



Sharing the Mission of Fontbonne Ministries

In this issue of *Springs of Hope*, we highlight some staff and volunteers who work with us and share in the mission of Fontbonne Ministries – to be a welcoming community where everyone belongs.

We often focus our attention on the services that we provide, but our ability to fulfill our programming is only made possible by the amazing people who work with us in various capacities.

We are grateful for the collective gifts and talents that each of our staff, volunteers, and students share with participants through daily acts of service.

In this winter season of gathering and darkness, we recognize the light and joyful purpose we share together as part of Fontbonne Ministries community.

We invite you to consider how you can continue, or begin, to contribute to our services.

Our friendly visiting program, [In Good Company](#), is seeking volunteers, to share the precious gift of time and friendly conversation with those that are isolated and lonely.

The helping hands of volunteers are needed for our weekend food programs at [Mustard Seed](#).

Our Clothing Boutique relies on donations of gently used adult clothing and shoes/boots and the need is especially great during these cold months.

Monetary contributions are always welcome to help sustain and grow the essential programming that we provide every day to keep our mission and the living legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto alive.

December 2022

Our Mission

We are a welcoming community where you are not alone, and everyone belongs. As an inclusive social service organization, our programs foster personal well-being and creativity and respond to food and housing insecurity, social isolation and loneliness. Wherever you are in your life, the spirit of our founders – the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto – inspires us to join with you in nourishing mind, body and heart.

Voices from Fontbonne: Sharing the Mission

We share with you the words, perspectives, and experiences on the mission of Fontbonne Ministries.

Voices from the Board



Hume Martin

For the past nine years, I served on the Board of Catholic Health Sponsors of Ontario (CHSO), established in 1998 by seven congregations of religious women. CHSO's mission is to ensure 21 health organizations across the province remain faithful to the healing mission of Christ.

Serving on this board is an opportunity to continue that work with a focus on social and health services to Toronto's most vulnerable.



Joan Breech

Fontbonne Ministries is in tune with local social needs and readily responds as the needs change.

I am so touched and impressed by how the staff and volunteers engage the program participants with great dignity and respect, reflecting the mission, values and legacy of the founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto. I look forward to being a part of Fontbonne's continuing mission through this time of change.



Sister Anne Marie Marrin

As a member of the Leadership Team of the Sisters, I have been part of the Fontbonne Ministries Board over the past four years and will continue this service during the transition period which marks the transfer to CHSO.

I value the outreach of Fontbonne Ministries. It is my hope that Fontbonne Ministries will continue to serve those in need with their current programs while being open to the development of new responses as needs arise.



Sister Annette Lacroix

When I was asked to serve on the Fontbonne Ministries Board of Directors, I saw this as a privilege and an opportunity to participate in the mission of Fontbonne Ministries by supporting the staff and volunteers who meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable people in Toronto.



Sister Georgette Gregory

I have been involved with Fontbonne Ministries from the beginning and my passion for the underhoused helped shape the organization. When I moved into leadership of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, being on the Board was part of that role. Fontbonne Ministries is the living legacy of the Sisters, and I look forward to seeing it flourish and live on.



Pat Stoddart

When I first joined the Board, I was impressed by the quick response of the organization to the new challenges of COVID and its ability to pivot in different ways of reaching out to those in need. The organization knows where the need is and nimbly responds to it. The compassionate care that goes into decision-making is an example of the way the values guide the work.

Introducing Our New Executive Director

Join us in welcoming our new Executive Director, Hailee Morrison who began on October 11.

Hailee brings a wealth of professional knowledge and expertise. She holds a Master of Business Administration, has completed the Ivey Leadership Program through Western University, and attended the Harvard Business School where she obtained an Executive Certificate in Non-Profit Management.

Paired with her business acumen is 20 years of diverse leadership roles in the non-profit sector



Hailee Morrison
Executive Director

where she has served the needs of some of our city's most vulnerable populations. Her most recent role was that of Executive Director with the Warden Woods

Community Centre. She brings her unique experience in change management, operational planning and visionary strategic oversight.

Hailee has hit the ground running visiting Fontbonne Ministries' three service locations.

