St Philip Mission’s Report 2024

*[“Suppose someone has enough to live and sees a brother or sister in need, but does not help. Then God’s love is not living in that person. My children, we should love people not only with words and talk, but by our actions and true caring.”](https://www.bible.com/bible/compare/1JN.3.17-18%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)* ***[- 1 John 3:17-18 (New Century Version)](https://www.bible.com/bible/compare/1JN.3.17-18%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)***

In 2024, the Missions Committee worked to raise the profiles of the charities we support through announcement updates on Sundays, posting information in the church bulletin and refreshing the Missions webpage on the parish website. We also invited representatives from our charity partners to speak at church last year (Street Hope, Precious Jewels, and Hope Home Haiti). We hope you find this information encouraging and informative.

If any parishioners are active with charity work and would like to request funding, please let a member of the Missions Committee know before the end of February. We will meet in March to consider our charity distribution for 2025.This year the Missions Committee will hold the funding decision meeting at the church. Anyone interested in the selection process can attend. Date TBA.

In December, around 20 parishioners volunteered for the Mustard Seed Christmas Hamper Distribution. It was a wonderful opportunity to show Christ’s love to our sisters and brothers in addition to being a lot of fun and an opportunity to get to know each other better. We’ll be looking for more opportunities for St. Philip’s members to join in similar outreach programs in 2025.

Last year it was determined that due to CRA tax regulations, we could no longer fund our long-term relationship with our sister church, Mar Elias Church Syria, out of tax-deductible funding. The congregation was asked for a good will offering and we were delighted to raise $4445 for Mar Ellias. The first distribution of $2500 was received shortly before the Assad government fell. We are amazed and humbled at God’s timing! The balance of the money, currently in a short term GIC, will be sent before Easter. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed. Your generosity has helped to keep people fed and to provide medicines for the sick during this very difficult time in Syria.

In 2024, our St Philip Church congregation allocated $18,700 for the St Philip Missions Committee to distribute. The Committee has two guiding principles:

1) Members of St Philip must be actively involved with the charities supported

2) the funding is divided equally between domestic and international organizations.

After assessing these two factors, we look at the mission of the charity, the needs being met, and the impact of our support. We thank the congregation for their continuing support (both in time and money) for these very worthy organizations.

**2024 Budget allocation $18,700**

**International Missions**

**$3500 - Precious Jewels Ministry** has been caring for vulnerable children in the Philippines since 1987. PJM started in Smokey Mountain, the Manila garbage dump, extending to the rural villages around Mt. Pinatubo, then in 1994, responding to the hidden and neglected children and families living with HIV, AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses. Since 2008, PJM has been extending its borders to work with others for the healing and restoration of children in Uganda and the region of East Africa. The founders of PJM, Joke Bergink and Lorrie Anderson, were originally commissioned from St Philip, and many parishioners have been involved with the ministry over the years, both serving on the Board of Directors and in volunteering in the Philippines.

**$3500 - Hope Home (HH)**is one of the ministries run by the Foundation for the Children of Haiti. HH hosts approx. 17 ongoing residents as well as supporting local students who join the special education classroom during the week. All participants have a wide range of complex special needs. Residents come to Hope Home as children and – because of the nature of their conditions – it remains their home for the rest of their lives. Hope Home has 4 bedrooms, with each room accommodating 4 – 6 residents and a house mom who cares for their physical and emotional needs. There are staff who help with physical therapy and medical care is provided at the Foundation’s Hospital. In the past our donations have helped in the support of an annual work team, to transport supplies and lend their skills to HH, led by a St. Phillip’s parishioner.  Due to the gang violence, it is not currently possible to visit Haiti. The money we send is now used to provide supplies such as food, disability specific medical and educational supplies, and help with special circumstances, for example one year providing water and diapers in a time of shortage. Some parishioners sponsor individual HH residents. If you would like to become a sponsor, please speak with Judith Armstrong.

**$2500 Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund** (PWRDF) is the Anglican Church of Canada’s agency for sustainable development and humanitarian relief. In 2024, PWRDF[issued an appeal](https://pwrdf.org/pwrdf-responds-to-gaza-crisis/) to support the al-Ahli Arab hospital in Northern Gaza, which has been overwhelmed by providing medical care to people – in particular children – who have been injured and traumatized by violence in the region. Gaza is a region that desperately needs support and St. Philip is connected to al-Ahli hospital via Allan who has worked at the hospital. PWRDF is in the process of changing its name to **Alongside Hope**.

**Domestic Missions**

**$4000 - Street Hope Victoria** is a volunteer-driven ministry that builds personal relationships with people who face multiple barriers and marginalization, and encourages them to seek wholeness in all aspects of their lives. Those we serve may be facing poverty, a lack of supportive community, homelessness, addictions or mental health issues. If you’d like to join us on a Tuesday night to give out food on Pandora St or if you’d like to help prepare the soup and sandwiches at Church of Our Lord, please talk to Rob Hosie or Jackie Prowse for more information.

**$2200 - Shelbourne Community Kitchen** is a warm and welcoming neighbourhood food centre. They work to alleviate social isolation and lower barriers to healthy food for over 1600 adults and nearly 700 children who are living on low income in our community. Thank you to all those who “grew a row” for donations. Please consider growing some food in your garden to donate in 2025!

**$1000 - South Island Counselling** offers sliding scale (or free) fees based on patient’s income. Donations help low-income patients.

**$1000 - Contemplative Society** is an inclusive non-profit society that encourages a deepening of contemplative practice based in the Christian Wisdom. Several members of St Philip have been involved with contemplative prayer.

**$1000 - Mustard Seed Food Bank** provided 1,200 Christmas hampers to families, couples, and individuals in need in 2024. These hampers included Christmas dinner fixings, fresh produce, dairy products, non-perishable food items, and essential grocery gift cards. Parents could also select new toys for their children—bringing holiday cheer and providing practical help to ease financial pressures. Over 20 St Philip parishioners volunteered to help distribute food and gifts this year. Please join us in 2025 to help out with the Back to School shoes at the end of summer and hampers at Christmastime. (Announcements will be made in church.)

If you would like to volunteer with any of these organizations, please get in touch with a member of the Missions Committee and we will help to connect you.

Last year several new members joined the MC and we look forward to working together in 2025 to continue supporting and promoting St. Philip’s charities.

Many thanks to the Missions Committee: Karen Van Rheenen, Kathy Chan, Liz Holloway, Evelyn Dowman and new members: Dana Reiter, Joy Larson, Jenni Jennings, Dorothy O’Donnell. Your time, voices and passion for missions is much appreciated. Also thank you to Kathy Fyfe for making the payment distributions.

Jackie Prowse for the Missions Committee