



ARCHBISHOP PHILIP  
POCOCK SOCIETY

# Life Source

A NEWSLETTER FROM  ShareLife



SPRING 2016 EDITION

## No Fiesta for our Family

**A**s a poor family from El Salvador, I grew up without my father in my life. My mother was referred to as a “Madre solder” (single mother), working 12 hour days, barely supporting a family of four on \$30 USD per month. I was born two days before Christmas, weighing just less than 5 pounds. My grandmother was able to buy our family some rice and beans that year, but there were no Christmas presents and we were too poor to go to church to celebrate the birth of Jesus. No fiesta for our family!

Even though my mother was tired and depressed through most of this time, she was determined to do everything she could

to help her family survive in the slums of El Salvador. I was not getting the proper nutrition from my mother’s breast milk, and I became weaker and weaker during my first year. By the next Christmas, our family was worse off, with barely any food and no presents—again, no fiesta for our family!

My mother cried and felt hopeless, and my grandmother prayed for a miracle to help our desperate situation. I was dehydrated, and a severe ear infection was producing pus coming out of my right ear.

Our neighbour told my mother about nearby Agape Hospital in Sonsonate run by Father Flavian Mucky, a Franciscan priest. My mother borrowed some money

to make the trip as she prayerfully arrived and trusted the staff to take me in and help me. The loving nurse cleaned me up and the doctors determined I was suffering from severe malnutrition, psychological and motor retardation, acute infection of the middle ear and urinary tract, anemia and intestinal parasites. They started me on milk, antibiotics, minerals and vitamins. Later that week, I met Dr. Andrew and Joan Simone for the first time. I began to grow stronger and Fr. Flavian and the Simones helped me regain my health over the months ahead. By Christmas 1999, I celebrated my third birthday as a fully healthy child with our first family fiesta!

*Jenifer, with Joan Simone, holds a photo of herself taken in El Salvador in October 1998 when she was nearly two years old, weighing only 13 pounds, 5 ounces. She remembers that occasion. “The lady kept stroking my skin and whispering words of kindness.” You can see Jenifer is now enjoying life as a happy, healthy nineteen-year-old with a promising future! “Thank you to Dr. Andrew and Joan Simone of the Canadian Food for Children and ShareLife for helping to save my life and the lives of many other children in schools, feeding centres, orphanages and hospitals the world over!”*



# Giving Back Changes Everyone

“My father is waiting for me, I have to go home,” said Victoria, an elderly woman with Alzheimer’s disease during a senior’s bingo game in Scarborough. She is talking with a 12 year boy named Joseph.

Joseph has been coming to volunteer for the bingo game every Wednesday evening for the past 3 years. He comes with his Uncle Sam.

Of the relationship that has grown between Victoria and Joseph, Sam says, “Victoria loves Joseph. She gets really upset and does not want to play bingo if Joseph is not here. I think it’s because her father’s name was Joseph.”

Sam manages a business for a living and knows the importance of giving back. He wants to help Joseph learn the lesson that you don’t have to be paid for everything you do. Experience managing people has taught Sam that a person who is generous is a far better employee than someone who is greedy. Sam believes that learning this lesson now will help Joseph in his life and future career. If Joseph learns the importance of giving back, it will change his outlook on life.

Sam originally learned this lesson from a grade 11 teacher he had in high school. Sam explained, “My teacher said that whoever went on a weekend retreat on the importance of volunteering would get an A in her class. I liked the idea about getting an A, so I went. It had a huge impact on me and made a real difference in my life. I didn’t realize it at the time, but being only 15, I was young and impressionable. It made me a better Catholic.”

With this outlook on life, it is no surprise when Sam decided that he wanted to give back financially as well. Sam took out a life insurance policy through the Knights of Columbus and named ShareLife as the beneficiary. Sam was surprised at how affordable and easy it was.

ShareLife’s motto is “You Can Work Wonders.” When asked about the work of ShareLife and the importance of sharing the gifts God has given us, Sam replied, “Giving back changes everyone.”



*Sam Spinello and Joseph proudly displaying their Legacy Society cross and certificate signed by His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins. Sam was so pleased that he had it specially framed. For more information on planned giving, such as a bequest in your Will to ShareLife or to receive this special legacy gift, please let us know by emailing: [development@archtoronto.org](mailto:development@archtoronto.org) or call 416-934-3411 or 1-800-263-2595 (toll-free). We would be happy to arrange delivery of your cross and certificate.*

# “I could not have done it without the help of ShareLife and Rose of Durham.”

Rachel had just moved out of home at 17 years of age when she discovered she was pregnant. At first, she was devastated and angry because everything in her life had changed. The things she previously thought were important no longer mattered. Expecting a new baby caused her to prioritize choices about health and nutrition.

Her greatest challenge at first was the negative stigma she felt, especially from family and friends. People often reminded her that she had ruined her life, assuming she would not make a good parent. Rachel received no encouragement until she became involved in the Rose of Durham's Teen Mom School Program.

She began with education courses, followed by the prenatal program with her partner, completing eight courses in all. Rose of Durham provided her with a wide variety of parenting and relationship life skills in order to be successful as a mom and partner. As well,

through supportive counselling, Rachel grew as an individual and was able to determine her life passions and discover what she wanted to be in the future.

Rachel believed her greatest success so far is maintaining honour roll status while attending college now as a young parent. Her goals are to help other young moms by training to become a social worker. She hopes to be able to buy her own home and become financially stable while raising her young son to become a happy, successful person.

