

2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

75
Queen St.

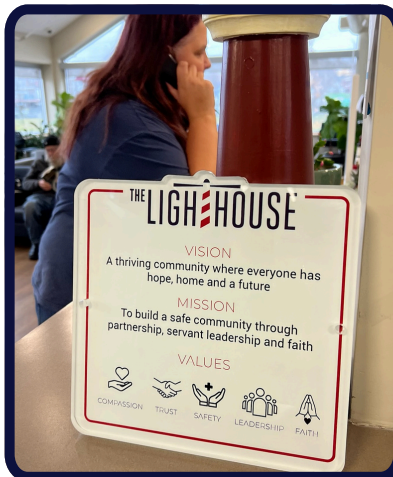
THE LIGHTHOUSE

Community Services
Supportive Housing

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*The Lighthouse
changed my life in so
many ways. They
helped me move
forward.*
Participant



FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Lighthouse is a refuge; a welcoming, inclusive and accessible space for people experiencing homelessness. Our mission extends beyond shelter addressing food insecurity, housing goals, and onsite medical and mental health support through our 12 core programs.

I am inspired by the patient, kind, and compassionate approach each staff, volunteer and community partner takes with participants. Every story heard, every person reassured, every resource offered has shown that compassion, respect and support are important ingredients in helping people move forward with hope.

The past year brought its share of challenges, changes, and celebrations. As you read on, we invite you to see the impact of your support. Thank you for being the heart of The Lighthouse; for caring deeply, for showing up for the most vulnerable and for helping create a place where safety, respect, dignity and compassion create resilience.

With gratitude,
Dale Rowe
Executive Director



FROM THE **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

At The Lighthouse, we are proud to continue the 30-year legacy of offering shelter, safety, dignity and support when people need it the most. We envision a thriving community where everyone has hope, home and a future. We are committed to meeting people where they are and walking alongside them. The Lighthouse is a community of staff, volunteers, partners, donors and supporters working together to ensure lives are safer, more stable and more hopeful through a holistic approach.

This Impact Report is a testament to what is possible when compassion is matched with action. None of this work happens in isolation. It is made possible by the dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners, the resilience of those we serve, and the generosity of supporters like you. On behalf of the Board of Directors at The Lighthouse, thank you for choosing to stand with your community.

With appreciation,
Tim Ticknor
Board Chair



MEETING THE NEED

Without significant intervention, homelessness in Ontario will double in the next decade. In the past 10 years, homelessness has grown in rural communities by more than 150%. Half of this total are chronically homeless, characterized by prolonged or repeated homelessness (Association of Municipalities of Ontario).

The Orillia Poverty Reduction Action Plan outlines that Orillia has the following:

- Highest percentage of renter households in Simcoe County
- Unemployment rate higher than the County average
- Prevalence of low-income individuals higher than the provincial average
- Cost of living in Orillia for a single person is approximately \$4000 a month

Across the province, we know that social supports no longer cover the cost of housing nor the associated costs of daily living.

Growing income insecurity is a concern for many. A lack of affordable housing and low vacancy rates are contributing to difficulties housing people.



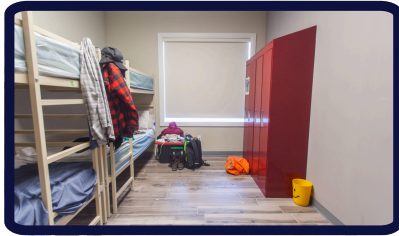
Services at The Lighthouse are in constant demand. In 2025, there were **19,729** nights in shelter and **1,612** nights accessed at the Warming Centre. Over **100,000** healthy meals and snacks were served through the shelter and through the community bagged lunch program. Outreach teams had **8,202** interactions with unhoused and unsheltered adults and youth.

At The Lighthouse, we are proud to offer not only shelter and meals but also holistic, wrap-around supports through partnerships, programs and services that support people to move from simply surviving to thriving. It is a whole community response that will help improve the quality of life for our communities' most vulnerable.

