



**Current members of GMHSC:**

- AIDS Moncton Inc.
- Atlantic People's Housing Ltd.
- CMHC
- Community Chaplaincy for Ex-Offenders
- John Howard Society of Greater Moncton Inc.
- Maison Nazareth House
- Mobile One Community Services Inc.
- Moncton Youth Residences Inc.
- New Life Mission Inc.
- The Salvation Army
- YMCA
- YWCA

**MANDATE**

The Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee is an inter-agency committee representing agencies in Greater Moncton that work with the homeless population and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Established in 2000, the GMHSC provides leadership and coordinates communication among stakeholders and service providers to ensure the implementation of the Greater Moncton Community Plan on Homelessness.

It also works to create public awareness about issues surrounding homelessness, poverty and housing.

***The YMCA's Community Caring Food Bank an innovative approach***

The Moncton YMCA is probably making history by being the first Y in Canada to run a food bank.

In February, the organization provided a new home at its 30 War Veterans Avenue location for the temporary High Street Mobile Food Pantry.

For CEO Zane Korytko, operating the food bank has given the Y an opportunity to move beyond its fitness mandate to become a real community centre. "Fitness pays the bills," he says. "It keeps the building open. But our ultimate goal is community outreach."

Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 1pm, the Community Caring Food Bank is a comfortable spot where people in need can pick up groceries but also have a coffee and a snack, and read the newspaper. They can also access guest passes to use the Y fitness facilities as well as subsidized memberships geared to income.

The YMCA's Re-Connect workers are around during food bank hours, and available to provide counselling and assistance such as finding a misplaced medicare card. Food bank users can also access passes from Codiac Transit if transportation is an issue.

"The YMCA is developing an innovative model of what food banks may become in the future," says Seán L. Tobin, the Executive Director of Mobile One Community Services Inc, "providing comprehensive services to those who need them."

The Food Bank is currently open 52 weeks a year. Contrary to the belief that only people on social assistance use food banks, many of the 20 families currently using the service are working but find it difficult at times to make ends meet. Zane credits Bertha Darling and Pat Sirois of the Food DÉPOT Alimentaire as being instrumental in making the food bank happen. "It has really been a partnership with other community agencies including the United Way," he says. The Moncton Y is the first in the country to run a food bank. The others are watching.



Food bank coordinator Zorah El and volunteer Ana Korytko prepare grocery bags at the Community Caring Food Bank at the YMCA.

**The Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee website is now *up and running*. Check it out at [www.monctonhomelessness.org](http://www.monctonhomelessness.org)**

### ***A Portrait of Homelessness in Saint John, NB***

Greater Saint John may be on the fast track for economic development, with a number of major projects scheduled to come on-line in the near future. Community leaders are understandably concerned that the population – especially those already living in disadvantaged situations – may be negatively impacted. A new report from the Human Development Council in Saint John, NB notes that there are already at least 200 homeless individuals in Saint John, and that does not include the “hidden homeless” nor those who are at risk of homelessness. Throughout the consultation to prepare the report, housing was consistently raised as an area of concern. If supply and affordability are already an issue, people said, it can only get worse. The community has now formed a Greater Saint John Homelessness Steering Committee, similar to Greater Moncton’s, to bring agencies together to plan for the future. See the full report, *A Portrait of Homelessness in Greater Saint John*, at [www.humandevlopmentcouncil.nb.ca/page4.htm](http://www.humandevlopmentcouncil.nb.ca/page4.htm)

The Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee is hosting an  
***Information Session on affordable housing***

**Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> 8am – noon**  
Moncton Press Club, 160 Assomption  
Free but you need to register  
Sue 877-2343 [scalhoun@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:scalhoun@nbnet.nb.ca)

### ***News from the GMHSC***

- Congratulations to Dr Susan Crouse, a winner of the YWCA’s Women of Distinction Awards. Dr Crouse operates the Salvus Clinic at 182 High Street in Moncton (506-384-7283), which provides primary health care to people in the region experiencing difficulty because of issues such as homelessness and addictions.
- Mobile One Community Services is featured as a “success story” in a recent publication of Service Canada called “*The Homelessness Partnering Strategy: Partnerships that work.*” The article notes: “*Mobile One is an innovative project that began with a mobile soup kitchen operating out of a retired Moncton city transit bus...[It] is a tremendous success in Moncton and surrounding areas with community support continuing to be very strong.*” Congratulations to Seán Tobin and his team!

People touched by homelessness

### **A life of passion for helping those in need**

Bertha Darling began working at the Crossroads for Women shelter in Moncton in 1985. She spent the next 18 years working with abused women and children. Concerned that many of the clients could not provide food for themselves or their children, Bertha established a small food bank dedicated to serving the Centre’s clients.

Beginning in 1985, Bertha began working with other food bank members and helped to establish the NB Association of Food Banks, on which she served as an elected director for some years. Later, she played a significant role in organizing the Regional (NBAFB District 5) Council of Food Banks serving southeast New Brunswick. She currently holds the Office of Food Coordinator for the Region. During her career, she has also served on the Board of Family Services, on the AHS Board, and on the Board of Mobile One Community Services Inc.

Leaving Crossroads in 2003, Bertha took up the challenge of working as the manager of what was then known as Food Bank Moncton Inc. This organization serves all 23 member organizations in Southeast New Brunswick. It is the only such regional facility within the NBAFB. From 2004 to 2006, Bertha oversaw the move of what is now called Food DÉPOT Alimentaire Inc. into a new facility in the Caledonia Industrial Park.

Bertha Darling is passionate in her drive to help those in need. Her ability to surmount the many challenges placed before her makes her an inspiration and role model for others.

**WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS, IDEAS AND FEEDBACK. SEND TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER SUE CALHOUN**

[info@monctonhomelessness.org](mailto:info@monctonhomelessness.org)  
If you have questions about the Homelessness Partnership Strategy, contact Mireille Roy at Service Canada 506-851-3554 or [mireille.roy@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:mireille.roy@servicecanada.gc.ca)