



2023 Annual Report

June 19, 2024

Our Mission is to promote the spiritual, moral and physical well-being of Seafarers and their families world-wide.



Caring for seafarers around the world

MISSION TO SEAFARERS
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Web Site: www.missiontoseafarers.ca
Facebook: www.facebook.com/missiontoseafarerstbay

Snapshot of Services

	2023	2022
Seafarers transported	1,359	971
Seafarer visitors to the Centre	202	200
Ocean-going ships visited/serviced	132	99
Christmas Gift Bags (ships)	226 (12)	232 (12)
Volunteers	26	25

Goals

Direct Ministry

- ⇒ Provide ministry to seafarers and port personnel who request our services.
- ⇒ Visit seafarers aboard ocean-going ships in the Port of Thunder Bay.
- ⇒ Transport seafarers to shopping, the Seafarers' Center and upon request to worship or for a tour of city.
- ⇒ Operate the Seafarers' Centre as a welcoming place where seafarers are provided with an opportunity to connect with volunteers and relax. Seafarers are offered free of charge:
 - ◆ communications facilities to contact their family;
 - ◆ Bibles in various languages; and
 - ◆ warm clothing.
- ⇒ Deliver Christmas Gift Bags to crew on ocean-going ships in December.
- ⇒ Offer an annual Blessing of the Fleet service for local mariners.



Providing Resources to Minister to Seafarers

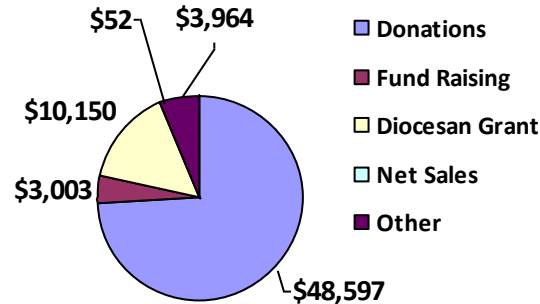
- ⇒ Educate the community about seafarers and enhance the profile of the Mission in the community.
- ⇒ Attract, train and retain volunteers.
- ⇒ Fund raise to operate the local station and provide for capital improvements.
- ⇒ Work with Mission to Seafarers: Canada (MTSC) and the North American Ministry Association (NAMMA) in order to share practises and information so that the Thunder Bay station maintains standards of ministry consistent with other MTS stations.



Treasurer's Report

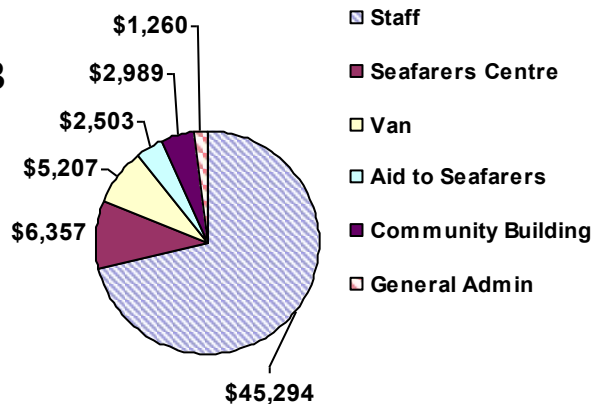
Our Gross Total income was \$65,765.74, which was higher than the previous year due to a generous donation.

Income 2023



Expenses were \$63,610.25, which was higher than the previous year. A Volunteer Appreciation Social was held, which had not been held for several years due to COVID, and because more seafarers were being driven, fuel cost was higher.

Expense 2023



We are looking for a Treasurer. Thank you to Margaret Capon and Jyl Barclay, who as Assistant Treasurers, ensured that the petty cash bookkeeping was done, bills were paid and donation receipts were issued.

We thank you for your past support and pray for your continued support.

The Rev'd Canon Ed Swayze
Chaplain

Board of Directors 2023/2024

Chair	Vice-Chair	Secretary	Treasurer (non-voting)
Pastor Matthew Diegel	vacant	Anne Zuliani	vacant
Directors			
Barbara Brayshaw Fontaine	Janet Pike	Dorothy Playle	David Stephens
Suzy Thornes	Irene Wyrozub	Brad Yeo	Susan Zirnsak-Pike
Non-voting		Ex-officio	
The Reverend Canon Ed Swayze		The Venerable Deborah Kraft	

Chair of the Board Report

What a busy season we had! Thank you to all volunteers, new and continuing, including those transitioning to the combined role of Driver/Watch Keeper. As Chair, I value the members of the Board, committees, Driver/Watch Keepers, ship visitors, and all other 'unseen' helpers. It takes a team to do this ministry, and we have one that is top notch.

Thank you to Canon Ed for your continuing energetic dedication. Thank you also for taking on the role of Treasurer and tackling the Financial Accounts not only for this year but also for years past. The time this took had implications, which you handled with grace, for your hands-on ministry both at the centre and in the parish. Related to this, we add our congratulations to the recognition given you for your service by MTS and the Princess Royal.

I value your prayers and help as we work on stabilizing and growing the Seafarers' Centre's ministry by addressing its physical, financial, and volunteer bases.

I treasure being a part of this expression of faith.

The Rev'd Matthew Diegel
Chair, Board of Directors



Chaplain's Report

In 2023 shore leave returned to normal, and the Mission resumed the previous level of activity. 2023 was our busiest year since 2000, in large part due to shipping potash, which has increased due to the war in Ukraine.

Most ships now have Wi-Fi, which means seafarers no longer need to come to the Seafarers' Centre to use Wi-Fi. In response to this change, we are modifying how we use our volunteers; instead of a team of Watch Keeper and Driver on for a shift, we are moving toward a single Driver/Watch Keeper.

The Volunteer Appreciation Social held at the Prince Arthur on February 29, 2024 was well attended. We have 24 volunteers, of which 14 have been with us for 5 years or more. Their dedication ensures seafarers are cared for.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the work of the Mission in 2023. Thank you for your prayers, your financial support, and your time.

The Rev'd Canon Ed Swayze
Chaplain