



Insights and Encounters

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2026 Rosalie Hall Graduate

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto provides leadership, supports social services, and facilitates advocacy for its member agencies and the people they serve. At its core is Catholic Social Teaching that focuses on the poor and marginalized, urging us all to build a just society and safeguard the dignity of every person.

Hope Grows Through Hospitality



Hospitality is more than opening a door. It is opening our hearts to one another. It is welcoming the stranger, accompanying those who feel alone, and creating communities where every person knows they belong. It is found in acts of service, compassion, and solidarity that affirm the God-given dignity of each individual. This spirit of hospitality is at the heart of Catholic Charities' newly launched Strategic Plan and its vision for the future.

Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, the Strategic Plan outlines how Catholic Charities will continue responding to the evolving needs of individuals and families across the Archdiocese of Toronto. At its core is a simple but powerful belief: **When we support communities, Hope Grows.**

In his introduction to the plan, Cardinal Leo reminds us that our mission is not only to identify needs, but also to accompany those experiencing hardship with dignity, compassion, and care.

**"Our faith calls us to accompany each individual
with compassion, ensuring that no one journeys alone."**

Cardinal Leo

This call to accompaniment is hospitality in action. It is reflected in efforts to support those experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, mental health challenges, displacement, disability, isolation, and serious illness. Through the work of Catholic Charities and its member agencies, individuals and families are welcomed, supported, and empowered to thrive.

The Strategic Plan identifies these and other pressing needs as areas of focus for the years ahead. It also encourages greater collaboration and continued leadership in putting Catholic Social Teaching into practice through service.

As we begin this new chapter, we invite you to explore the Strategic Plan and reflect on how each of us can help build communities where everyone is welcomed, and no one journeys alone.

Because when we welcome one another with compassion and dignity, hope grows.

 Read the full [Strategic Plan](#), including Cardinal Leo's introduction, on our website.



Welcoming Deaf Newcomers Home

Deaf Services Canada



For a Deaf newcomer arriving in Canada, the barriers are doubled. Beyond a new country, new systems, and a new language, there is the everyday challenge of being understood. At Deaf Services Canada (formerly Silent Voice Canada), the welcome begins in American Sign Language; the language in which our clients can finally ask questions, share their stories, and be met as full members of a community.

Our Settlement team walks alongside Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing newcomers as they build their lives here: one-to-one needs assessments, help understanding rights and responsibilities, and support navigating housing, health care, and the forms that so often stand in the way. To welcome is also to provide. Through our food pantry, clothing drive, and diaper bank, families find practical support during the hardest early months. They also find connection, confidence, and a sense of belonging through peer support, parenting classes, and community activities.

This is hospitality in action, not simply opening a door, but creating a space where a stranger becomes a neighbour and a newcomer becomes part of the community. We protect, we promote, and we walk with each person toward full participation in Canadian life.

To welcome the stranger in their own language is, we believe, among the most meaningful welcomes of all.



Creating a Place of Welcoming and Belonging

Journey Home Hospice

At Journey Home Hospice, creating inclusive spaces and welcoming the stranger is more than a guiding principle—it is at the heart of everything we do.

Journey Home Hospice provides equitable, compassionate palliative care to people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, many of whom have spent much of their lives feeling unseen, excluded, or without a place to call home. For these individuals, a serious illness often brings additional barriers to accessing the care and support they deserve.



Rooted in the belief that every person has inherent dignity and worth, Journey Home Hospice offers a welcoming environment where residents are accepted without judgment and cared for with compassion. Here, people are not defined by their circumstances. Instead, they are embraced as individuals with unique stories, relationships, and hopes.

This commitment reflects the Gospel call to welcome the stranger and build communities where everyone belongs. Through person-centred care, meaningful connections, and a deep respect for each resident's journey, the hospice creates a sense of home for those who may have experienced profound isolation throughout their lives.

Every day, staff, volunteers, and supporters help foster a community of inclusion, ensuring that residents can live their final days with comfort, dignity, and companionship. In doing so, Journey Home Hospice demonstrates the transformative power of hospitality—showing that even in life's most vulnerable moments, everyone deserves to be welcomed, valued, and cared for. Learn more at: journeyhomehospice.ca.

