

THE MUSTARD SEED REPORT TO COMMUNITY

BUILDING COMMUNITY. GROWING HOPE. SUPPORTING CHANGE.

2021



CALGARY | EDMONTON | RED DEER
KAMLOOPS | MEDICINE HAT

TheSeed.ca



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Steve Wile
CEO of The Mustard Seed

The Report to Community is my favourite newsletter of the year as it gives us an opportunity to share in a little more detail what has been happening at The Mustard Seed. This year, as you might well imagine, has not been business as usual.

In some ways, it has been a challenging year as public health restrictions have hindered some of our most impactful programs including employment, health and wellness, and community hubs. However, the pandemic has also accelerated one of our core objectives: helping individuals move out of homelessness and into homes. In 2021, The Mustard Seed helped 492 people find safe, affordable housing.

Basic Services also adapted and grew this past year, with staff finding new ways and opportunities to assist vulnerable individuals. Our Dinner 2 Door program in Edmonton delivered hundreds of meals a week to households experiencing food insecurity; the School Lunch Program in Red Deer prepared 500 meals per day for children in Central Alberta, shifting to home delivery when schools were closed; and our kitchen in Kamloops added an extra 500 meals per week to assist other homeless-serving organizations in their city.

You will read of these and other accomplishments in this newsletter. As you do so, know that each story, statistic and success would not have happened without your faithful support. Thank you for the incredible difference you have made building hope and well-being for our most vulnerable citizens.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Wile'.

Steve Wile
Chief Executive Officer

**“Go quickly into the streets and alleys
of the town and bring in the poor, the
crippled, the blind and the lame.”**

Luke 14:21

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Kevin Schular
Chair, Board of Directors
of The Mustard Seed Society

It is a privilege for me to greet you on behalf of The Mustard Seed Board of Directors. I have served on the Board since 2013, and I continue to be in awe of how our staff and leaders care for the people that come to us.

COVID-19 has changed many aspects of life, yet the pandemic has only reinforced The Mustard Seed's commitment to its mission to build hope and well-being for our most vulnerable citizens through Jesus' love. As you read the pages of this report, I trust you will be encouraged and blessed to see how The Mustard Seed has stepped up to serve in this season.

I was reading recently in the Bible and came to Philippians 4: “The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” I took note of those first four words. I reflected on God's nearness to us in this life, and that gave me great comfort. As I thought about the anxieties we face in this dreary season of COVID, I was filled with hope that we can experience the nearness of God to us personally. Our staff and volunteers live this out daily in their service to our community.

Our thanks goes to Steve Wile, our CEO, and the quality people on the executive team who provide visionary and competent leadership. We are grateful to the employees across the five cities where we feed, clothe, shelter, counsel and care for tens of thousands of people each year. Last but not least, we have great appreciation for the donors and volunteers who make it all possible. Together we show the love of Jesus Christ to the people entrusted to our care.

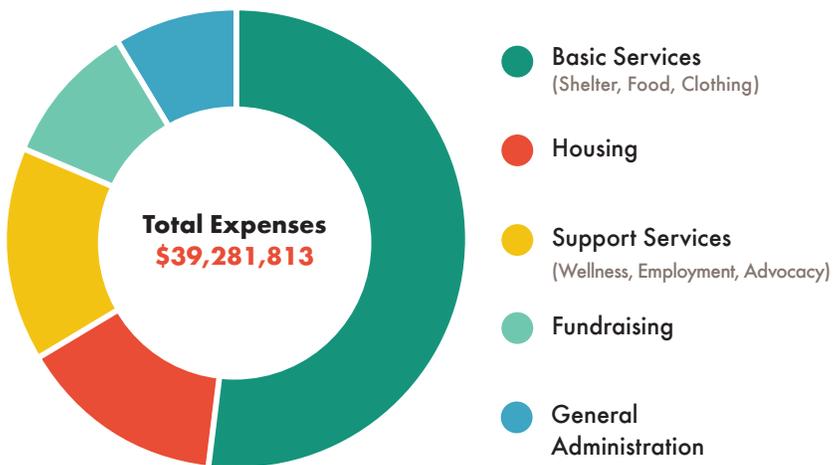
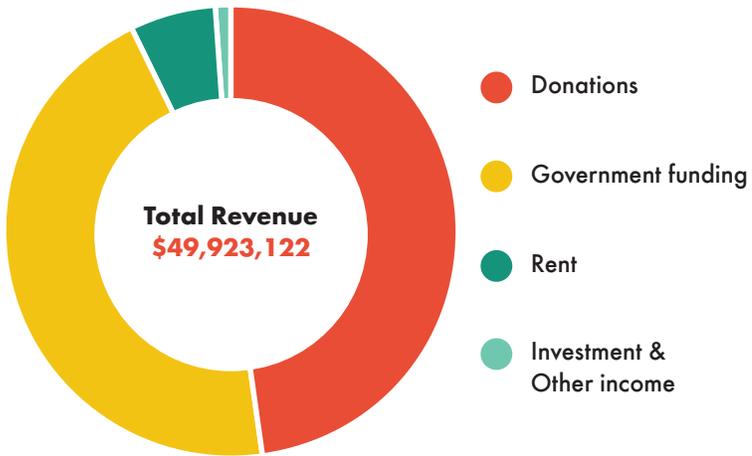
Thanks for being together with us on the mission!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Schular'.

