



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, November 1, 2018

## **The Mustard Seed opens an Emergency Winter Shelter south of the river**

**EDMONTON, AB** – On November 15, The Mustard Seed Edmonton will open a temporary emergency winter shelter located at Trinity Lutheran Church in south Edmonton. This will be the only shelter for adults experiencing homelessness and poverty south of the river. For The Mustard Seed, the need for a southside shelter is long overdue as pockets of poverty are no longer restricted to the inner-city.

“When The Mustard Seed sees a need, we address it,” says Dean Kurpjuweit, Managing Director of The Mustard Seed Edmonton. “The need to provide additional services for the homeless on the southside has been apparent to us since our merger with the Neighbour Centre two plus years ago. We are excited to open up an Emergency Winter Shelter in south Edmonton that will provide overnight services to those experiencing homelessness. By doing this, we intend to not only give relief to those who would otherwise sleep outside during the winter months, but to work with participants to find them suitable, permanent housing.”

Trinity Lutheran Church has agreed to partner alongside The Mustard Seed for the shelter. Sylvia Becker, Chair of Trinity Lutheran Church Council, says the church is more than happy to volunteer their space for this project.

“Trinity Lutheran Church is excited to be a part of The Mustard Seed’s new southside winter shelter, providing it with space and support. We are honoured to be partnering with The Mustard Seed, a leader in alleviating poverty and homelessness in our community. Through this initiative, in addition to many other social justice initiatives at Trinity that provide support to those in poverty, we are looking forward to building on our current relationship with the surrounding community. By sharing the space we have been blessed with, and by sharing our love and support, we want to be a light of hope, and build well-being in our community,” says Becker.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Shaw Family Foundation, The Mustard Seed is able to provide operations for the Emergency Winter Shelter. The shelter will run until the end of April and provide up to 40 mats each night. Participants can sign-up for a spot every day through The Mustard Seed Neighbour Centre.

**About The Mustard Seed:**

The Mustard Seed is a Christian non-profit organization that has been caring for men and women experiencing poverty and homelessness since 1984. The Mustard Seed delivers basic services, housing and employment programs to those in need and partners with the community to address the root causes of poverty. <https://theseed.ca/>

**Media Contact:**

Amy Schuring  
Communications Coordinator  
The Mustard Seed Edmonton  
Phone: 780-442-3567  
Cell: 780-999-6878  
Email: [amys@theseed.ca](mailto:amys@theseed.ca)