



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2026 • London, Ontario

Ark Aid Street Mission Winds Down Essential Life-Saving Services as London Loses Over \$1 Million in Government Funding

The wind-down of year-round emergency responsive services at 696 Dundas Street represents the most significant reduction in London’s community-based homelessness response since 2020 — occurring at the moment of greatest seasonal need.

LONDON, ON — Ark Aid Street Mission today announced the wind-down of its Emergency Responsive Year-Round Life-Saving Services at 696 Dundas Street East, effective April 1, 2026. The closure follows the loss of over **\$1 million in government funding** and the conclusion of Cold Weather Response (CWR) operations across multiple sites. The result is an immediate and significant gap in London’s ability to provide low-barrier, 24-hour emergency services to its most vulnerable residents.

Ark Aid has served by providing the only 7-day-a-week, open-door emergency service outside of traditional business hours — providing assessment and triage, basic needs provision, stabilization, relationship building, system diversion for hospital, police and mental health, system navigation, and initiating pathways towards home. As of April 1, those services are no longer fully operational.

“The homelessness crisis in London is a humanitarian emergency. Ark Aid is about more than providing beds — it is about saving lives and restoring dignity. We cannot wait any longer to act.”

— Sarah Campbell, Executive Director, Ark Aid Street Mission

PROGRAM YEAR IMPACT: APRIL 2025 – MARCH 2026

309,630	Meals served — basic needs provision without condition
36,140	Safe nights of rest — stabilization and overnight crisis response
1,081	Unique individuals assessed and served (via HIFIS)*
117	People successfully housed — pathways towards home realized
445,210	Total service interactions — assessments, diversions, referrals, navigations

* Does not include individuals who chose to remain anonymous. Ark Aid delivers ~\$2 of community value per \$1 invested.

“These services function as essential pressure points in our local response. For our teams at London Cares, this means fewer places to safely connect people during the day, fewer overnight shelter options, fewer choices when someone is in immediate need, and more individuals left without a clear pathway to support.”

— Chris Moss, Executive Director, London Cares



According to the City of London’s Homelessness Online Dashboard (HIFIS), approximately **2,000 people** are actively experiencing homelessness in London in 2025 — a figure expected to rise this spring. More than **7,000 people** are on the community housing waitlist. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) reports a 25% increase in known homelessness across Ontario since 2022, with projections that homelessness could triple within a decade without significant intervention.

SERVICES LOST OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED:

50+ emergency resting spaces • 24/7 assessment & stabilization • encampment meal service • basic needs access reduced to 5 days/week • diversion & pathway-to-home supports

Ark Aid is calling on all levels of government for **immediate bridge funding** to stabilize services, direction to Civic Administration for a **coordinated community response plan**, and **sustained multi-year operating funding** that reflects the year-round, life-saving nature of this work. The organization remains a ready and willing partner in building a coordinated, sustainable emergency response system for London.

Mission: *“Serving with love to provide nourishment, foster hope, and work together to create the journey home.”*

Vision: *“All people are beheld, beloved, and belong.”*

MEDIA CONTACT

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Ark Aid Street Mission is a registered charitable organization. CRA #: 106721194RR0001

