

# The Gathering Place AGM Agenda 2025

## Item 1- Welcoming Statements

- Welcome to all participants/community members to the AGM
- Introduction of board members

## Candice to present financials

## Item 2- Recap of 2024

- Programs that The Gathering Place operated in 2024 (garden, outreach, warming centre, food rescue, main kitchen operations)
- Struggles with warming centre
- Financial concerns

## Item 3- Successes of 2024

- Impact of Outreach program
- Success of Food Rescue program
- Impact of main kitchen
- Election of new board
- Soups On 2024
- Spaghetti Dinner at Davedi Club

## Item 4- Restructuring

- Layoff of 5 staff, reduced hours to 2 staff
- Dismissal of executive director
- Reducing monthly bills (no more Canor bins, switching computer service providers)
- Reduced meal service
- Family Friday
- Hiring of marketing manager
- Website redesign

## Open to the Floor

## The Gathering Place: Board Meeting Agenda

Sat. March 15, 2025, Dining Area, Time: 9 a.m.

**In Attendance:** Attached participants

The Chairperson Peter Gregory welcomed community members and introduced Board Directors present.

Candice Henderson from the auditing firm of Kendall, Sinclair, Cowper, Daigle & Houlden presented the financial statements of The Gathering Place for the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. A copy of this report is available at TGP for viewing.

Candice provided the following:

- An explanation of the audit report
- The purpose of the audit and the qualifier
- Concerns were referenced on Page 3
- Page 6 provided details of monies received and spent and the reasons for costs as it related to the operation of the Warming Centre on behalf of DSSNB. It is noted that the Warming Centre's operation surpassed the allocation provided to TGP. As a result, TGP is no longer involved with this operation.
- The issues with the CRA are being dealt with and a request is being made with the government to forgive the interest and penalties.

Alicia Smith, the Operations Mgr. provided a brief recap of the programs that the TGP operated in 2024 (garden, outreach, warming centre, food rescue, and main kitchen operations). See attached Impact Report.

- The Outreach program while it operated provided to seniors, youth centres, etc. with approximately 500 meals weekly. As part of the change this program now operates out of TGP working with case managers across the city.
- Food Rescue program is a shared "Hub" with several community partners. The costs to TGP are minimal and it is with the hard work from staff and volunteers this is accomplished.

Peter spoke on the changes and success of 2024

- The impact on the Outreach program and how it has affected the outlying communities. In the past we provided support to areas from Sturgeon Falls to Mattawa and with the hope of reinstating this support in the future.
- The changes we've had to make has had a big impact on how the downsizing of TGP kitchen staff has required a bigger involvement by volunteers.
- The election of a new board has had a positive effect in the community.
- Soup's ON – This was our most successful year raising \$18,000 and we can't thank the sponsors and the community enough.

- We introduced a new fundraising event this year by having a late summer Spaghetti Dinner at the Davedi Club, also a great success raising \$27,000. As a note, we are holding this event again in August of this year.
- We know this community still believes in our organization.

#### As part of restructuring:

- Family Friday is in addition to our daily meal service at no additional cost. Thanks to our staff and volunteers who have worked out a schedule to provide this needed service.
- With the dismissal of the executive director position and the layoff of 5 staff and reduction in hours of 2 staff we are relying on our volunteers. However, there is still a need to identify a position to increase donations and do fundraising.
- We've reduced monthly expenditures with staff providing cardboard and trash removal service and switching to a shared computer service provider.
- With a new logo and new website, we hope this will show us in a better light.
- We could not do these changes without the additional support of volunteers and board members

#### Open to the floor

- Peggy Morrison representing "Open Arms" indicated just how important our services are for the community and other similar service providers.
- A question regarding grant providers and what is available – We hope to do a better job at utilizing available grant programs and that is the reason why the new website will present us with more transparency. As well, an application is planned to the Trillium Foundation for specific funding needs, i.e. Kitchen area.
- Other issues that require improvement with the building are being pursued on a gratis basis.
- The numbers are showing an increase in food insecurity with 17 food banks just in this city alone. We need to show the importance of our services.
- We are taking every opportunity to form partnerships with CMHA, Veterans' Services and renewing our Outreach program to outlining areas. Our focus now is to get back on track by providing these needed services. We are currently working with South Shore Church assisting them in their area with hopes to increase to other outlying areas.

Motion to close this meeting at 9:45 a.m. by Scott Tod and seconded by Gina King

The Gathering Place AGM  
March 15, 2025

Attendance

Print Name & Sign

Kim Brownee

Kim Brownee

Georgina King

Georgina King

Noah Mangel

N. Mangel

DAVID FISARIC

David Fisarc

Peter GREGORY

Peter Gregory

Dulcie Shepherdson

Dulcie Shepherdson

Alicia Smith

Alicia Smith

Peggy Morrison

Peggy Morrison

Grace Wheetes

Grace Wheetes

Jason Ellison

Jason Ellison

Kathy Aylett

Kathy Aylett

ALAN AYLETT

A. Aylett

Jeff Benedict

Jeff Benedict

Scott Tod

Scott Tod

Lynn Fortin

Lynn Fortin

LORIE FAIRBURN

L. Fairburn





THE  
**Gathering**  
PLACE

1181 Cassells Street  
North Bay, ON P1B 4B4  
705-474-7687

55,250 Meals

50 Volunteers

182,258 lbs

Food Rescued

Nourishing Hope



In 2024, The Gathering Place provided **55,250** hot, nutritious meals.

Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner along with take-away meals in between mealtimes.

### Food Partnership

Every week, The Gathering Place provides 60 home-cooked meals to OUTloud North Bay. That's a total number of 2,880 meals.

### Food Rescue

In North Bay, The Gathering Place rescues and redistributes so much good surplus food. Most of the grocery stores donate their surplus food that is destined for the landfill. The food is rescued 5 days a week, and is used in our weekly recipe planning, and also distributed to our partner agencies, group homes, church food banks and youth centers across North Bay.

In 2024, The Gathering Place rescued 182,258 pounds of food. The Food Rescue Program not only helps feed hungry people in our community, we are reducing landfill waste and greenhouse gases.

### Volunteers:

The work we do could not be accomplished without the dedication of our hard-working volunteers. Volunteers help with meal prep, meal service, food rescue, and cleaning duties around the building. We have a roster of 50 volunteers with 20 volunteers who we rely on daily to help us prepare the large number of meals.