We have already experienced her commitment to creating inclusive environments through her deep listening, thoughtful presence, curiosity and enthusiasm.

Please see the back page of this newsletter for a message from Hailee herself in which she shares her wishes and hopes for her role and for Fontbonne Ministries.

Voices from Fontbonne Staff



Marielle Dela Cruz
Fontbonne Operations & Administrative Coordinator

Fontbonne Ministries' mission mirrors my life's purpose. My work as Operations and Administrative Coordinator allows me to be part of a team of colleagues that strive every day to make a difference in the lives of people faced with many challenges.

I'm excited to be involved in many projects and grateful to witness the many acts of service that embody Fontbonne's values. I've embraced being a part of this

team with open arms and look forward to building welcoming and supportive communities at a time when there is so much need in Toronto.

Marielle is part of the team that works out of the 791 Queen Street East corporate office. She is the friendly voice when you call and the welcoming smile when you visit.



Shaun Kelly
Program Manager & Instructor
Studio on the Hill

In my life, I have lived by three values: Honour, Loyalty, and Respect. These have guided me to be there for others. At **Studio on the Hill**, I am always available to listen. Everyone has a story, a reason for journeying into our pottery space. We provide a safe, friendly space to welcome all to the joy of pottery.

A recent incident comes to mind: a participant who self-identified as visually impaired thought it would be too much work for a studio to accommodate her desire to work with clay.

I was surprised, and assured her that we would welcome her creativity, joy and passion.

We are a small pottery studio, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds. Come visit us!

Studio on the Hill offers morning, afternoon and evening classes for adults. In collaboration with other social service agencies, we have relaunched community programming to increase access to pottery for vulnerable communities.

... continued next page



Andrew Antonio
Drop-in Program Support
Mustard Seed

I see a mission of generosity and compassion: the creation of a shared, calm space where we invite our community's vulnerable, hungry, and isolated.

The **Mustard Seed** Drop-In program offers conversation, shelter, food, and clothing in a safe environment. Being in proximity to those travelling through life depressed, exhausted or alone grants consistent opportunity to share stories and experiences while being within arm's length of those needing a loving touch.

When you lead with your compassion, the mission you strive for will find its way. Being present and available for our community

during their moments of fragility is one way we can mobilize positive change.

Antonio became part of the Fontbonne Ministries Team in February 2022. Well-known in the local community, especially with persons living precariously, Antonio has contributed to a growing awareness of Mustard Seed's Drop-In services.

He helps facilitate essential food access through the weekend lunch program. With his ability to foster trusting relationships, he has been able to get the word out about the free Clothing Boutique, and a new venture of free haircut services.

A Word from the New Executive Director

It is an honour and privilege to be given the opportunity to provide leadership to Fontbonne Ministries at a very important time of change.

I am delighted to be working alongside a dedicated board of directors, staff and volunteers as Fontbonne Ministries carries out the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto.

As we move into 2023, we invite you to partner once again in meeting the challenges of providing service in a not quite post pandemic reality. We invite you to make a gift at fontbonneministries.ca/donate.



If you wish, you can direct your gift to a specific program within Fontbonne Ministries.

Thank you for your generous support and for accompanying us on this amazing journey for more than two decades.

With best wishes and gratitude.


Hailee Morrison

[Click here to donate](https://fontbonneministries.ca/donate)



Fontbonne Ministries

Fontbonne Ministries

791 Queen Street East
Toronto ON M4M 1H6

fontbonneministries.ca

Email: admin@fontbonneministries.ca
Tel: 416-465-2889

Charitable Registration No.
86408 4090 RR0001

To support these programs

AnnMarie Marcolin
Director, Community Programs and Partnerships
amarcolin@fontbonneministries.ca

For volunteer information

Leanne Kloppenborg
Director, Mission Integration and Volunteers
lkloppenborg@fontbonneministries.ca

For more information

Hailee Morrison
Executive Director
hmorrison@fontbonneministries.ca

Board of Directors

Sister Georgette Gregory, CSJ
Board Chair & President

Sister Anne Marie Marrin, CSJ
Vice-President

Joan Breech
Treasurer

Sister Annette Lacroix, CSJ
Board Member

Patricia Stoddart
Board Member

Hume Martin
Board Member