

# Together

## Making a Difference



Giving  
Hope  
Today

Christmas 2019

Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potato with cinnamon, turnip, all covered with a drizzling of gravy (notice the absence of brussel sprouts!). There's nothing like a family Christmas feast following a time of gift giving and games. This is often our privileged experience at Christmas time but we are painfully aware that this isn't everyone's experience. We think of some of the women and men who will be in The Salvation Army's shelter at the Centre of Hope this Christmas day. Their experience is vastly different in that they are not in their own home, making their own meal to share with family and friends. We also think of the many individuals who will be using the services of The Salvation Army this season so that they can actually make a Christmas meal for their family or have presents under the tree for their children. Christmas time can be a time of joyful celebration but it can also be a time of struggle, loneliness and sorrow.

For years The Salvation Army has worked together with members of the local community to assist others so that they too can join in the celebration of Christmas or at the least not be alone. As followers of Jesus this is our annual festival to mark the coming of God in human flesh - Jesus moved into the neighborhood to demonstrate God's goodness and generosity. We know He's worth celebrating and are honored to partner with our community to demonstrate God's generosity as the ultimate gift giver.

*Corps Officers / Pastors Ian & Ruth Gillingham*



## 2019 STATS

**Nutritious Meals Served: 126,000 +**

**People assisted through drop in: 5,400**

**Shelter bed nights provided: 9,455**

**Emergency food hampers: 958**

**Kids attend Camp Sunrise: 50**

**School supported through the Pantry34 Program: 21**

**Supported Independent Residents (SIL): 22**

**Visits to on-site Medical Clinic: 2,600**

**# of Volunteers: 122**

**# of Volunteer Hours: 18,732 x \$13.85/  
hour (minimum wage) = \$259,438.**

**YOUR  
DONATIONS  
WILL BLESS MANY  
THIS SEASON**  
please give  
generously

We are so grateful for our generous donors and the support that our funding partners provide to us. Through your help, we have been able to accomplish many wonderful things this past year. Some highlights include: expanded service at our medical clinic, increasing our shelter from 25 to 35 permanent beds, creating a separate area for our female shelter clients, and offering free counselling services to our clients.

The Salvation Army in Abbotsford would also like to thank our amazing volunteers for all of their hard work throughout the year. The volunteers have put in over 18,000 hours of service this year. Their generosity helps support our Meal Centre, Thrift Store, Drop-In program, Shelter, Christmas campaign and Emergency Services.

We are here to help those who find themselves in poverty, hunger, addiction, homelessness, and loneliness! As partners with the Salvation Army, we can make a difference together by restoring hope to the hearts of those who desperately need it. Thank you for your continued support. May God bless you this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

*Ian Pollard - Executive Director*



**THE SALVATION ARMY CENTRE OF HOPE**

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Salvation Army Centre  
of Hope - Abbotsford



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# THE SALVATION ARMY SHELTER FOR WOMEN

## ~ A REFUGE OF HOPE ~

The Emergency Shelter within The Salvation Army's Centre of Hope on Gladys Avenue has undergone a major transformation. This past September, a new space was created to accommodate up to ten women. In addition to being a clean and warm place to sleep, the Women's Shelter residents can access nutritious meals, showers, laundry facilities, medical attention, counselling and referral services, and securely store their belongings. This renovation has enabled the Shelter to increase its overall capacity to thirty-five beds year-round.

*"The women used to be housed in a separate room within the main shelter – six beds for women and nineteen beds for men. By creating this new space we have provided them with more privacy and a greater sense of security and therefore a greater sense of dignity",* Al Breitzkreuz, Program Manager – Outreach, Shelter & Family Services.



### RESTORATION • HOPE FOR THE FUTURE • HEALING

Many of the women we see in the shelter are victims of abuse, sex trafficking and exploitation. We are committed to providing assistance, compassion, and a holistic approach, so they can begin to heal.

A shelter staff member, "Gloria" experienced hardship on the streets with addiction and homelessness. She shares with the women that they are God's beautiful works of art and that they have value. She sees parts of herself in so many of them, and it breaks her heart because she remembers how terribly painful it was to be in their position. Many people showed her kindness along the way - she wasn't always able to accept it - but she never forgot them.

Gloria's wounds are being healed as she takes care of others. The idea of preserving her own dignity was foreign to her. She sees that in a lot of the women at the shelter and she follows the example of those who treated her as though her dignity meant something even though she didn't believe it.

Gloria feels very motherly towards the women in the shelter, no matter what their age. In her addictions she didn't mature at all, and it wasn't until she began to walk with God at the age of 52 that she started to grow up.

Gloria shares "When I wash and fold their laundry, I'm always mindful of a moment in my old life when a nurse handed me a change of clothes after a traumatic experience." The clothes were folded, and something about this motherly touch broke through all the barriers she had up, for just a moment, and she felt somehow comforted. Gloria is now paying that forward when she folds the residents' laundry.

## THE SALVATION ARMY'S - CENTRE OF HOPE MEDICAL CLINIC YIELDS POSITIVE OUTCOMES

The Centre of Hope's Clinic has been in operation for over six years and will have over 2,600 visits in 2019.

Recent additional funding received from Fraser Health will increase the doctor's hours from one to two times per week. Having a Doctor on site for extended hours, along with a full-time Licensed Nurse Practitioner and a part time Nurse Practitioner is key in providing preventative care and support to those vulnerable to illness – particularly as extreme weather approaches.

Fraser Health and the Division involved its research teams to analyze the Clinic's work and found patients who regularly used the Clinic visited the emergency room 36% less, and the number of hospital overnight stays decreased by 30%.

As the homeless population increases, more resources are needed to continue to meet its needs. The clinic welcomes financial support as well as donations of medical supplies and equipment to further improve the services provided to patients. Please contact The Salvation Army Centre of Hope to make a donation.



## Volunteers Needed

*Our Christmas Kettle Campaign is coming soon*

**Are you looking for a rewarding experience this Holiday Season?**

Become a Christmas Kettle volunteer—it's a great way to give back to your community.

- Flexible shifts with no long-term commitment
- Pick your own hours and days
- Stay active, engage with others and meet new people
- Easy, fun and rewarding

**Contact us today for volunteering in Abbotsford/Mission:**

Tel: 604.309.0660  
Email: [kettles@sacascade.ca](mailto:kettles@sacascade.ca)  
Website: [centreofhope.net](http://centreofhope.net)

[salvationarmy.ca/britishcolumbia](http://salvationarmy.ca/britishcolumbia)

1 877 469 4438

[www.centreofhope.net](http://www.centreofhope.net)

Hope • Service • Dignity • Stewardship