Kevin Schular
Board Chair

FINANCIALS

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021



OUR VALUES



OUR MISSION

To build hope and well-being for our most vulnerable citizens through Jesus' love

OUR VISION

To eliminate homelessness and reduce poverty where we serve

YOU make a difference

A YEAR IN REVIEW



Your generosity helped meet the physical, mental and spiritual needs of thousands of people experiencing poverty and homelessness this year. Because of you, the following was accomplished across our five cities in 2021:

2021



42,000+
Health & Wellness
services provided



665,948 lbs
of clothing
donated



447,421
meals served



492
people moved out
of homelessness
and into housing

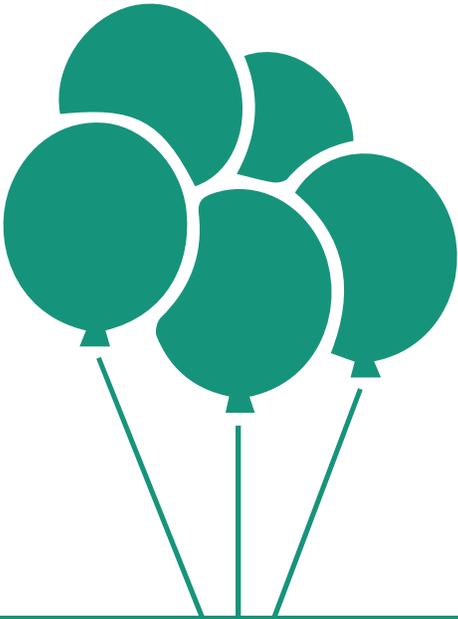


1,000+
Spiritual
Events



300+ guests employed

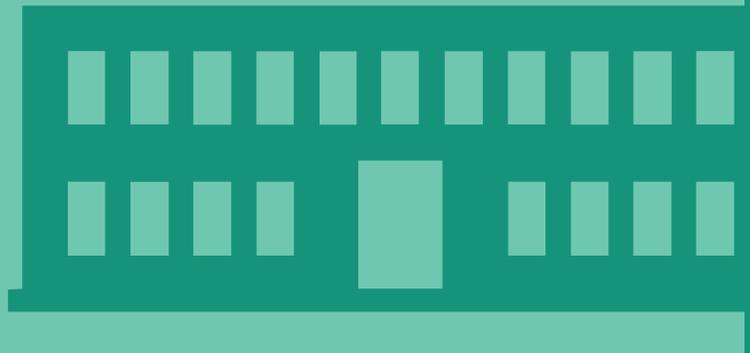
**The Mustard Seed
Red Deer celebrates its
five-year anniversary**



**Renovations completed
at Medicine Hat
commercial kitchen,
serving 100+ meals
each day**



**Construction begins on
The Mustard Seed Edmonton's
first permanent emergency shelter**



**New Health &
Wellness Centres
open in Medicine Hat
and Kamloops**



**SeedReach
mobile outreach
team launches
in Calgary**

**Kamloops
Outreach
Centre expands
to 24/7 service**



BASIC SERVICES make a difference

The immediate need for food, clothing and shelter is what first brings many men and women through The Mustard Seed's doors. Your generosity enables us to care for our most vulnerable neighbours in practical ways, meeting their immediate needs so they can begin to heal and focus on the next steps in their journey.