Hospitality & Welcome: Celebrating Our Graduates

Rosalie Hall



This year at Rosalie Hall, together with our partners at the Catholic District School Board, whose teachers deliver our education program, we gathered to celebrate something truly meaningful. Three young parents reached a milestone that represents far more than a graduation ceremony. It reflects early mornings, late nights, steady persistence, and the decision to keep going even when life was already full.

Their journey unfolded in the midst of everyday responsibilities that left little room for pause. Schoolwork was completed while caring for their little ones. Deadlines were met alongside daycare drop-offs, bedtime routines, and everything in between. Still, they remained committed to their education with determination, resilience, and hope.

At Rosalie Hall, we often speak about hospitality and welcome not simply as a theme, but as a way of being. We believe our young parents thrive when they are met with dignity, patience, and compassionate support. This year's graduates embodied that spirit in their own way, growing through challenges while encouraging and inspiring those around them.

Each of the three graduates brought a unique story, but they shared a common determination. They worked through setbacks, adapted when circumstances changed, and stayed focused on building a brighter future for themselves and their children. Their achievement is not only academic—it is deeply personal, earned through perseverance and a strong sense of purpose.

The celebration brought together family, friends, staff, and supporters who have walked alongside them throughout their journey. There was pride in the room, but also something quieter and just as meaningful: a shared recognition of how far they had come and how much courage and effort it had taken to get there.

All three graduates are preparing to begin post-secondary programs at a university or College this September, continuing their academic journey towards a better life for themselves and their children. We are grateful to have been part of their journey at Rosalie Hall and even more grateful to have witnessed their growth.

Congratulations to our graduates. Your achievements remind us that lasting progress is often built one small step at a time, and that the support of a welcoming community can make all the difference along the way.



Witnessing Love in Action

Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers



Rose of Sharon had the pleasure of welcoming the team from Fountain of Love & Life, along with Therese from ShareLife, through our shared partnership with ShareLife and Catholic Charities. The crew arrived early to film and learn about the services and programs we provide to support young mothers and their children.

More than documenting our work, they experienced the warmth, laughter, and sense of family that make Rose of Sharon so special. They observed our young moms enjoying some well-deserved “me time” while learning to prepare nutritious meals together, building both skills and community through fellowship.

It was a wonderful experience getting to know the Fountain of Love & Life team, welcoming Therese, and thanking her for the ongoing support through ShareLife that helps make so much of our work possible. Their kindness, respect, and genuine care for our young mothers, staff, and volunteers were evident throughout the day. We are grateful for their interest in our mission and for their commitment to helping us raise awareness through a video that will reach audiences we might not otherwise reach.

Thank you to Fountain of Love & Life, Therese from ShareLife, and Catholic Charities for your compassion, partnership, and dedication to sharing stories of hope. We look forward to seeing the impact this awareness campaign will have in helping us continue our mission.



29th Annual ShareLife Golf Tournament Raises \$114,000

ShareLife



More than 130 golfers enjoyed beautiful weather and great company at Eagles Nest Golf Club on June 8 for the 29th Annual ShareLife Golf Tournament. The event sold out early, welcoming many first-time participants who joined longtime supporters in helping make a difference for people in need across the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone who participated, the tournament raised a net total of \$114,000. These funds will help ShareLife-funded social service agencies continue providing compassionate care and support to vulnerable individuals and families throughout our communities.

This year is especially meaningful as ShareLife celebrates its 50th anniversary. We are deeply grateful to everyone who made this milestone tournament such a success and for helping continue our shared mission of living the Gospel by caring for our brothers and sisters in need.

We are already looking ahead to June 2027, when we will return to Eagles Nest Golf Club for the 30th Annual ShareLife Golf Tournament. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another wonderful day in support of ShareLife's social service agencies.



175 Years of Gifts and Gratitude

Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto



On October 7, 1851, four Sisters of St. Joseph arrived in Toronto to care for orphans and teach in schools. In 2026, we began celebrating our 175th anniversary.

We began on May 31 with a special Mass and a performance of *Bluemantle*, a 1938 stage play written by our own Sister Geraldine Thompson that explored our earliest days in Toronto: a typhus epidemic, urgent needs for food and funds, an uncertain future, and the faith that God's compassion would not waver. This play offered vital perspective as we now reflect on everything since our arrival.

Looking back, we are grateful for every chance we have had over 175 years to touch the lives of the 'dear neighbour.'