“I could not have done it without the help of ShareLife and Rose of Durham.” Says Rachel, “Thank you!”

*ShareLife-supported Rose of Durham in Oshawa provides compassionate support annually to 400 young parents who are distressed by an unplanned pregnancy. Rose of Durham provides caring friendship, counselling and life skills programs to assist young parents develop a positive future for themselves and their families.*



## The Satisfaction of Regular Giving

I had seen first-hand the difference ShareLife agencies make in people's lives. When I began working at the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Toronto, I realized I could become a regular donor through employee contributions to

the ShareLife monthly giving program.

Conveniently, my contribution is automatically withdrawn through my pay statement. Even though our family continues to donate through our parish, the

employee contributions offer me the ability to increase my giving to a well-worthy cause. I have the satisfaction of helping people in need throughout the entire year while knowing my donations are secure.

*Bill Steinburg is the Communications Manager in the Office of Public Relations & Communications for the Archdiocese of Toronto. He is also an active member of his local parish in Barrie.*

# Making Your Monthly Giving Count

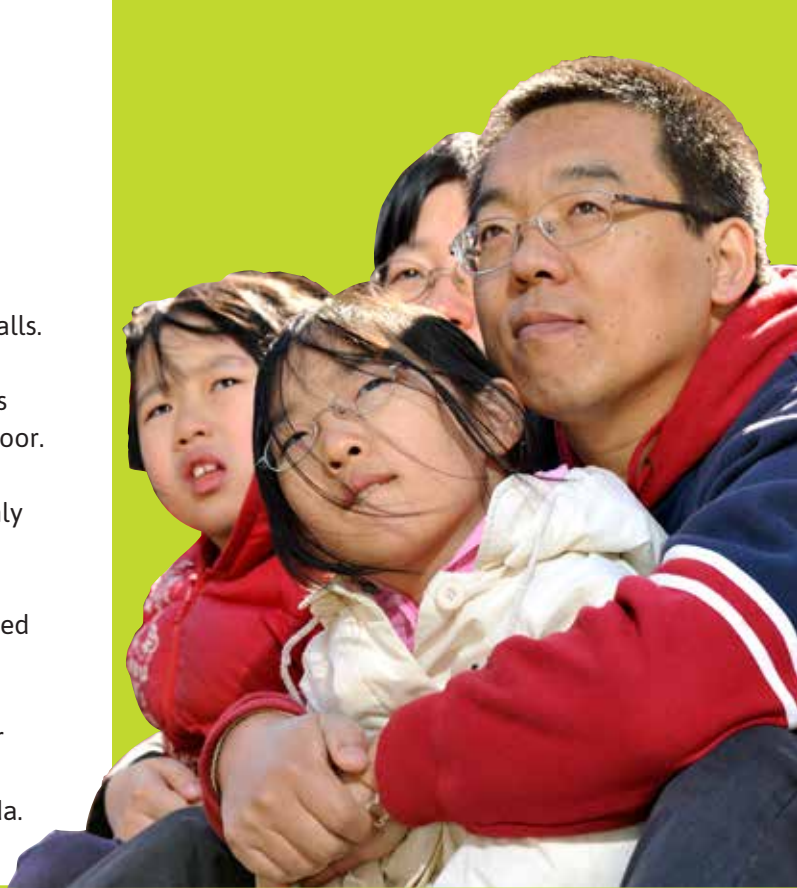
**\$4 per month** provides a female abuse survivor with a complete intake, safety plan and two follow-up phone calls.

**\$5 per month** provides over 200 monthly meals of split peas through Canadian Food for Children for those who are poor.

**\$8 per month** gives a young mother and her family a monthly supply of baby formula for Rose of Durham Services.

**\$20 per month** provides counselling support for a bereaved person to better cope with the loss of their spouse.

**\$40 per month** provides monthly information sessions for newcomers on important topics that will help them make informed decisions and settle into their new life in Canada.



## Membership Has Its Privileges!

Archbishop Philip Pocock served as the 7th Archbishop of Toronto from 1971 to 1978. In 1976, he made a courageous decision to establish an organization that respects life at all stages. His legacy now lives on through the work being done with the help of ShareLife agencies. The Archbishop Philip Pocock Society was established in 2009 to recognize and thank those who support ShareLife agencies by making a monthly financial commitment. Today, ShareLife funds 42 Catholic agencies and grant recipients, annually providing services to over 114,000 people not only in our communities, but also around the world.

How can we be a part of a group that makes a significant difference in the lives

of vulnerable people? When we become a ShareLife monthly donor, that's how! As a member of the Archbishop Philip Pocock Society, your ongoing support vastly improves the lives of those in need at catholic social service agencies. For those of you who are already members, we want to extend our appreciation!

As a Society member you will receive:

- Two updates per year—our spring newsletter and fall annual report
- A bookmark commemorating the life of Archbishop Pocock
- Invitations to participate in ShareLife appreciation events

Members of the Society have the opportunity to make a monthly gift by credit card, online or through post-dated




cheques at your parish. Thank you for being a monthly donor and making the commitment to ShareLife. You are working wonders all year long in the lives of those who are in desperate need!

As a member of the Archbishop Philip Pocock Society, your monthly gift is indeed working wonders and we thank you again for your generosity! If we can help to answer any questions about ShareLife, please contact our office at 416-934-3400, or by e-mail at [slife@archtoronto.org](mailto:slife@archtoronto.org).

For the latest information on ShareLife and make a donation, go to [www.sharelife.org](http://www.sharelife.org).



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