To end chronic homelessness, we need a fundamentally new approach that prioritizes long-term housing solutions and prevents people from becoming chronically homeless by focusing on stabilization, mental health support and addiction treatment.

SERVICES OFFERED

AT THE LIGHTHOUSE



1. **Emergency Shelter - Adult**
2. **Emergency Shelter - Youth**
3. **Supportive Housing**
4. **Outreach - Adult**
5. **Outreach - Youth**
6. **Spiritual Support**
7. **Medical Clinic**
8. **Mental Health Services**
9. **Warming Centre**
10. **Community Daytime Program**
11. **Community Meal Program**
12. **Food Services Program**

The Lighthouse's services provide a holistic approach to wellbeing as we serve people who are experiencing homelessness and support them to move toward housing. The Lighthouse welcomes everyone, regardless of gender, creed, or race. While space limitations impact our capacity at times, we are committed to offering compassionate, person-centred support while connecting individuals with appropriate services wherever possible as we help provide hope in our community.

VALUES



COMPASSION



TRUST



SAFETY



LEADERSHIP



FAITH

HOUSING SERVICES

EMERGENCY SHELTER

The emergency shelter offers a safe and welcoming place for people to rest and plan their next steps. With separate wings for youth and adults, participants receive support tailored to their unique needs while their immediate concerns are addressed. Open 365 days per year, the shelter is here for members of our community who are experiencing homelessness.

19,729
nights of shelter

Meet Matt

"I had hit the lowest point in life. I came to The Lighthouse five years ago. It was my first time in a shelter. From day one, the staff treated me with respect, dignity, and kindness. I have found faith and I have found direction. I am sober and living in an apartment with a good job and a future I look forward to."



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Supportive housing is a transitional program designed to address chronic homelessness by providing stability and time for meaningful change. Participants access on-site programming and case management supports that promote life skills development, improved health, and successful transitions to permanent housing. Supportive housing is available for up to 4 years.

26
individuals supported

Meet Nicole

"Having 24/7 support from staff who 100% care about us has been so nice. I have worked through family court, ODSP, medical appointments, family reunification, etc. and this will never be forgotten. I am grateful and proud of all that I have accomplished in my time here."



OUTREACH SERVICES

This mobile approach brings support directly to people who are often the hardest to serve. Our youth and adult outreach teams focus on building trust and meaningful relationships with unsheltered individuals by helping them stay safe, healthy, and connected. Outreach workers offer laundry and showers, distribute food, water, and essentials to help people stay safe while long-term solutions are pursued.

8,202
interactions in community

Meet our Warming Centre Team

The Warming Centre is a low barrier service offered in the coldest months of the year from December - April. The team builds trust and opens the door to services that can help people rebuild their lives. The Warming Centre is a place of hope, a place of refuge and a shelter from out of the cold.



WELLNESS SERVICES



776

medical appointments
saving at least

\$1 Million

in hospital services

MEDICAL CLINIC

The Lighthouse's medical clinic delivers essential on-site healthcare services that support participants' physical well-being and promote long-term health stability.

Physicians and community paramedics provide acute care, medication management and chronic disease support. This integrated model improves health outcomes while reducing dependence on emergency departments thus creating measurable benefits for the community.

In collaboration with the Couchiching Family Health Team, Couchiching Ontario Health Team, and County of Simcoe Paramedics, the clinic ensures coordinated, patient-centred care in a trusted setting.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

A significant proportion of Ontario's homeless population lives with mental health conditions and/or addictions. Substance use and mental health struggles can lead to the loss of employment, income and social supports, increasing the likelihood of becoming unhoused. Lack of housing, mental health and addictions are intersected and one often causes the others.

We focus on creating a comprehensive community of care system for participants through organizational wellness, social work consultation, community partnerships, and participant engagement.

The Lighthouse is about more than services offering basic needs, food, clothing, or shelter. It's about connection. It's about caring for people with compassion and respect and reminding them that they can dream of a better tomorrow.



50%

reduction in calls to OPP for
de-escalation support

813

interactions in Drop-In

HOLISTIC APPROACH



FOOD SERVICES

The Lighthouse provides three meals and two snacks daily to individuals staying in the shelter, in addition to the community bagged lunch program that operates four days a week.

