

SISiTERING

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES
2024-2025



ABOUT SISTERING

Sistering is a multi-service agency that provides low-barrier practical and emotional support for women and gender-diverse people.

We have been leaders in serving Toronto's most vulnerable, in all their diversity, for over 40 years.



VISION & MISSION

We create a safe, welcoming, and non-judgmental space for women and gender diverse people. We are guided by principles of feminism, anti-racism, and anti-oppression. We offer practical and emotional support to those who experience social isolation, homelessness or precarious housing, trauma and violence, discrimination, substance use, or need mental health support. Our equitable programs and services enable women and gender diverse people to take greater control over their lives. We work in collaboration with others in the community to change the social conditions that endanger the welfare of the people we serve.

Our Vision: A world where all women and gender diverse people are safe, respected, valued, and treated with dignity. All women and gender diverse people have equitable opportunities to thrive and participate in inclusive communities.



OUR VALUES

COMMITMENT: Sistering is invested in creating safe and inclusive spaces to respond to the needs of the community.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Sistering is stewarded by those with lived experience and is led by individuals invested in the well being of the organization and the people it serves.

EQUITY: Sistering's programs are user-informed and designed to meet the needs of our diverse community.

INTEGRITY: Sistering is honest and transparent.

EMPATHY: Our services meet our users where they are at, offering a range on immediate needs and longer term supports.

INCLUSIVITY: We offer safe spaces for women and gender diverse people to access the services they need with care and compassion.

RESILIENCY: Sistering is agile and capable of responding to create positive impact for the community.





Sistering services are available to cis women and gender diverse people. We acknowledge that gender identity and expression is fluid. Sistering works to create a safer space and welcomes self-identified people of diverse trans identities into our communities.

GENDER INCLUSION



WOMEN & GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLE

ARE MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE:



VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ABUSE

Domestic violence is the immediate cause of homelessness for many women and children (78% according to one 2016 YWCA Canada study).



HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS

Studies show that women account for 36% of the homeless population, however a lack of safe spaces lead to many women experiencing 'hidden homelessness', and they are often not represented in statistics.



POVERTY

According to the Canadian Women's Foundation, 10% of women in Canada live on low incomes. Those who face multiple barriers are at higher risk of poverty, including racialized women, women with disabilities, and single mothers.

OUR PARTICIPANTS MAY HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH:



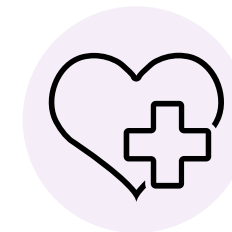
POVERTY



HOMELESSNESS OR
PRECARIOUS HOUSING



PHYSICAL & MENTAL
HEALTH CHALLENGES



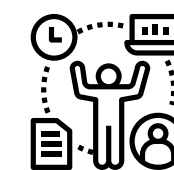
SUBSTANCE USE



IMMIGRATION &
SETTLEMENT ISSUES



DISCRIMINATION,
STIGMA & SOCIAL
ISOLATION



LACK OF RESOURCES



**SISTERING WAS THERE FOR ME,
SUPPORTING ME THROUGH THE
TRAUMA AND LOSSES, HUGGING
ME AND ALLOWING ME TO
GRIEVE AND HEAL.**

KATHY



24/7 DROP IN

The heart of our organization, the low-barrier drop in, is a safe space for women and gender diverse people who need rest, food, one-on-one support, showers, laundry, social connection, and more.

FOOD ACCESS PROGRAM

Sistering provides 380 hot meals daily to women and gender diverse people in the community who are experiencing food insecurity.

MEDICAL CLINIC

In collaboration with Inner City Health Associates, Sistering offers low-barrier transitional primary care, psychiatry, palliative care and population health services.

OUR PROGRAMS



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Spun Studio offers training in knitting, crocheting, weaving, and sewing, but the social enterprise goes beyond that, providing instruction in self-employment and business development skills. This empowers participants to earn a living with confidence and independence.

HARM REDUCTION

Sistering employs a team of Peer workers who have lived experience with drug use to help deliver programs. They also make and distribute harm reduction kits and educational materials, to help participants live safely and with dignity.

RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

In collaboration with academic institutions and community partners, Sistering invests in innovative projects that seek to understand the challenges and advance the rights of Sistering participants.

OUR PROGRAMS



OUR IMPACT

2023-2024 Fiscal Year

SISTERING PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

LOW BARRIER DROP-IN (BLOOR ST + PARKDALE):

- 45,422 Participant Visits
- 11,875 Referrals Made
- 339 Social Programs & Activities

FOOD ACCESS PROGRAM:

- 131,122 Meals Served

MEDICAL CLINIC

- 1,323 Physician Appointments
- 726 Psychiatrist Appointments

HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

- 26,594 Harm Reduction Kits Distributed
- 5,168 Naloxone Kits Provided
- 2,468 Outreach Clients Supported in the Community
- 569 Clients Received Additional Support, ie. Housing, Detox

FOLLOW-UP CASE SUPPORT & COMMUNITY WORK

- 82 Clients Supported Daily in the Community
- 250 Spanish Group Participants
- 130 Arabic Group Participants
- 433 Refugee Group Participants

SISTERING'S WORK FOCUSES ON CREATING A CULTURE THAT IS CONDUCTIVE TO THE SAFETY, EMPOWERMENT, AND HEALING OF ALL PARTICIPANTS.



