

WE NEED YOUR HELP

90% of the world's goods arrive by ship, and it is the Seafarers who ensure the ship's safe arrival. We invite your support to help us serve Seafarers and offer the thanks they deserve.

1) Financial Donations Fund the operation of the Seafarer centres, ship visits, and the practical resources we provide.

Donate online at: mtsso.org, or send a cheque to: Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario, 8 Unwin Avenue, Warehouse 52, Toronto, M5A 1A1.

Corporate sponsorships are welcomed by Executive Director Rev. Judith Alltree at glutenfreepriest@gmail.com.

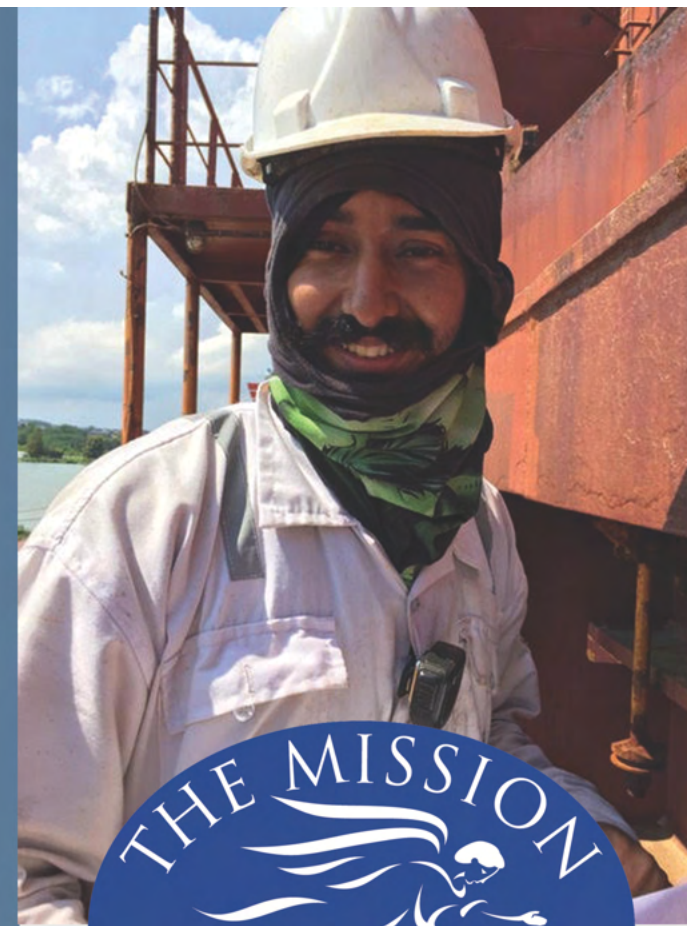
2) Donations in Kind Gently used clothing (especially cold weather clothing), toiletries, puzzles, games, and candy are helpful. Hand-knitted hats, scarves, and other items can help fill our Christmas Ditty Bags.

3) Donations of Time We need people to help with ship visiting, mission hosting, and driving Seafarers to and from the ships and our centres.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!

Throughout the year, but especially at Christmas Time, we provide hundreds of handmade hats and scarves and we couldn't do it without you! Give a gift that will travel the world!

Contact Rev. Judith Alltree at glutenfreepriest@gmail.com for details.



Caring for seafarers
around the world

SOUTHERN
ONTARIO
www.mtsso.org

WHO WE ARE

The Mission to Seafarers was founded in 1837 in Bristol Bay, England when Rev. John Ashley rowed a boat out to a sailing vessel at anchor to find out how the Seafarers were on board. Over the next 19 years Mission stations grew so rapidly in England it was officially incorporated in 1856, and then grew around the world. Today there are 200 Mission to Seafarers stations located in over 120 port cities throughout the world, serving Seafarers from every country, culture, gender, faith - and none.

The Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario (MTSSO) is part of that 165 year old tradition. We are a humanitarian and social justice-advocacy organization serving approximately 1000 foreign and domestic ships, and the over 20,000 crew members who visit the Great Lakes between March and December.

MTSSO serves Seafarers arriving in the ports of Oshawa, Toronto, Hamilton, and the Pt. Weller - Welland - Port Colborne corridor. We have two Seafarer Centres: The Terry Finlay Seafarers Centre in Oshawa is open on demand; the Hamilton Centre is open 7 days a week.



We remind
Seafarers
of their
humanity --
that they
are not
invisible.



CHANGING COURSE

Under COVID restrictions we continued to visit the ships arriving in our ports, meeting Seafarers at the foot of the gangway. As most ships did not allow Seafarers to come ashore, they provided us with extensive shopping lists, requesting everything from groceries and toiletries to Christmas gifts for their families.

Most recently we have been actively involved with assisting foreign Seafarers to receive their vaccinations, which will enable Seafarers to be safe especially in travelling to their home countries.

As COVID restrictions lift our Centres are welcoming Seafarers back offering them a place of peace and comfort away from the continual noise and motion of the ships. Even with masks on, the joy on their faces at being off the ship can't be hidden!

WHAT WE DO

Through the generous support of individual and corporate donors, our Mission staff and volunteers are able to:

- visit Seafarers on board their ships where we deliver our Welcome Gift of Swiss Chocolates
- host Seafarers at our Mission Centres, offering light refreshments, as well as the most important free WiFi that allows Seafarers to connect up with their families and loved ones back home
- give practical support especially during COVID
- provide intervention in critical incidents, stress management and trauma
- offer counselling by our trained chaplains
- Assist Seafarer families in times of distress
- Christmas Ditty Bag program: we donate approximately 800 Christmas gift bags to the Seafarers in our ports between December 6 and 24.
- work with industry and government to ensure Seafarers are not forgotten