Access to nutritious meals is a critical foundation for achieving positive housing outcomes. By prioritizing individuals' overall well-being, we support their journey toward securing and maintaining housing through the provision of balanced, nutritious meals made possible by strong food-related partnerships.

100,687

meals & snacks served

SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

Our Ministry Team at The Lighthouse offers spiritual support to anyone who has questions. Using designated funding from four local churches, we are grateful to have a Ministry Coordinator on staff as well as a number of volunteers involved in ministry. As a Christian organization, we are committed to welcoming individuals from all backgrounds. At The Lighthouse, there are no faith-based requirements for accessing our services. We extend a warm welcome to all.

Women of Worth

A new initiative in 2025, Women of Worth is a support group for women staying in the emergency shelter, supportive housing and the broader community. This is run by two volunteers. Through music, art, object lessons, storytelling and teaching rooted in a Christian worldview, the group focuses on identity and healing.

The program meets weekly, and has consistent attendance, active engagement, and connections forming among participants as they support one another in a safe and encouraging environment.



Kent, Ministry Coordinator

1,714

Ministry connections



Wendy & Lynne,
Ministry Volunteers
Women of Worth Program

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



We are grateful for our community partners who support The Lighthouse. Organizations like The County of Simcoe, The Sharing Place, Couchiching Ontario Health Team, Information Orillia, Canadian Mental Health Association, Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, Empower Simcoe and more help make programs and services accessible to our communities' most vulnerable.

In 2025, the partnership between Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital (OSMH) and The Lighthouse grew to provide increased mental health and addictions support for the community's most vulnerable populations.

This created a powerful opportunity to build a circle of care for individuals often caught between emergency health services and community-based support. OSMH's Substance Use Navigator comes directly onsite to The Lighthouse, allowing them to build trusted rapport with individuals, often before a crisis occurs. When these same individuals access care through the hospital's emergency department, the Navigator is already a familiar face, creating continuity, safety, and a more person-centred approach.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Over **100** volunteers serve at The Lighthouse completing over **15,000** hours of service in 2025.

