

Together Making a Difference



Giving
Hope
Today

Spring/Summer 2021

Hope Springs in the Midst of Tragedy

The Salvation Army knows there is hope for the February 14th survivors of the Delair Court fire. How so?

New Life Church, Zion Chinese Church, members of the public, students and teachers, local businesses including Costco, have generously donated thousands of dollars in support of the residents in both buildings. Residents returned to Building A on March 5th. The residents of Building B, where the fire occurred, have found housing, waiting to return when the building is rebuilt.

We are grateful to everyone in Abbotsford and surrounding communities who stepped up to show their practical care for the displaced individuals, families and their pets.

It is a privilege to be entrusted with these donations and properly steward them into their hands so they can rebuild their lives and settle into new homes.

The Salvation Army is committed to coming alongside those residents feeling the extra financial "pinch" of this displacement by walking with them in a Pathway of Hope - a new ministry initiative launched in January 2021.



Ian Gillingham
Captain - The Salvation Army

Introducing Carolyn Pollard

Carolyn started as our Community Ministries Coordinator in late October. As part of this new role based out of the Cascade Community Church, she coordinates the annual Christmas Kettle Campaign, and has recently launched the Pathway of Hope initiative which provides intensive care to individuals and families who have a desire to change their life trajectory. Carolyn looks forward to furthering community engagement through an integrated mission approach in partnership with the Centre of Hope, the Cascade Community Church congregation, and the communities of Abbotsford and Mission to help others achieve stability and improve their quality of life.



SIL SUCCESSES

The Salvation Army's Supportive Independent Living (SIL) program, at the Centre of Hope in Abbotsford, has been designed to provide safe, affordable, secure housing for men. Residents accepted into the program are part of community living. They come from all spectrums of society and want to move forward and make significant changes in their life. They may be homeless or at risk of homelessness; completing an addictions recovery program; needing support due to emotional or mental health issues; struggling with interpersonal or societal issues;



integrating into society after incarceration; unemployment or unemployable and wanting to learn new skills.

In 2020 there were many successes in the SIL program. 6 residents found housing, 4 completed the 12 step program and 2 were successful in securing student loans to further their education. Amadiel and Tyrone have just been hired at the Centre of Hope as on call casual shelter workers. Congratulations to them both.



For information contact Rick Cunningham,
SIL Program Supervisor 604.852.9305 Ext. 131

FUN IN THE PARK 2021

Fun in the Park 2021, hosted by The Salvation Army will be taking place in Delair Park from July 12th to August 27th.

Participants will enjoy seven weeks of fun as we provide a drop-in afternoon summer camp program for neighborhood children.



We will be offering games, crafts, and a variety of leisure activities to contribute to the wellness of children and families.

This community activity is offered at no cost to remove barriers and to allow all families to have the opportunity to participate.

For more information on **Fun in the Park**, please contact Carolyn at Cascade Community Church - 604.309.0660.

THE SALVATION ARMY CENTRE OF HOPE

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER!



The Salvation Army, Abbotsford Fire and Rescue Service, Emergency Social Services (ESS), Animal Rescue, businesses and residents of Abbotsford and surrounding communities went into rescue, recovery, compassion and care

mode following the February 14th, 2021 fire at the Delair Court apartments. The fire broke out at 1:30am and within a couple of hours Emergency Social Services and The Salvation Army had set up a rescue operation centre at neighbouring Cascade Community Church.

"It was a privilege to offer prompt and convenient respite for the residents in various stages of sleepy shock in the middle of the night. We were grateful for several Cascade Court residents who jumped into action as volunteers to assist with refreshments and other needs. Both Ron Hull & Craig Leighton (Abbotsford Assistant Fire Chiefs) personally expressed their gratitude to The Salvation Army for being so accessible and able to provide good emergency reception service", says Captain Ian Gillingham, Cascade Community Church.

"The Abbotsford Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) team did a great job responding quickly and effectively to the Delair fire. They provided food and emotional and spiritual care to over two hundred evacuated residents and almost one hundred first responders", stated Ian Pollard, Divisional Director of Emergency Disaster Services.

The outpouring of support started immediately. Within forty eight hours - twenty five Go Fund Me pages had been created by residents of Abbotsford and surrounding communities, an invaluable resource - Help for Delair Court Facebook page was up and running and the phone calls started coming into The Salvation Army's Centre of Hope asking for information on how to help. Donations of clothing and household items began to flood into the Thrift Store.

New Life Church opened their hearts and facility and became a Market place for all of the community donations. The Market place remained open for one week for residents to shop and

choose from thousands of items to help them re-build.

New Life also boxed and stored the items for those who had yet to find a new home, or were waiting to return to their homes.

Cascade Church was transformed into a recovery centre and ESS staff and volunteers were on site to meet with all of the residents, assess their needs and make arrangements for a wide variety of urgent needs, food, accommodations, special medical equipment, etc.

The Salvation Army quickly put a plan into place that included: EDS volunteers provided snacks plus hot and cold beverages for everyone in the recovery centre. They also provided meals to ESS staff and volunteers as they remained on site through the first week.

Each resident of both buildings were given \$100 vouchers they could redeem at The Salvation Army's Thrift Store.

Food was purchased for three hundred hampers that were delivered to residents in Building A when they were allowed to return to their homes on March 5th. Food hampers, a set of frying pans and a \$500 gift card, to help with future needs, were provided to each unit in Building B.

Thank you to over one hundred financial donors whose generosity made it possible to provide for everyone, and to those who continue to donate after the printing of this newsletter. Thank you to this community and beyond who donated thousands of items for the Market Place.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO... Abbotsford Fire Fighters Charitable Association, Aldergrove Credit Union, Ashleigh Elizabeth, Canadian Red Cross, Cascade Court volunteers, Christian Disaster Relief, Costco, Crystal Vision & Better Hearing Centre, Good Community Korean Church, Home Depot, Hong Dynasty Restaurant, J's Pizza, Julia's Hair Salon, Kelson Group, McDonalds-Sid & Daphne Johnson, MCC, New Life Christian Reformed Church, Paw Street Market, Ray's No Frills, Subway-Whatcom Road, William A. Fraser Elementary School, Yale Secondary School and Zion Christian Reformed Church.

"Our community is known as one of the most generous communities in Canada - a reality we're reminded of in times of emergency and tragedy. I would like to thank the members of our community and our local non-profits, such as The Salvation Army, who came together and went above and beyond to support those who were affected by this fire."

Mayor Henry Braun



PATHWAY of HOPE

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

www.centreofhope.net

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