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FINDING HOME NEWSLETTER, SUMMER 2026

SANCTUARY LONDON



EVERYONE IS WELCOME. EVERYONE BELONGS

For over 15 years, Sanctuary has been trying to figure out what it means to be a good neighbour. A good neighbour to ALL people. **A good neighbour for all our relationships** with all of creation, including the earth herself.

This isn't a new question. It is one that has been asked for at least 2000 years (see Luke 10:25-37)! In this edition of our Finding Home Newsletter, we are excited to share with you what being a good neighbour means to us!

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

It's a question that seems easy at first. We think about the people who live next door, the family across the street, or the neighbour who shovelled our driveway after a snowstorm or brought over soup when we were sick. Those memories remind us that being a good neighbour has never been about proximity alone. It has always been about relationship, care, and choosing to see one another.

At Sanctuary London, we've been asking another question alongside it:

Who are the neighbours we have forgotten?

For us, that question continually brings us back to those who are unhoused and unsheltered.

People sleeping in encampments. People living in shelters. People carrying everything they own in a backpack or shopping cart. People whose lives have become highly visible because they have nowhere private to exist.

They are our neighbours too.

Yet they are often treated as though they don't belong anywhere. They are displaced from parks and sidewalks, excluded from businesses, and spoken about as problems to solve rather than people to know.

At Sanctuary, we believe something different.

We intentionally place people who are unhoused at the centre of our community because they have spent so much of their lives being pushed to its edges. Every person deserves to be welcomed by name, treated with dignity, and recognized first for their humanity.

Many of us feel uncomfortable around people who appear to be homeless. Sometimes we're afraid. There are situations that require wisdom and caution. But often our fear grows from something much simpler: we don't know the person in front of us. They remain a stranger.

Strangers become neighbours through relationship.

That means choosing curiosity over assumptions—learning someone's name, hearing their story, sharing a meal, and discovering that their hopes, griefs, and joys are not so different from our own. The line separating "us" from "them" is often much thinner than we'd like to believe.

The same is true when conversations turn toward substance use. Many people fear those who use illicit drugs. Yet addiction is not unique to people without housing. Many affluent people struggle with alcohol, prescription medications, gambling, or other addictions while living in the privacy of their homes. For people living outside, there is no private place. Their hardest moments unfold in public, where they are easily judged and condemned. The recent closure of CarePoint's supervised consumption site has only deepened this challenge, leaving our community to ask how we can respond with both compassion and care for everyone's wellbeing.

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“WHAT KIND OF COMMUNITY ARE WE CREATING?”

We hear similar concerns about people relieving themselves in public spaces. No one wants that. But if public washrooms are closed, businesses refuse entry, and someone has nowhere they are welcome, where are they supposed to go?

Rather than becoming angry with people living in profoundly vulnerable circumstances, perhaps we should ask what kind of community we are creating. Could we ensure that everyone has access to a clean, safe, dignified place to use a washroom? Could our response address the need rather than simply punish the person experiencing it?

This is what it means to be a good neighbour.

At Sanctuary, we believe everyone deserves to eat, so we don't simply serve meals—we prepare food together, sit at common tables together, and share life together. Everyone deserves a meaningful place to belong. Everyone deserves dignity, even in the most ordinary and vulnerable parts of life.

Being a neighbour doesn't begin when someone has earned our trust or overcome every challenge. It begins when we recognize that our shared humanity comes before everything else.

Perhaps the better question is, **“How can I become a better neighbour?”**



At Sanctuary London, we are still learning the answer. We don't always get it right, but we want to continually do better. We believe our city becomes stronger, kinder, and more hopeful every time we choose relationship over fear, dignity over judgment, and welcome over exclusion.

So, who is my neighbour?

The answer, it turns out, is beautifully simple:

Whoever is in front of us.

Whoever is forgotten.

Whoever needs to know they belong.

Because in the end, we are all neighbours.

And **everyone is welcome.**

Being a neighbour is hard... Being a good neighbour is even harder. Living in community with others is just simply hard work! If you have any insight about what it means to be a good neighbour, we would love to hear from you! You can find our contact information on the last page!

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



Sanctuary is entering into a season of change and growth. We have signed an agreement with the new owner of our office building to move out by November 30th of this year. This means that we will no longer have the office space where much happens throughout the week, including all of our admin work, Art drop-in, staff meetings, one-on-one and small group connections, as well as storage of all our outreach supplies.

We continue to have many conversations with other churches and potential community partners to find new space, but in the meantime, please do not fret! Talbot Street Church continues to be an incredible partner with us. **All of our key programs and drop-in times on Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday will continue at Talbot Street indefinitely.** We are so thankful for their continued support and care. We ask that you would hold us in your prayers as we navigate these changes and challenges. Please also pray for our community members who are already vulnerable, and whom we recognize will be affected most during this time of instability. We are excited to continue on our journey of learning to be good neighbours, wherever our Creator may lead us next!

WHILE MANY THINGS AT SANCTUARY MAY BE CHANGING, OUR COMMITMENT TO CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY REMAINS STRONG.

In order for this to happen, we need **your ongoing support**.
Please consider connecting with us at one of these upcoming events!

SAVE THE DATES!



Harvest Moon Fundraiser September 25, 2026

Our annual fall fundraiser will take place in the beautiful countryside of Komoka, ON. For this year's theme, we will continue our exploration of what it means to be a good neighbour. Tickets will be available soon!



Trekking for Home April 17, 2027

This event is particularly special to us as we love bringing together all our neighbours from all sorts of different backgrounds, experiences, and places! Stay tuned for more details, including a new location!

Follow Sanctuary's [Facebook Page](#) for more community and event updates!

Can't make it to the fundraisers?

Please consider supporting Sanctuary anyways. We have many different exciting opportunities and would love to have you get involved in some way. Please reach out if you would like to hear more!

DONATE NOW

Did you know?



Patrick's Beans continues to support Sanctuary by allowing us to sell coffee with the proceeds supporting our community. To order, or to learn more, please email heather@sanctuarylondon.ca