MORE THAN A MEAL

Harold & Sherry's Story

Like many people over the last year, Harold and Sherry have been hit hard by the many impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial challenges they faced eventually became too much to bear on their own, so they turned to The Mustard Seed in Medicine Hat for help.

"We were nervous at first," Harold says, admitting they weren't sure what to expect when they arrived for that first meal.

The Mustard Seed completed renovations on its commercial kitchen this year, enabling staff and volunteers to prepare more than 700 meals each week for grateful community members like Harold and Sherry.

"If it wasn't for The Mustard Seed, we wouldn't be able to eat," Harold says.

It wasn't long before the couple realized that their time at The Mustard Seed was about more than just food. Harold and Sherry found a community of people who have shared similar hardships and staff who can help them navigate this difficult season.

"Coming to The Mustard Seed feels like home," Sherry says.



1,200+
meals served
daily across our
five cities



5,500+
student meals per
month served through
the Red Deer School
Lunch Program



4,977
meals per month
delivered through
Edmonton Dinner 2
Door Program



up to **559**
shelter spaces
provided on the
coldest winter nights



REFUGE FROM THE COLD

Justin's Story

It was the dead of winter when Justin first found himself without a place to live.

"I was homeless at the beginning of December, and I was staying in Edmonton in my car. I didn't know what I was going to end up doing and where I was going to end up going. I ended up coming to Red Deer because I grew up here."

In Red Deer, Justin found The Mustard Seed's emergency shelter, a much-needed refuge from the bitter cold.

"It was excellent," he says. "You feel safe, like you're being looked out for."

While staying at the shelter, he became connected with other services, like employment and counselling, which helped him take the next steps in his journey. After five months, Justin moved out of the shelter into his own apartment.

"If I didn't have The Mustard Seed I don't know where I'd be today," Justin insists.

"Thank you for believing in me as an individual, and for not judging me for what you saw on the outside, but instead getting to know me from the inside out. Thank you for not giving up on me and everybody else out there that needs help."



HEALTH & WELLNESS makes a difference

The Mustard Seed's Health and Wellness programs work directly with our clients to address and remove barriers standing in their way of success. Because of you, those experiencing homelessness and poverty have access to a team of medical professionals, counsellors, advocates and others who can help clients identify needs, access resources and connect with hundreds of local community partners.

During a year when health and wellness are top of mind for so many of us, thank you for making sure that our most vulnerable citizens have access to the quality care they need.



DIAGNOSIS MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Richard's Story

Richard had been under a tremendous amount of stress and pressure in the months before he entered the doors of The Mustard Seed Wellness Centre.

"I was out of a place to live, I had no income, and I didn't know what to do and I couldn't communicate," he recalls.

Richard is autistic, but prior to arriving at The Wellness Centre, he had never been formally diagnosed. For many years he managed to mask his traits, but he found himself juggling crisis after crisis until one day he suffered a major burnout that he couldn't find his way out of.

While Richard was staying The Mustard Seed Shelter, staff suggested he visit The Wellness Centre, which provides a wide range of services to address clients' health barriers in order to help them achieve their housing and employment goals.

Richard began meeting with professional staff from The Wellness Centre and other Calgary agencies. Through hard work and perseverance, Richard received an official diagnosis and was able to connect with supports appropriate for his needs.

"A lot of the stress has instantly evaporated. I don't know how to explain it," Richard says. "I'm pleased that things are going good now that we have finally reached the point where my diagnosis has been confirmed."

"It's been very instrumental for me to get my diagnosis and to get a stable income so that I don't have the stress of not knowing where I'll live next month."

Richard is no longer living in a shelter and juggling crisis after crisis. Because of The Wellness Centre, he has housing, a stable income and a supportive community committed to his continued success.

100+

Health & Wellness
service interactions daily





Medicine Hat's new Wellness Centre opened October 2021

NEW HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTRES OPEN

Throughout the pandemic, our Health & Wellness services have had to adapt to new and changing public health regulations; however, they have remained a core priority and growth area within our organization. Your generosity enabled The Mustard Seed to open two new Health & Wellness Centres this year – one in Medicine Hat in October and another in Kamloops in November – allowing us to offer an expanded range of services and supports in a centralized location to clients in both of those cities.