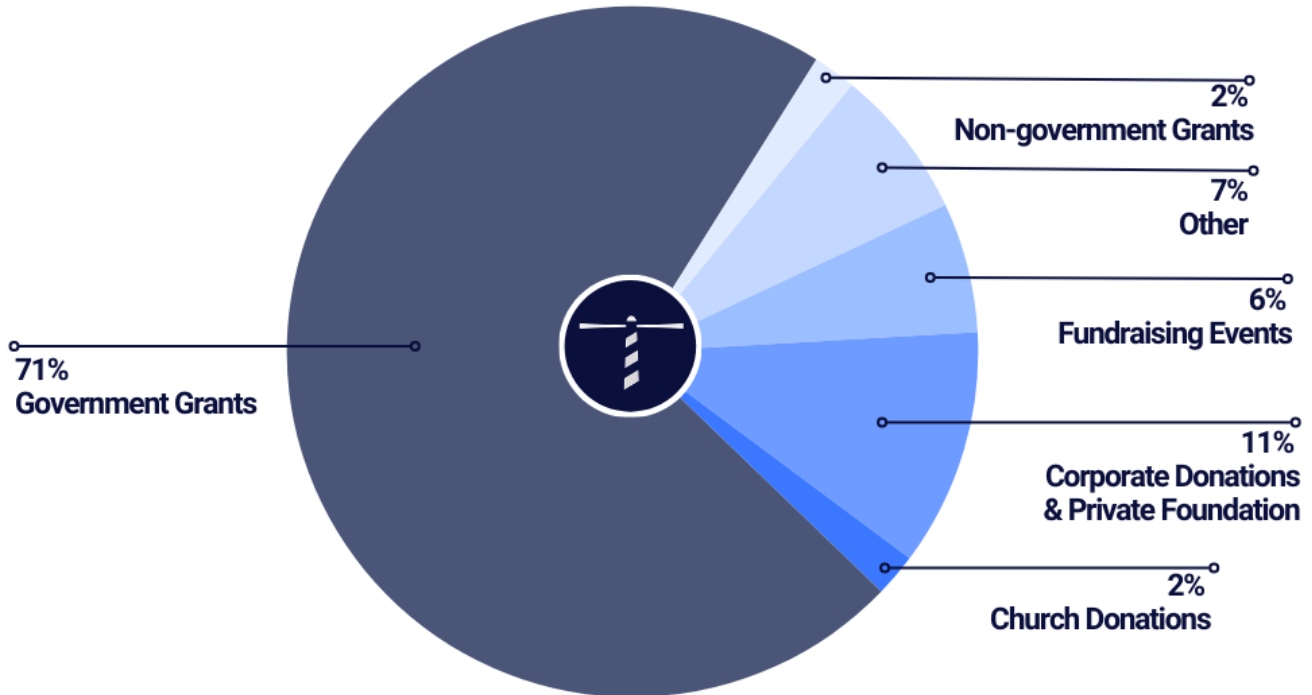
Meet Volunteer Brian

"I do this to be part of our community to give others a hand up in life," says our volunteer, Brian. Having hit hard times in the past, Brian understands the value of giving of oneself. After over six years volunteering with us, starting by supporting us through his Orillia First Aid business services with our events, Brian is now a regular face amongst The Lighthouse team as he volunteers in Maintenance/Landscaping. He says he experiences the gratitude shown to him regularly by those we serve simply by providing help with small tasks.



YOUR SUPPORT TRANSFORMS LIVES

2025-2026 Budgeted Income



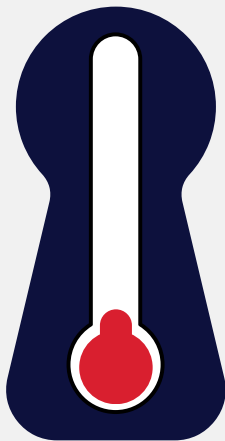
Our annual operating budget is \$4.4 million.

Government Grants equal 71.1% of the total budgeted income, leaving just over \$1.2 million to raise in non-government grants, foundations, donations, events, etc.

To request a copy of The Lighthouse audited financial statements, go to our website here:
orillialighthouse.ca/impact-report/

2026 Keeping Hope Campaign

GOAL: \$1.2 million



When you support The Lighthouse, you help change lives. Your generosity provides shelter, housing supports, healthcare access, and daily meals for people in Orillia who are facing homelessness and food insecurity. Every contribution helps restore dignity, strengthens our community, and reminds people that they are not alone. Together, we are helping people move from crisis toward stability and hope.

FUNDRAISING

HIGHLIGHT

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Coldest Night of the Year



Gala



Golf Tournament



Learn more about our signature events at orillialighthouse.ca/events

WAYS TO SUPPORT

- **Financial Donation:** We accept cash and cheques: make payable to The Lighthouse, e-transfers: finance@orillialighthouse.ca, and online donations: orillialighthouse.ca/give/
- **Donate Securities:** Consider making a lasting impact through a donation of securities.
- **Endowment Fund:** Contribute to our Endowment Fund through the Community Foundation of Orillia.
- **Estate Planning:** Remember The Lighthouse to leave a lasting legacy when planning your estate.
- **Event Sponsorship:** Become a sponsor for one of our signature fundraising events – Coldest Night of The Year in February, Gala in June, or our Golf Tournament in September.
- **50/50 Draw:** www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/occt/

WHY BRIAN GIVES

“I believe in the need for services for the increasing number of individuals in our community who are unable to find and afford adequate housing and who are homeless. I am pleased that The Lighthouse is committed to having medical and mental health services available on-site, and a dedicated youth wing. I visit weekly with individuals at The Lighthouse and have been deeply impacted by their life stories. I am pleased to join with many community members in supporting The Lighthouse through donations of time and skills, and much needed financial support.”



Thank you for helping us create
a thriving community
where everyone has
HOPE, HOME and a FUTURE.



THE LIGHTHOUSE

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Charitable Status Number: 892281577 RR0001