

# Ukrainian Community Commemorates Tragedy with Gift

Shortly before Christmas on November 24th, London's two principal Ukrainian church congregations, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church and Christ the King Catholic Church, joined forces to commemorate the 75th anniversary of one of their homeland's blackest periods in

history. In 1932 Joseph Stalin instigated 'Holodomor' or 'famine death' by forcing grain collectivization on the people of eastern Ukraine that lasted for a full year. Millions of people suffered and died as a result of this cruel, manmade famine.

encouraged to make a financial contribution in memory of those loved ones.

"Half of the money collected throughout the year will be donated to Mission Services of London in the name of those who perished", explained Mr. Victor Pedenko, secretary general of the Ukrainian World Congress and local Londoner, "and the other half will be used to memorialize those who died. This gives us two things", he went on to elaborate, "we become actively involved in the significance of this event and we can do something worthwhile with this money."

Mission Services is honoured that the Ukrainian community has turned this catastrophic period in their history into a positive initiative that serves the most vulnerable in our present society while acknowledging the incalculable loss of life so needlessly.



*Holodomor survivors and representatives of the Ukrainian Community assemble by memorial candle at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church.*

To honour the lives of those who perished, the Ukrainian community has elected to turn this tragedy into a living memorial. By lighting a candle in each of the churches that will not be extinguished for the full year, the congregations signify their remembrance of all those family members, friends, neighbours, business associates and fellow villagers who lost their lives. Each Sunday parishioners are being

**National Volunteer Week April 27th to May 3rd**  
*Mission Services of London salutes our dedicated volunteers!*

## Community Mental Health Programs

### Wishes Fulfilled

One of the Community Mental Health Programs' wishes will come true as soon as the ground thaws this spring. Courtesy of a sizeable donation from The Arcangelo Rea Family Foundation, clients who frequent Streetscape and the Gathering Place will have a shady spot to cool off under when a gazebo is built in the backyard of the new wing of the Men's Mission.

"Presently there is no shelter back there. So, in the middle of the summer when the sun is beating down, there will now be a little shelter for people", explains Martha Connoy, Director of Community

Mental Health Programs. "Despite the heat of the summer", she adds, "a number of our clientele prefer and enjoy being outdoors during the nicer weather."

A garden is also planned to complement the gazebo and to make visitors feel more at home.

Longevity is always a concern for furnishings that are in constant use. This donation is also providing funds for some badly needed furniture in the men's Crashbeds' lounge. Since the Crashbeds opened in the new wing in 2005, even the overflow beds in this lounge have always been

used on a nightly basis. Two new, commercial grade chairs that pull out into beds and three reclining chairs will replace well-worn, existing furniture. "It's something we couldn't necessarily afford on our own, but is really needed", Martha comments.

Martha and her staff are very appreciative that this generous gift that, "allows us to provide some comforts for folks that we wouldn't ordinarily be able to do. We are attempting to create a comfortable, outside space for people to get out of the elements. Once the garden is planted, it's going to be quite a pleasant place to visit."