REACHING OUT IN CALGARY

In July, The Mustard Seed Calgary launched SeedReach, a mobile outreach team, which provides support to homeless and at-risk populations who may not typically seek out resources at our physical locations. The team, which consists of registered social workers, advocates, and nursing staff, records more than 100 client interactions each month.



SPIRITUAL CARE

As a Christian organization, spiritual care is the cornerstone of all that we do.

In 2021, The Mustard Seed staff and volunteers had more than **11,000 spiritual conversations** with guests and clients. They also hosted over **1,000 spiritual events**, including Bible studies, worship and church services for anyone who wished to participate.

Our desire for our guests and clients is that they would find refuge, not only for their body, but also for their soul and hope, not just for a brighter tomorrow, but for eternity.

“No matter how we look at it, Jesus was a homeless friend of sinners. We got to ask ourselves, where would he be in these times? This is exactly where he’d be at these times... A lot of people – including myself – just need to talk sometimes. You can’t get to know somebody just by judging them. You have to befriend them, listen to them and slowly learn about their life. We can do that with one another because that’s the Holy Spirit giving us the words and wanting us to connect.”

- Shawn, guest



HOUSING makes a difference



We know that housing is key in the fight against poverty and homelessness, and the COVID-19 pandemic only made vulnerable citizens' need for safe spaces of their own more urgent.

Thanks to the steadfast support of our community, The Mustard Seed was able to rise to the challenge and help **492 individuals** move out of homelessness into the stability and dignity of their own homes this year.

HOME SWEET HOME

Jessica's Story

Jessica's eyes beam when you ask her about her new home at the 1010 Centre in Calgary.

"I love this place," she says.

After struggling for years with drug addiction, discrimination, and homelessness, she took the critical steps towards a fresh start and found herself a safe place to heal.

"I finally have a home," Jessica says. "The privacy of a place to unwind and get all of that stress off is such a gift."

For Jessica, affordable housing at The Mustard Seed's 1010 Centre means health, safety and the stability she needs to continue in her recovery from addiction. Since moving into the building in July, she has taken life by the reins. She maintains power over her sobriety and is focused on the next chapter of her life.

"It's not a fast revolution; it's a total change to your whole system," she explains. "They saved my life."

For now, she's grateful for the normalcy and routine she finds within her building – the walks she takes and neighbours she connects with.

"I feel so blessed to be here," Jessica says. "I'm grateful to have a home."

310 Affordable housing units across Calgary, Edmonton, & Red Deer



DIVERSION BRIDGE HOUSING PROGRAM

The pandemic increased the urgency to move people out of crowded shelters into long-term housing. In response, The Mustard Seed partnered with the Calgary Homeless Foundation to create the Diversion Bridge Housing Program, which provided 10 units of short-term transitional housing at Kootenay Lodge in Northeast Calgary. Residents were connected with resources to address barriers and were supported in their search for sustainable, affordable housing. With an average stay of 52 days, the year-long program helped a total of 47 individuals find permanent housing.



MEN'S SUPPORTIVE LIVING

Dwayne's Story

Dwayne has no problem telling it like it is. The 60-year-old has seen it all, having bounced in and out of various addiction recovery programs. He's a realist who knows that recovery doesn't come easy, but after graduating from The Mustard Seed's Men's Recovery Program in Kamloops, he feels ready to take on the challenge.

"This time, it was on me to realize that I needed to change," Dwayne says.

"This program has been great. We have meals cooked for us, there's laundry, it has great structure, lots of educational and career programs, along with Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and spiritual meetings," he explains. "Everything in here is designed to help you out while you're in the program, which is great, but once you leave, that's where the real challenge begins."

The Mustard Seed Men's Recovery Program is a year-long residential program with space for up to 17 men and a focus on health, healing and real-life tools for maintaining sobriety upon reintegration into the community. When men graduate the program, they know they can count on The Mustard Seed to help them overcome obstacles like housing, employment and health and wellness, if they need it.

"I've seen others do it, and I've certainly done it myself. You come to a place like this for a year so you can get clean and healthy, but then after the year you get back out in the real world with real stresses and you screw it up again," he says.