To celebrate in thanksgiving, we have made donations to charities that resonate with our mission, values and beliefs: that each person is an expression of God's love; that each stage of life is precious; and that we are connected to creation and must protect Our Common Home. We are also a sponsor for Catholic Charities' November Synergy Toronto 2026 conference on Education, Health Care and Social Service.

We are thankful for how the gifts we shared have grown beyond our beginnings. In our early years, we established hospitals: House of Providence (1857), St. Michael's Hospital (1892), St. Joseph's Hospital (1921) and Our Lady of Mercy Hospital (1925), which continue today as Unity Health Toronto.

We would provide post-secondary education for women through St. Joseph's College (1911), part of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. We opened secondary schools: St. Joseph's College School (1854), St. Joseph High School (1949), and St. Joseph's Morrow Park High School (1960).



Celebrating
our Oneness
with God,
Creation
and Neighbour

175 Years of Gifts and Gratitude

Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto

Outside the city, we taught in schools across Ontario as well as in British Columbia, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. We opened St. Joseph's General Hospital in Comox, British Columbia (1913) and St. Joseph's Hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba (1923). Beginning in 1968, we had an overseas mission in Guatemala and later Nicaragua, Haiti, and Honduras.

Other ministries that followed in Toronto include St. Michael's Halfway Homes (1974), New Beginnings (1976), Matt Talbot House (1978), Daily Bread Food Bank (1982), Furniture Bank (1998), Fontbonne Ministries (2000), and Becoming Neighbours (2003).

It has been wonderful to see so many of our ministries continue today, whether as independent organizations, high schools administered by the Toronto Catholic District School Board, or organizations under the Catholic Health Sponsors of Ontario.

Our greatest joy has been to know that our ministries have inspired new efforts to support and nourish people in need.

As Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, our hope will always be to see people gathered in love of Christ and neighbour, and moved to serve unmet needs in simplicity and compassion.





IN OUR OWN WORDS

Armita Sasani

Past Recipient of the
Sisters of Service Scholarship for New Immigrants
and Refugees

As a refugee who arrived in Canada to rebuild my life and pursue my dreams, I see this scholarship as more than financial support—it's an acknowledgment of my journey and the resilience that has brought me here. With this support, I'm able to focus wholeheartedly on my studies and professional growth, working toward a career where I can contribute meaningfully to my new community.

Currently, I'm studying to become a paralegal, a field where I can apply my background in human rights. This scholarship has not only provided essential financial support but has also reminded me that there are people and organizations that believe in my potential.

Thank you once again for this incredible gift. I look forward to making a positive impact in Canada and giving back as a way of honouring the support I've received.

Warmest regards,
Armita

PAUSE & REFLECT

CELEBRATING CANADA DAY

Fr. Peter McKenna



Who is a Canadian? Are there telltale signs of “Canadian – ness”?

Appalled by the plight of immigrants, refugees, migrants and people of no documentation and challenged by their situations of injustice, nineteen Roman Catholic Religious Congregations of women and men established Becoming Neighbours. While each Congregation already had a rich history of working with refugees, Becoming Neighbours was an intentional choice to respond to the new, urgent unmet needs of today’s refugees.

Becoming Neighbours is a companion program that matches newcomers to Toronto with established Canadians who provide a presence and act as friends, guides and mentors during their initial adjustment to the Canadian community. One of the easiest ways we do this is to immediately match a newcomer with a companion for conversational English, either online or in person, for one hour per week. This acts as the springboard for newcomers to find hope, to dwell in possibilities, to build on their strengths and their potential, and to celebrate the small victories of life. What is also beautiful and greatly appreciated by these newcomers is that, if they choose, they are matched with a prayer partner who prays daily for the expressed intentions of the newcomer. Isn’t it true that, from your own experience, you know that when you have someone who believes in you, you begin to believe again in yourself!

CELEBRATING CANADA DAY

In a spirit of interculturality, we gather every year in High Park to “Celebrate Canada Day”. This year, 125 newcomers from twenty-one countries “showed up”. Dancing to the beat of African drums, interwoven with creating murals, topped off with an awesome picnic, helped us all to celebrate our “Canadian – ness”. It was, and continues to be, truly an embodiment of the Canadian human spirit and of becoming neighbours with one another and with our Common Home, the Earth!



Becoming Neighbours

Contact Information:

Email: jam@becomingneighbours.ca

Phone number: 416-267-4817

ON THE HORIZON



Early Bird pricing ends soon...

Last chance to save \$100 on your registration!

