

## OUT OF THE COLD PROGRAM

**KNOX UNITED CHURCH, AGINCOURT**

2569 Midland Ave.

(northeast corner at Sheppard)

### What Our Guests Are Saying

*Feel safe here,  
Site is quieter.*

*I don't go  
away hungry.*

*The table cloths feel like I  
am at a middle class  
restaurant, I feel special.*

*Helps to have my blood  
pressure checked.*

*Different foods and prayers,  
I learn about other cultures.*

## Knox Out of the Cold

**K**nox United Church opened its doors in 2005 **with ten faith-based groups participating** and has since hosted the Out of the Cold for Scarborough in the Christian Education Centre as a component of the Outreach Program. Over the years the program has become known as Knox Out of the Cold (OOTC).

From early November to mid-April, faith-based and community organizations take turns providing Friday dinner and, for sleep over guests, Saturday breakfast and a take away lunch. Thirty guests have a safe and warm place to sleep.

Unique features of the Knox OOTC include:

- Social contact, conversation and hospitality
- Uplifting dinner music
- Health & Wellness services
- The Closet - personal care items and winter essentials
- After dinner activities

Annually over 350 volunteers dedicate their time and ongoing support to meet the needs of guests.



### Humble Beginnings

In 1987, a group of students from St. Michael's College befriended a homeless man who frequented the area of the school. The relationship between the students and the homeless man quickly grew.

Upon his sudden death the distraught students sought the support and guidance of Sister Susan Moran (Our Lady of Perpetual Sorrow).

This began an important discussion on what could be done to alleviate homelessness.

- Sister Susan and her colleagues connected with various faith groups across the City to discuss the opportunity of having each

group organize volunteers at their Church or Synagogue to provide a safe refuge for the homeless.

- January 15, 1987, a small storefront on St. Clair Avenue was opened to provide meals and hospitality to the **homeless - who are considered to be guests** of the program.
- The plan was simply to open their doors one day a week for 23 weeks, in the winter months.
- Although the program initially opened with one faith group, the idea quickly caught on and to date, there are now 16 faith groups (OOTC sites) in Toronto that provide this much needed service.

From this humble beginning the Out of the Cold program spread throughout Toronto and the GTA and into many other cities across Canada and the US.

## How You Can Help

The Knox Site gratefully accepts the following to help meet the needs of our guests:

### Toiletry Items

- sample size** shampoo & conditioner, soap, deodorant
- toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss
- feminine hygiene products
- hair ties, combs, brushes
- razors and shaving cream

### Clothing items

- new** socks, t-shirts and boxer briefs and underwear (men's and women's) in all sizes
- jeans
- sweatshirts/pants
- work boots
- winter sweaters



**Volunteer Help** is needed in various areas of the program:

- hosting dinner or breakfast
- entertainment
- drawing and painting

Please contact the Knox church office.



Knox United Church 联合教会  
Diverse in Culture 卍 United in Faith  
不同文化 卍 共同信念  
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