"I'm working every day so that doesn't happen to me again."



A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY

Shaw Family Foundation lives by motto “For charity never fails”

The Shaw family is well known across Canada for their success in business, and equally so for their incredible generosity and unwavering commitment to community. The Shaw Family Foundation has supported countless charities over the years and has made a difference in the lives of many vulnerable men, women, and children.

Shaw Family Foundation was started in 1970 by Francis E. Shaw. His son JR was involved with the Foundation from day one and, in 1978, stepped up to be its President – a position he held until his passing in 2020. Over the years, JR skillfully grew the Foundation so it could support more and more causes. Somehow, he also found time to volunteer at the charities he was closest to, including The Mustard Seed.

In Calgary, JR and his children faithfully volunteered their time to serve holiday meals to Mustard Seed clients every Christmas. When he couldn't turn up to help in person, he would call to check in, offering sage advice and sometimes even sending unsolicited donations from his own pocket when he recognized a pressing need.

Four years ago, The Mustard Seed identified the need for additional shelter spaces in Edmonton's southside, and the Shaw Family Foundation invited The Mustard Seed to apply for funding to make that shelter a reality. Rowena Browne, Chief Development Officer for The Mustard Seed, recalls a conversation she had with JR Shaw about the importance of funding this initiative.

“Before he passed, I asked JR why a shelter, and he said, “It's our moral responsibility to help and care for those who are homeless or have nothing to eat,” Rowena says. “It was powerful! He said it with so much grace, love, and humility.”

Today, JR's family continue to support charities that fit with the Shaw Family Foundation's purpose: caring for people's health and wellbeing, education, enhancing communities, supporting opportunities for entrepreneurship, promoting the arts, and aiding people suffering from the many challenges caused by poverty. Julie Shaw, JR's daughter and the President of the Shaw Family Foundation, explains that generosity and community are guiding principles for both her family and their foundation.

“Everyone has moments of need when we call on others to help. Our family is motivated every day by our family foundation's motto, which is 'For Charity Never Fails.'”

“JR would say: ‘If you want to see the future, look around you. It's in the hopes and dreams of the people who are here right now. Together we have made it all happen, together we will make the future,’” Julie recalls.

There are a couple of special memories that stand out to Julie from volunteering with her family at The Mustard Seed over the years.

“There have been so many wonderful family experiences at The Mustard Seed. There are two I remember specifically that fit with what JR said. The first was when Dad and I were volunteering in the locker area. Dad was marking the access cards and I was opening the lockers. While we were working, we got to speak with quite a few people. We were curious to learn who they were and where they came from and were thrilled by the stories every single one of them shared. Each of them had a unique and interesting background. We left that day with a new appreciation for the people The Mustard Seed supports. It was heartwarming as we all exchanged warm wishes.”



"My second fond memory is from when my niece and I were volunteering in the clothing room. A lady came in looking for some clothes and we had a great time helping her find clothes that looked good on her. The clothing room had a good selection, so we were able to discuss colours and styles that made her look fantastic. It was heartening to see how pleased she was with her new look and we left feeling great."

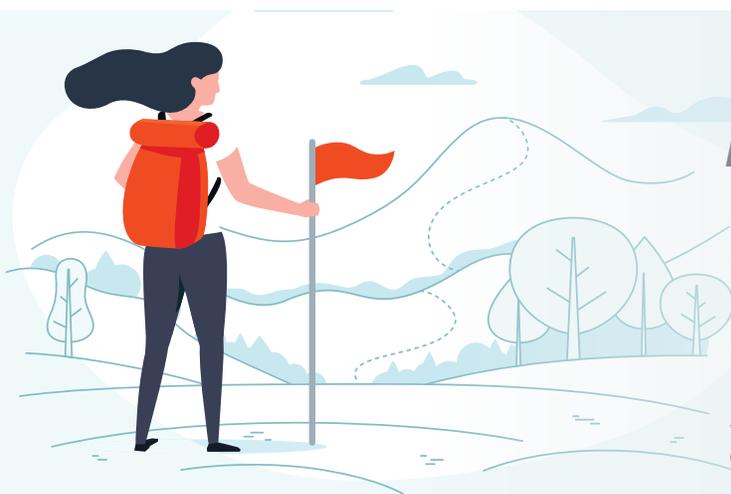
Thanks to the generous support of the Shaw Family Foundation, The Mustard Seed has been able to renovate the Neighbour Centre in Edmonton, transforming the community hub into a shelter space. The Neighbour Centre will continue to provide vital community programs and support and will now also be able to offer 40 overnight shelter spaces for men and women experiencing homelessness.