**EARLY BIRD
EXTENSION**

**DON'T MISS
YOUR CHANCE
TO SAVE \$100**

Register Now

Early bird pricing ends July 31

#SynergyTO2026

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ON THE HORIZON

SYNERGY
TORONTO 2026
CONFERENCE



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Extended Deadline: July 31, 2026



Share your voice. Shape the conversation.

#SynergyTO2026



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ON THE HORIZON

VOLUNTEER *with us at* SYNERGY TORONTO 2026



Be part of something big!

This November, hundreds of leaders from across Catholic health, education, and community services are coming together in Toronto and we want you to be part of making it happen.



THERE'S A ROLE FOR EVERYONE.

From registration and hospitality to logistics and media.



**VOLUNTEER
SIGN-UPS OPEN SOON!**
STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS.

*Together, we create change.
Together, we build hope.*



Catholic
Charities
of the Archdiocese of Toronto

SYNERGY
TORONTO 2026
CONFERENCE
November 3 – 5, 2026
Chelsea Hotel
Toronto, ON

ON THE HORIZON

ShareLife celebrates 50 years!



A special invitation
for you

Join us on **Saturday, August 22**



ShareLife 50th Anniversary Mass

*Celebrated by His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo,
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto*

Saturday, August 22, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica
65 Bond St, Toronto, ON M5B 0C2
sharelife.org/50

For 50 years, ShareLife has been a beautiful expression of our faith in action across the Archdiocese of Toronto. Through the kindness and generosity of our community, our brothers and sisters in need have found help, hope, and dignity through the compassionate work of ShareLife-funded agencies.

To give thanks for all that God has made possible through this shared mission, we invite you to join us on **Saturday, August 22 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica** for a special Mass celebrated by His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo, Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto. Following the Mass, please join us for a simple gathering in the Cathedral courtyard.

Due to limited seating in the Cathedral, early registration is encouraged.

Please RSVP by **August 17** using the link below.

For questions, please visit <https://sharelife.org/50> or email us at SLevent@archtoronto.org.

Thank you for living the Gospel through ShareLife!

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto

How you can contact member agencies and affiliated agencies of Catholic Charities

MEMBER AGENCIES

COMMUNITY/FAMILY SERVICES

Catholic Community Services of York Region
1-800-263-2075
www.ccsyr.org

Catholic Crosscultural Services
416-757-7010
www.cathcrosscultural.org

Catholic Family Services of Durham
1-877-282-8932
www.cfsdurham.com

Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin
905-450-1608
www.cfspd.com

Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County
1-800-726-2503
www.cfssc.ca

Catholic Family Services of Toronto
416-921-1163
www.cfstoronto.com

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Deaf Services Canada
416-463-1104
www.deafservices.ca

Mary Centre
416-630-5533
www.marycentre.com

Saint Elizabeth Health Care
905-940-9655
www.sehc.com

St. Bernadette's Family Resource Centre
416-654-9810
www.stbernadettesfrc.org

St. Michael's Homes
(Our Place Community of Hope Program)
416-926-8267
www.stmichaelshomes.org

SENIORS

Centres d'Accueil Héritage (CAH)
416-365-3350
www.caheritage.org

LA Centre for Active Seniors
416-452-4875
www.lacentreforseniors.ca

Houses of Providence
(Unity Health Toronto)
416-285-3666
www.providence.on.ca

Society of Sharing
416-413-0380
www.societyofsharing.org

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto
416-395-1500
www.torontoccas.ca

Covenant House Toronto
1-800-465-7308
www.covenanthousetoronto.ca

YOUNG PARENTS

Rosalie Hall
416-438-6880
www.rosaliehall.com

Rose of Durham
(Young Parents Division of CFS Durham)
905-432-3622
www.roseofdurham.com

Rose of Sharon
905-853-5514
www.roseofsharon.com

Vita Centre
905-502-7933
www.vitacentre.org

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Birthright International
1-800-550-4900
www.birthright.org

Good Shepherd Ministries
416-869-3619
www.goodshepherd.ca

Natural Family Planning Association
437-600-9333
www.naturalfamilyplanningtoronto.ca

**St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
FertilityCare Toronto**
416-465-2868
www.fertilitycare.ca

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
(Camp Ozanam)
416-364-5577
info@ssvptoronto.ca

**To learn more about
Catholic Charities, go to:**

www.ccat.ca



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