

Press Release on Winter Donations

February 9, 2022

In response to the freezing Toronto winter of 2022, the Faith in the City network of faith leaders put out a call for survival supplies to go to those experiencing homelessness in this city.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, a congregation of women religious, took part by accumulating donations of winter clothing and other supplies from Sisters and their staff. This is part of the Sisters' tradition of addressing unmet needs of food, shelter and poverty since their original arrival in Toronto in 1851.

The Sisters were able to get in touch with Atlas-Apex Roofing, a Toronto-based national roofing contractor that began in 1928. Atlas-Apex, through their charitable arm known as the Atlas-Apex Angels, generously donated 300 winter sleeping bags to this donation drive.

The sleeping bags will be shared equally between four social service organizations:

- **Mustard Seed (Fontbonne Ministries)**, a community support and gathering space in South Riverdale neighbourhood of Toronto that offers food, skill development programs, friendship, creativity, clothing and other forms of assistance. Mustard Seed is part of Fontbonne Ministries, founded in 2000 by the Sisters and now operating as an independent charity.
- **Parkdale Community Health Centre**, a community-based health service organization serving south-west Toronto with primary health care, dental care, harm reduction, health promotion, counselling, and community development programming.
- **Unity Kitchen**, which creates and serves free lunches to 180 people a day in Toronto's Downtown East.
- **Sanctuary**: A church and community offering many life-giving initiatives including a health care clinic, an arts program, street outreach, and community meals.

This donation will do tremendous good, but the underhoused in Toronto are still in urgent need. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto invite anyone who can to donate:

Men's and Women's:

- Winter coats, boots, hats and gloves
- Jeans
- Sweatshirts
- Long-sleeved T-shirts
- Hoodies
- Underwear
- Thermal wear
- Women's leggings

And Also:

- Winter sleeping bags
- Tents
- Towels
- Rapid test kits
- Hand warmers
- Cases of bottled water
- Dog food
- Masks (surgical, KN95, KF94 or N95)

Interested donors can visit faithinthecity.ca/contact_us and ask them for information and instructions on delivering these items to where they are needed.

Learn more about the above organizations online

- Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto: csj-to.ca
- Atlas-Apex Roofing: www.atlas-apex.com
- Mustard Seed: fontbonneministries.ca/mustard-seed
- Parkdale Community Health Centre: pqwchc.org
- Unity Kitchen: linktr.ee/unitykitchento
- Sanctuary: sanctuarytoronto.org