Dean Kurpjuweit, Chief Regional Officer at The Mustard Seed, explains what a difference this donation will make for Edmonton's most vulnerable.

"At The Mustard Seed one of our core philosophies is Supporting Change. The need for additional supports on the southside of Edmonton has been growing over the last number of years. Our most vulnerable Edmontonians require a place to go for their basic needs to be met and to access the supports required to lead a life of independence and wellness," Dean says.

"This generous gift from the Shaw Family Foundation is the catalyst needed to begin meeting needs on the southside of Edmonton in a more significant way. The Shaw Family is directly supporting change for our participants; and for that, we are deeply grateful."

Thanks to the generosity and support of the Shaw Family Foundation, The Mustard Seed is opening another door where men and women in need can find hope and healing for a brighter tomorrow.



Life Changes...

Maybe your Will should too

Marriages, children, new investments, grandchildren, a newly empty nest, moving, retirement and other life changes can affect your Will. Advisors with Purpose can help you consider and plan for those changes to make sure your Will reflects your life, faith and dreams. *Free. Confidential. No obligation.*

Contact them to get started: plan@advisorswithpurpose.ca

VOLUNTEERS make a difference

Volunteers have always played an essential role in the life and ministry of our organization, and this year was no exception. Dedicated volunteers in all the cities where we serve graciously stepped forward to serve their community, and in doing so made a tremendous difference in the lives of our guests and clients.

Thank you for the hours of service, prayers, fundraisers, gifts-in-kind and countless other ways you've blessed The Mustard Seed and those it serves this year!

GIVING BACK

Phil's Story

Volunteers serve at The Mustard Seed for all kinds of reasons. For Phil, volunteering is about giving back to the organization that helped him get back on his feet when he was experiencing homelessness.

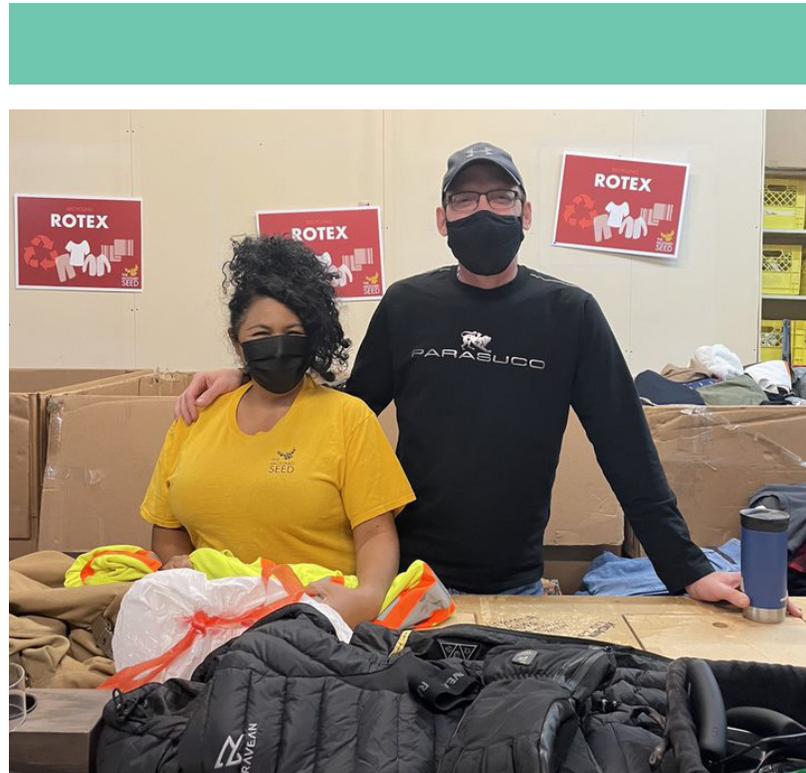
During that season, he ate warm meals at The Mustard Seed Church, received clothing and other items at the Community Support Centre, and says he always felt well taken care of.

