

Together

Making a Difference



Giving
Hope
Today

Christmas 2021

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Once again, we are launching into the Christmas season as we dust off the kettles, make plans for a festive community meal, and organize our Christmas toy and food distribution. When I think back over the last year I am filled with gratitude for the community of Abbotsford and the incredible way you have supported The Salvation Army so that we could assist those in need throughout this year. You exceeded our expectations, especially as we were all navigating the shifting landscape of COVID-19. Well, here we are a year later still learning to live with COVID, caring for those in need, and in need of your ongoing partnership.



This morning I was confronted with the stark visual reminder of one group facing hardship in our community as I was driving to work along Gladys. Before my eyes were some of the men and women who live without a home, a place of safety and refuge, and who lack many basic resources of life. The tents provide us with a distinct marker pointing to humanity's need and offers us an ongoing call to respond. To be our brother's and sister's keeper. To care and to demonstrate compassion by sharing our resources to alleviate the suffering of others. In this way we bear the image of God - the One who ultimately seeks to keep, serve, and protect the beauty and integrity of his creation.

Thank you for joining us in the sacred work of keeping others through your generous giving and partnership. May the LORD bless and keep you, may his face shine upon you and give you his shalom (fullness of life - inner rest, completeness, wholeness).

by Major Ruth Gillingham, Corps Office / Pastor

EMERGENCY DISASTER SERVICES - REACHING THOSE IN NEED IN 2021

The summer of 2021 in British Columbia saw the hottest temperatures ever recorded in Canada. Sadly, these unprecedented hot and dry conditions fueled widespread wildfire destruction.

Following a week of temperatures soaring to 49.6° C in Lytton, a devastating fire began on June 30, 2021. Tragically, the whole village was engulfed in flames. The fire spread quickly causing a dire situation. The entire population evacuated immediately including several First Nation communities.

The Salvation Army was quickly deployed to provide food and hydration as well as emotional and spiritual care to evacuees and first responders in 100 Mile House. The arena was used as a staging site for firefighters responding from across the province.

As fires continued to grow in number and size, a Provincial State of Emergency was declared. EDS was deployed to many areas of need across the province. At the peak, there were over 300 wildfires burning, 30 being fires of note. At the height of the wildfires, almost 10,000 homes were ordered to evacuate and over 25,000 people were put on evacuation alert.

Ian Pollard, the Divisional Director of Emergency Disaster Services, shared "By the end of the wildfire season, The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services had served over 10,000 meals, over 16,000 drinks and almost 10,000 snacks. We offered Emotional and Spiritual Care to evacuees and first responders". From July to November 2021, our staff and volunteers also provided weekly food deliveries to several First Nation communities surrounding Lytton. People in those areas lost the amenities of Lytton, and many also experienced loss of employment. Our Family Services continue to be available to those in need at locations throughout the province.



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



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of Hope - Abbotsford



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The GATHERING MARKIT

Dignity. Choice. Convenience

gathering
markit



The Salvation Army has partnered with GATHERING MARKIT offering an affordable local market specializing in fresh healthy foods and ready-made meal kits.

The vision for the GATHERING MARKIT was born out of founder and Executive Director Hieke Morton's personal experience of struggling to put food on the table for 4 young children and not qualifying for income assistance. She relied on support from close family members and Salvation Army emergency food hampers to meet her children's needs. In 2013 Hieke was introduced to a not for profit grocery store and loved the concept of selling surplus food at affordable prices. She saw value in providing families and individuals in need the dignity to choose and purchase the food items they needed and required.

Through time spent on various boards, 5 years of volunteering, leading event planning and financially partnering with various organizations, Hieke was ready to take the leap of faith and open GATHERING MARKIT to service the community. Hosting the MARKIT in Cascade Community Church will offer amazing outreach opportunities and open volunteer opportunities to those having a passion for making a positive difference in the lives of others through practical service. Single parents, struggling seniors, vulnerable families and individuals will benefit from having access to affordable healthy food in a beautiful welcoming environment. Together we will give hope, meet human needs and transform lives.



