



Issue no. 03

WINTER RECAP



# HIGHER *Grounds*

## • COFFEE HOUSE •

*Coffee fuels compassion*



So far we have had a great start to the new year at Higher Grounds. We finished off 2022 with a well-deserved staff Christmas party (pictured to the left) where we decorated cookies, played games, ate yummy treats and shared some gifts. We mean it when we say that our volunteers are the best!

January was an exciting time for Higher Grounds staff as a reporter from the Barrie Today wrote a piece on one of our staff volunteers for the paper. We also had a long time volunteer accept a permanent, paid position somewhere (more below). With an opening in our shift leaders positions we have started training the wonderful Rebecca. She is new to Barrie, a mother of 3, and has a heart for community. We are very excited to have her! Make sure to say hi if you see her!

It's safe to say that 2023 is off to a pretty great start!

## Something to Celebrate!

### Pay-It-Forward

Thanks to you, we have given out almost **\$1000** of food and drinks through our Pay-It-Forward (PIF) program since December!

Thank you for helping us bless the people in our neighbourhood through this program every day.

**Donate in-person or online**

Congratulations to Debbie for obtaining permanent, paid employment at a restaurant in RVH Barrie!

Debbie has been volunteering at Higher Grounds for a *long* time. She started as a volunteer and worked her way up to shift leader. As a participant in the Stepping Stones program, she learned many skills which she will now be using in her new position.

Thank you Debbie for your years of service at Higher Grounds. You will be missed by your customers and fellow staff.



*"We exist to help people become everything they were created to be"*

# Thursday Dan's Story

*The shop was on the way to my doctor's office so I stopped in one day. Every Thursday I would stop in for a coffee and a chat. Eventually Pastor Kevin gave me the name Thursday Dan and it stuck, that was 4 years ago. I don't hang out anywhere else now, I like the coffee and the people. People with different backgrounds, I've gotten to know them and hear their stories. They are just like me, messy pasts who are dealing with stuff.*

*My son overdosed in 2010 and it totally changed my life. It opened my eyes to what it meant to live a life controlled by addiction. Soon after I started a methadone program to beat my own addictions. The Hope community understands what I've been through. They've lost people to addiction too. That's one of the reasons I like to support Higher Grounds. The generosity of the staff has moved my heart to purchase coffees and food for others that are in need. It all goes around; I used to be a truck driver until I had an injury that prevented me from continuing. I had to go on ODSP. A few times when money has been really tight the Hope staff have offered me items from the food pantry to help tie me over. As a single man it really helps.*

*Hope has been with me through cancer treatments and hard days. I am proud to wear my Higher Grounds shirt and tell people about the community I've found.*

**We are so thankful for our customers, turned friends like Thursday Dan!**



# Coming soon...

- **March Break Colouring Contest**  
Come in for a hot drink, and enter our FREE colouring contest for a chance to win a prize! Open to all all ages March 13-17th.
- **New courses this month:**  
Budgeting Basics- Wednesdays  
Exercise for all- Thursdays  
All Things Employment- Fridays  
*Visit [hopebarrie.com](http://hopebarrie.com) for more details.*



Some of our lovely volunteers at our Christmas party

# Get Involved

**Host your weekly coffee break with us**  
Bring a friend out for a treat! Just by hanging out you're helping fight chronic poverty in Barrie.

**Feed a hungry person**  
Buy a coffee, treat, or a sandwich for someone through our pay-it-forward program. Make someone's day with this simple act!

**Volunteer at the shop**  
Our volunteers are the reason we are still around. They serve and create a supportive community for all For more info speak to the shift leader.