Now well on his path to recovery, Phil wanted to find a way to give back, so he began volunteering in The Mustard Seed's warehouse, sometimes as often as five times per week.

"Volunteering at The Mustard Seed makes me feel so grateful for the life I lead today," he says.

"Experiencing homelessness myself, I am aware that there are many reasons for homelessness. I was on the street due to my alcohol addiction. Others out there may have mental illness, they may have lost their job and, in turn, their home. Some of the people that are in need of our services aren't necessarily homeless. Some of them just need a little help with some clothing, some food, some housewares. Some of these wonderful people just need someone to talk to. I've met so many great citizens of our society over the past few months. I love this place."

"I feel I am an important part of an important place in today's society," he says. "There are so many people in need of what we offer. It just feels great to be a part of that."



Would you like to help us build hope and well-being for our most vulnerable citizens? The Mustard Seed is seeking volunteers for a variety of opportunities in all of our cities. Visit theseed.ca/volunteer to see how you can get involved today.



42,700+
VOLUNTEER HOURS

What's Next...

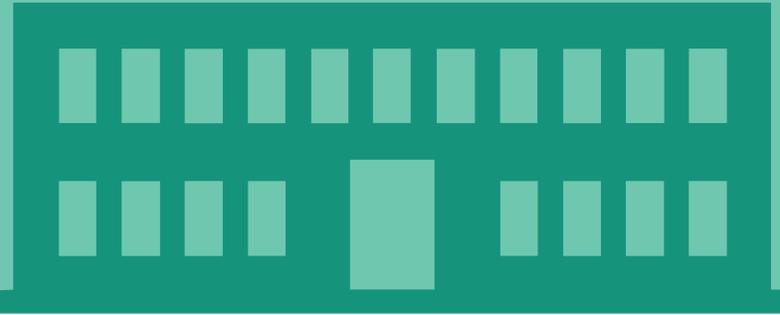


Together, we made great strides in 2021, but there is still plenty more to be done. As we continue in our mission to build hope and well-being for vulnerable citizens through Jesus' love, here are a few of the projects and plans we are working toward:

Health & Wellness services will continue to expand in Red Deer to include additional mental and physical health professionals and to increase capacity to help vulnerable people navigate systems and access the supports they need to achieve success.



The Mustard Seed will begin construction on its first family housing development in 2022. The building, located in the southeast Calgary community of Odgen, will offer 24 affordable two-and three-bedroom units for low-income families as well as a ground-floor multi-purpose space for community building and use.



The Mustard Seed will continue to focus on the growth of Health & Wellness services in Medicine Hat throughout 2022 as we capitalize on new opportunities made possible through the recently-opened Health & Wellness centre.



The Mustard Seed will open a women's shelter in Kamloops, providing a safe, supportive space and dignified care to vulnerable women experiencing homelessness and poverty.



The Mustard Seed will open its first permanent emergency shelter in Edmonton this year. Once renovations at our Neighbour Centre are complete, the space will provide 40 overnight shelter spaces for men and women experiencing homelessness, as well as community programming during the day.



FROM ALL OF US AT THE MUSTARD SEED



**THANK
YOU**



**FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY.
GROWING HOPE.
SUPPORTING CHANGE.**



CALGARY

p. 403.269.1319 | e. Info@theseed.ca

EDMONTON

p. 780.426.5600 | e. InfoEdmonton@theseed.ca

RED DEER

p. 403.347.1844 | e. InfoRedDeer@theseed.ca

KAMLOOPS

p. 250.434.9898 | e. InfoKamloops@theseed.ca

MEDICINE HAT

p. 403.866.7542 | e. InfoMedicineHat@theseed.ca

The Mustard Seed is a Christian non-profit organization that has been caring for individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty since 1984. Operating in five cities across Alberta and British Columbia, The Mustard Seed is a supportive haven where people can have their physical, mental, and spiritual needs met and grow toward greater health and independence. We've been an agent of change for more than three decades, thanks to our donors, volunteers, and support from the community.

Today, The Mustard Seed operates in Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Medicine Hat and Kamloops. To learn more about what The Mustard Seed is doing in each city, please visit www.theseed.ca and choose your city from the "View Location" drop down menu located at the top right of the page.

We hope to hear from you soon!