

# Together

Making a Difference



Giving  
Hope  
Today

Christmas 2020

## Where were you and what were you doing 35 years ago?

Take a minute to look back and remember (I'm assuming you're over the age of 35). I was just entering UBC and starting off the exploration of adulthood. A lot happens in the span of 35 years. For those of us who are older we can reminisce over the years, recounting accomplishments, trials, hopes, joys, sorrows, friendships, employment, family, world events...



Well, it's The Salvation Army's 35th anniversary of being in the community of Abbotsford. Over the years it has been our mission to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs, and be a transforming influence in the lives of individuals and the community. We seek to serve, support, and practically care for our community

through the Cascade Community Church, the Thrift Store, the Men's and Women's shelter, our daily feeding program, the medical clinic, the outreach team, our Family Services, the Men's supportive living unit, our program for seniors, the back to school program for kids, Summer Camp for children, the Pantry34 nutritious snack program in thirty Abbotsford schools, our festive dinners at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas and our Christmas support of meals and toys for families. For 35 years we have been a part of the fabric of the community of Abbotsford serving and caring for others.

We are grateful for all the people that have partnered with us in our mission over these 35 years. We could not do what we do without an army of volunteers and dedicated staff. Year after year we have been blessed by the generosity of the community giving to our Red Kettle Campaign, donating a variety of other needed resources, and supporting us so that we can continue to invest meaningfully in the lives of others. Even during the pandemic we continue to serve and you continue to support.

This Christmas we will be hosting our traditional services of a festive Christmas meal, toys, and Christmas hampers in a COVID safe way. The kettles will continue to be out as a reminder that there are still people in need in our community and we still need your partnership to care for them. 35 years strong!

~ Ian Gillingham-Corps Officer / Pastor

## 35 Years of Hope



YOUR DONATIONS  
WILL BLESS MANY  
THIS SEASON  
please give  
generously

## THE SALVATION ARMY CENTRE OF HOPE

34081 Gladys Avenue, Abbotsford, BC V2S 2E8 • 604 852 9305

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



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# Christmas presents came early to The Salvation Army - Centre of Hope in Abbotsford this year.



As challenging as COVID-19 has been, it also brought many opportunities to the Centre of Hope. In April, through a grant received from Agriculture Canada, we partnered with Abbotsford School District to provide over 900 hampers to families in need.

We partnered again in August and provided an additional 300 hampers during the Abbotsford School District's Back to School Event. In September we received another round of funding from Agriculture Canada and continued to assist in feeding local families.

Our community grocer partners bless us every day with amazing donations of food so we always have plenty to share with local shelters in Abbotsford and Mission. Due to limited freezer and fridge space it has been challenging to store the food as the volume of donations changes. We were fortunate to receive grant money from The Rogers Foundation to purchase additional fridges and a new walk in freezer.

Through FoodBanks BC's emergency funding, we were able to stock the Emergency Family Services Pantry at the Centre of Hope from April to August.

Since the start of COVID-19 we have seen fewer families coming to the Centre of Hope for assistance. Noticing this, our Outreach Team took to the streets of Abbotsford to offer food hampers to those in need. These weekly Outreach visits were sponsored by Emergency Community Support Funding via the Abbotsford Community Foundation.

Partway through the summer we noticed that the Outreach van was just not large enough and getting older. Once again, we were blessed with funds from The Rogers Foundation Canada and purchased a new Outreach vehicle with over three times the holding capacity.

The Salvation Army Centre of Hope would like to send out a big thank you to all of our volunteers, many even through COVID-19, who have put in countless hours to make sure everything ran smoothly. From gracious donations to the Thrift Store and the many community partners and funding organizations that helped with our food services we cannot say enough.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Rob Studiman - Community Ministries Director

## 2020 STATS

Emergency food hampers: **796**

Kids attended Fun Day in the Park Summer Camp - July & August: **219**

Meals served: **92,600**

Medical clinic visits/virtual doctor visits: **1,896**

Community members assisted by Outreach team: **3,564**

People found housing, through Outreach and Shelter: **82**

Referrals to detox, recovery, transition, etc. : **360**

Shelter bed nights: **9,625**

Residents registered in the Supportive Independent Living Program: **13**

Pantry34 nutritious snack program: **30 schools and over 2,450 students by June 2021**

Volunteers: **115 volunteers gave 9,000 hours**  
**\$103,500** is the amount we would have had to pay if we did not have the dedication and commitment from our amazing volunteers

Individuals who received Pastoral Care and Spiritual & Emotional Support: **1,850+**



## 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:**

Kettle Hotline: 604.309.0660-Carolyn, Coordinator

Email: [cascade.kettles@salvationarmy.ca](mailto:cascade.kettles@salvationarmy.ca)

COVID protocols at all kettle locations



# *My Journey so far ..... by Jason A.*



**I have hope today because of them.**  
***Sober 398 days on October 18th, 2020***

I come from a broken home and I grew up in an estranged family. I grew up watching and listening to my mother being a victim of domestic violence. She protected my sisters and me as best she could and took the brunt of the violence. We grew up poor, constantly moving, on the run, hiding in women's shelters.