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TOGETHER, WE CAN CREATE A SAFER AND MORE
EQUITABLE COMMUNITY



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES: AN OVERVIEW



DONATE TO OUR COMMUNITY DROP-IN

A donation to our 24/7 low-barrier drop-in will impact hundreds of women and gender diverse people who rely on Sistering for a safe, warm, and supportive resting place. Your gift will help ensure that every person in our community is valued and cared for.



CONTRIBUTE TO A SISTERING PROGRAM

By backing an established, evidence-based Sistering program, such as our Food Access program or our Harm Reduction Support program, you can feel confident that your donation will foster meaningful, lasting change for its participants.



JOIN OUR QUEST FOR A NEW HOME

As Sistering expands its reach, we urgently need a larger and more accommodating space, with improved facilities and services for the women and gender-diverse individuals we support.



BY SUPPORTING SISTERING...

1. You are aligning yourself with a trusted, local charity that promotes equity and anti-oppression and provides life-changing support to some of the city's most marginalized people.
2. Your customers, clients and employees will value your commitment to social impact, and will be proud to stand behind you.
3. You are enhancing your brand awareness and engaging new audiences, while supporting a well-respected charity with a long history of serving women in Toronto.

Our options for giving are flexible and customizable, as we work in collaboration with our partners to make sure all stakeholders are achieving their goals.

Talk to us about what social impact means to you!





EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Every year, Sistering hosts fundraising events in the community like **Coldest Night of the Year**, **Sistebana** and **Food for Thought** to enhance the profile and raise funds for our organization. Sponsors of these events are prominently featured on-site, as well as in promotional materials, external newsletters, and on social media pre and post event.

Contact us to discuss upcoming opportunities and how you can get involved!



JOIN OUR QUEST FOR A NEW HOME

VARIOUS CONTRIBUTION LEVELS AVAILABLE!

Benefits of Getting Involved Now:

- Potential naming rights in a new space
- Press release and media opportunities
- Plaque to honor major donors in new space
- Social media posts with tagging and links
- Logo on website and promotional materials
- Employee volunteer engagement opportunities



WHY DOES SISTERING URGENTLY NEED A NEW HOME?

Challenges with our current space:

- Capacity is too small for growing community need
- Open-concept restricts our flexibility to separate participants based on support needs
- Building and fixtures in need of repairs
- Little natural light and outdoor space for participants
- Lack of storage for donations and other supplies
- Insufficient program space for groups and social activities
- Lack of private meeting rooms for case management staff and social support team
- Prohibitive annual rental cost

What we need to more effectively serve our community:

- Capacity for 100+ women and gender diverse people
- Multiple areas to offer more privacy or isolation if needed, and to effectively support different populations such as asylum seekers, victims of domestic violence, seniors, etc.
- Storage areas where participants can access the clothing, warm weather accessories and hygiene items they need to survive.
- A commercial kitchen to provide meals for more community members experiencing food insecurity.
- A fully accessible, welcoming and bright space, where people feel hopeful and empowered to carry on.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE



▶ **HOST A FUNDRAISER**
Employees enjoy coming together to raise funds for a cause they care about. Whether it's a bake sale, a dress-down day, or a holiday party, your fundraiser will have a tangible impact on the people we serve.

▶ **GIVE AT CHECKOUT**
For retailers, hosting a shopping event where a portion of the proceeds is donated to Sistering can make a huge impact for Toronto women & gender-diverse people and foster trust and loyalty among your customers.

▶ **DONATION MATCHING PROGRAM**
Matching your employees' donations is an easy and impactful way to give. Your team will appreciate that their donations are making a bigger impact, and it helps enhance morale and employee retention.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



VOLUNTEERING

Groups can get involved in a number of ways, including working in the kitchen, preparing harm reduction or hygiene kits, or sorting donations. We will work with your group to find fun and meaningful volunteer days that work for your company's size, timeline and interest.s



SPUN STUDIO WORKSHOPS

Through our social enterprise, we can offer a fun and creative workshop for your team like candle-making, holiday card-making, and more. Your team will love gathering to learn a new skill, and create one-of-a-kind, handmade items, which can then be sold at our retail store to generate revenue for Sistering.



EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

We are pleased to provide a speaker for your team meeting, conference, executive retreat, or holiday social event, to educate your team about topics like women's homelessness, housing justice and/or food insecurity, and some of the evidence-based solutions and resources available in Toronto.

CONTACT US

SISTERING

We look forward to hearing from you to discuss how we can collaborate to create significant and lasting change.



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LEARN MORE

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