro leaving me little money to buy staples like milk, vegetables and fresh fruit. Reverend Mike and his team regularly provide me with grocery gift cards and even gave me my smile back by helping to pay for my dentures. I don’t know what I would do without them!”

# A Christmas Message from our President

Dear Friends,

“Consolation” is a beautiful word spiritual writer Henry Nouwen states. It means” to be (con-) with the lonely one (solus).” He then reflects that “to offer consolation is one of the most important ways to care.”

Indeed, life can be full of pain, rejection, sadness, regrets and loneliness. In our Ministry we experience it all by those individuals and families who call on us for help.

We receive well over thirty requests for assistance a day. In our – “offices on wheels” – we go to them, listen to their stories, and then ask how we can help and console:

- the mother who lost a child in need of funeral costs
- the couple facing eviction, needing hydro or rent support
- the young man on fentanyl needing rehab
- the single mom needing formula and diapers
- the senior needing dentures and eyeglasses
- the homeless woman needing shoes, clothes, coats and shelter
- the individuals and families needing toiletries and food vouchers



- the high school dropout needing to graduate
- the immigrant family needing furniture, appliances and bedding
- the former inmate on parole in need of a good milieu and transportation etc.

In our totally-volunteer agency we have little overhead: we have no office; nobody gets paid; everything we do is free of charge: pick-ups as well as deliveries. Almost all requests involve a financial component. We cooperate with all relevant agencies.

The Christmas story is of a young couple “living on the margin,” who were on the street, homeless, unwanted, who had to flee the country as refugees. Such a lonely experience! As it is, a great many of these “least of our brothers and sisters” are to be found all around us and more often than not in need of a second chance.

I hope that you will find it in your heart to support our Ministry as we console and bring hope and joy today to those in our midst also “living on the margin” like that couple a long time ago.

With gratitude,

**Michael J. Rovers**  
President S.C.M.



“I have been homeless on and off for a few years and I’ve needed more than one second chance. Reverend Mike has been there for me time and again providing me with food, a warm coat and lots of encouragement. He really listens and never judges me and for that I am thankful.”



# A Message from our Chairperson

Despite the ongoing challenges the pandemic has created, we have had a very successful year.

Thanks to continued donations from past supporters of our charity, and our first fundraising effort since Covid began, our annual Golf Tournament that was held in September, we have managed to continue offering our services without any stoppages.

We now feel confident that we can continue our mission of helping those in need with such things as food, clothing, and furniture. We are asking for your continued support to help us continue our mission.

Our charity is unique in that we go directly to those in need. You may have seen our minivan heading out to do daily visits, handing out food vouchers, clothing, or offering assistance with such things as dental work or rent.

Thanks to the generosity of past donors, we now have two full size moving trucks that are on the road every Monday. They pick up donated furniture (see number below) and deliver that same furniture, the same day, to recipients that have called for help.

The most requested items being mattresses, complete beds, dressers and small couches, and any other small furniture that often goes to someone that is starting out, with nothing.

Thanks for all your support, past and present. Your assistance is very much appreciated, either in the form of a monetary donation, donating furniture or other household items, or attending future fundraising events.

Sincerely,

**Doug Byrne**

Furniture Donation Coordinator  
Chairperson of the Board



## FURNITURE DONATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Each Monday a group of volunteers picks up donated furniture, in good condition, from our community, then delivers it to those in need in the Windsor Essex County area. To DONATE or REQUEST furniture call: 226-350-1863

Thanks  
for making  
second  
chances  
possible!



To DONATE  
or REQUEST  
furniture call:  
226-350-1863

"As a single mom with a disability I don't know where I would be without Second Chance Ministry's on going support. Reverend Mike and his volunteers are absolute angels. One of them even takes me every six weeks to my Neurologist appointments."



Visit us at [SecondChanceMinistry.org](http://SecondChanceMinistry.org) or call 519-890-1863

# Did you know?

Our ministry's impact is immediate and often transformational.

Did you know...

- \* A person on Ontario Works receives just \$730 each month out of which they must pay RENT leaving very little – often less than \$50 a week – to cover all other expenses including food, clothing, and other necessities.
- \* Each day Second Chance Ministry receives 30-40 calls for help and visits an average of 18 people on our daily rounds providing immediate and practical support to the poor.
- \* We often help with rent, hydro bills, bus tickets and even train tickets.
- \* Each month we provide over \$6,000 in grocery store gift cards along with boxes filled with non-perishable food.

- \* Every Monday we pick up donated furniture, deliver, and set up for those who are in desperate need of furnishings for their apartments and homes (some having just come out of shelters and Hiatus House).
- \* Our vans are loaded with clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, home goods, and housewares, which we dispense each day during our rounds.
- \* We assemble and distribute more than 1,200 “Love Bags” filled with toiletries and personal care items for both women and men.
- \* We meet clients wherever they are, mostly in their homes but quite often in other places like Tent City, shelters, plaza parking lots, and at fast food restaurants.

Throughout this pandemic we've been busy ...

# 6.5

Hours per day we're on the road helping people

Number of volunteer hours we contribute every year:

# 16,250

You should know ...

# 94%

of your donation goes directly to helping people in need.

## 40%

of all calls for help come from mothers and grandmothers.

## 50

Individuals or families we help every year with rent and/or hydro bill, storage unit costs and out of town bus tickets.

## 25,000+

Kilometres we drive every year to go to people who request our help.

## 45

People we refer to dentists or denturists every year and help with co-payments if required.

## 30

Average number of calls we receive daily. Although, we commonly receive more.

## 18

Average number of visits we make daily.

## 17,500+

Number of visits we have made over the last 5 years.

## 12,000+

Number of children we have directly or indirectly helped over the last 5 years.

## Can we count on your support?

Our Ministry is 100% volunteer run. We have no office because we go to those in need.

For your convenience there are now multiple ways you can support Second Chance Ministry.

**All donations over \$20 will receive charitable tax receipts.**

### Ways to give:

**CHEQUE:** Send cheques payable to SECOND CHANCE MINISTRY  
Second Chance Ministry  
P.O. BOX 3476  
Tecumseh, ON N8N3C4

**CREDIT CARD:** If you would like to donate by using your credit card, call 519-890-1863 for more details.

**E-TRANSFER:** Through your banking website or app you can make a donation by e-transfer to scm5198901863@gmail.com  
\*\*\* For a tax receipt please send a message to the same email address: scm5198901863@gmail.com and give your name, mailing address, amount of donation and the date you e-transferred the money.

**ONLINE:** On our website [secondchanceministry.org](http://secondchanceministry.org) there is a DONATION link which will bring you to CanadaHelps.org. (Note: this is an outside organization that will take a 4% fee from your donation. Tax receipts are issued by CanadaHelps)

If you would like to discuss an ESTATE GIFT, please call Michael J. Rovers directly at 519-890-1863  
GOD BLESS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!