I grew up without close friends, and my family and I drifted apart. I left school early to enter the work force and put everything into my work trying, to change the lifestyle I grew up in. I did not do drugs, or drink often, choosing work instead of socializing into my 30's.

I got married and had a daughter. I changed my career for better benefits for my new family but that change came with shift work. Because of my constantly rotating schedule, I wasn't involved with my family and I started to drink in order to sleep during my off hours. My marriage was falling apart because of money issues, my shift work and my alcohol use. My divorce came soon after.

After my separation, my alcoholism took off. I withdrew and quit my job. I was in and out of homelessness for five years. Several attempts to build my life came and went. I walked away from everything time as I battled depression and alcoholism. I felt alone.

As a homeless person I visited The Salvation Army - Centre of Hope for a hot meal and occasionally a bed in extreme weather. I often cleaned up in the mornings in gas station bathrooms and I remember being startled to see my reflection in the mirror - it was yellow. I knew I was killing myself slowly and soon after that came a suicide attempt. It was rock bottom for me when that failed as well. I needed to change. I had tried to quit drinking on my own many times, but I never could get it to stick.

On my next visit to the Centre of Hope, Darshan reached out to me, but instead of talking about me, he told me about himself. He was different, his story was a lot like mine and his honesty was incredible and humble. He told me about his recovery, how The Salvation Army was helping him in the Supportive Independent Living program (SIL) and about AA in his life.

Shortly after that I asked an outreach work for help. I was crying and without hesitation I was given a bed in the shelter. I told them I wanted to get sober and they introduced me to AA. I also met other SIL residents and as they shared their stories it gave me hope. Thirty days later I was invited into the SIL program. It was the first time I felt welcome anywhere in a long time. Being homeless made me feel like a burden and an outcast even though it was my choices that put me there.

I have been in the SIL program for just over a year and in that time, with their help and support, I have joined AA and maintained my sobriety. I have come to understand and build a relationship with my higher power. I have been in coun-selling for both addictions and depression. I am employed full time and I am rebuilding my life that I had written off as lost.

I am so thankful for that first time Darshan talked to me. It saved my life -he saved my life. He was there because the SIL program helped him. I am grateful today for The Salvation Army's Outreach and SIL programs, for being there to help and support me because without them I would still be lost in depression and addiction. **I have hope today because of them.**



**PATHWAY** of **HOPE**





Giving Hope Today



# Abbotsford Salvation Army

2020

## Hamper of Hope

During the upcoming holiday season, The Salvation Army - Abbotsford will once again come alongside vulnerable individuals offering hope and providing practical, compassionate support. We invite you, your business, organization, co-workers, friends and family to join us in Giving Hope Today and transforming lives by donating to the 2020 Hamper of Hope Campaign. Each hamper is filled with nutritious staples and holiday meal items.

**FULL HAMPER:** \$50 each **HALF HAMPER:** \$25 each

Please contact Kim Hissink, Fundraising Coordinator at 604.852.9305 Ext. 138  
or [kimberly.hissink@salvationarmy.ca](mailto:kimberly.hissink@salvationarmy.ca)

## The Salvation Army's - Emergency Disaster Services - Feeding the province during COVID

From January to September 2020 - The Salvation Army has been using its Emergency Disaster Crisis Response units to feed people right across the province. At the peak of COVID -19 we had 11 Community Response Units (CRUs) feeding. Currently, there are 7 serving in October. Some Ministry units used the Crisis Response Units in place of their kitchens and some used them to increase capacity. To date 199,609 meals and 164,094 drinks and snacks

have been served to first responders, volunteers and members of communities who were displaced due to crisis events.



Giving Hope Today

### 13th Annual Abbotsford Santa Shuffle

Fun Run & Elf Walk

**5K Fun Run & 1K Elf Walk!**

**Dec 5th – 12th, 2020 / Virtual Event!**

**JOIN US VIRTUALLY!**  
Every year, Santa Shuffle brings passionate individuals from across the country to support vulnerable Canadians and the work of The Salvation Army. We are excited to announce that Santa Shuffle will be going **virtual** this year to bring everyone together for a meaningful fun run/walk.  
This year's Santa Shuffle will be a week-long event full of fun surprises and cool prizes! Please continue to check our Facebook page for more updates about this year's event. We thank you for all your continued support and look forward to connecting with all our Santa Shufflers this year! [www.facebook.com/abbotsfordsantashuffle/](https://www.facebook.com/abbotsfordsantashuffle/) **REGISTER TODAY!**

**Drive-thru Medal Pick-up Event Sat. Dec. 12th – 10am-1pm**  
Cascade Community Church, 35190 Delair Road  
Marie Lashley, Race Director 604.308.1135

Register online at  
**SantaShuffle.ca**

Stay up to date  
@SantaShuffle

RunningRoom.ca

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SalvationArmy.ca

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

Hope • Service • Dignity • Stewardship