**For information on how you can support the GATHERING MARKIT
please contact Hieke Morton 604.768.9552 or
info@gatheringmarkit.com or visit www.gatheringmarkit.com**



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Grand Prize Winner: Kathy Burton
"A Pastoral Trail", Discovery Trail, Abbotsford, BC

We are so excited to offer our limited edition **2022 Community Fundraising Calendar** showcasing the communities of Abbotsford & Mission beautifully captured by 21 talented photographers. A perfect Christmas gift for customer and staff appreciation, family and friends, or just to hang in your office. Your purchase will assist us to continue to provide services to those in our communities who experience challenges with the basic necessities of everyday life.

CALENDARS ARE NOW ON SALE FOR \$15 each

Cascade Community Church * 35190 Delair Road

Centre of Hope * 34081 Gladys Avenue

Zone Garage Fraser Valley * 2319 Clearbrook Road

Questions - please contact Kim Hissink, Fundraising Coordinator
604.852.9305 ext. 138 or kimberly.hissink@salvationarmy.ca

Join Our Army of Givers



Giving
Hope
Today



Are you looking for seasonal employment or rewarding volunteer work?
Christmas Kettles are coming to your community.

Become a kettle host - it's a great way to give back to your community.

- Flexible shifts
- Pick your schedule
- Diverse opportunities
- Easy, fun and rewarding

for Abbotsford-Mission Kettles please contact Carolyn today at
cascade.kettles@salvationarmy.ca or the Kettle Hotline 604.309.0660

ADULT DAY PROGRAM

Wednesdays from 10am-1:30pm
The Salvation Army Cascade Community Church
35190 Delair Rd, Abbotsford, BC V3G 2E2

Programs such as the Adult Day Program surround seniors with a community of support services, reduce pressure on family members or care givers, and ultimately reduce pressure on our hospitals; the most expensive part of our health care system.

The Adult Day Program, hosted by nursing staff and volunteers at Cascade Community Church, provides a safe and comfortable atmosphere for disabled, chronically ill, and/or isolated 50+ adults and seniors who may be lacking support systems in their lives. The participants are surrounded by a 'community of support' in terms of their physical, social, medical and mental health needs – increasing the ability for them to continue to lead healthy and independent lives in their homes.

They share life experiences, make new friends, and practice skills that promote independence and confidence. They enjoy social activities, exercise groups, crafts, nutrition, educational sessions and some health and wellness monitoring. Meals are provided at no cost - donations are welcome. The program not only benefits the participants themselves but provides a much needed break for caregivers. Loved ones and family members are always encouraged to participate in educational sessions and support groups.

PROGRAM GOALS:

To enhance quality of life, increase social interaction, maintain or improve optimal functional level, health and wellness and to provide a safe, secure and therapeutic environment

TESTIMONIAL from a Family Member:

"I am very happy that The Salvation Army offers a Senior Dare Care Program. My mother does not get out very much and this is an outing she enjoys very much. Thank God for the Handi-Dart system that gets people out to events like this."

For information on the registration process
please contact Angela McClelland at The Centre of Hope at 604-852-9305 Ext. 197.
COVID safety protocols are in place and will be provided.



THE NEXT STEP PROGRAM – CHRIS' STORY

Chris was born in East Vancouver to alcohol and drug addicted parents. He was adopted by his grandmother when he was two weeks old, Chris remembers her as a caring woman who went to church and did not drink or smoke.

Chris stayed in school until Grade 6 when he began to get into trouble and spent years in and out of Willingdon Youth Detention Centre in Burnaby, The Salvation Army's House of Concord in Langley, and a variety of group homes.

Chris began to drink and take drugs at age 12, which continued into his 50's. He shared a memory of meeting his mother when he was 11, she gave him some "Kool-Aid" (red wine) to drink. He never saw her again, and reflects this was for the best. He moved to Abbotsford in his late teens.

In 1986 he joined the Union of Painters and Allied Trades working in heavy duty demolition. In his addiction his health declined; he experienced two small strokes and could no longer work. Years of heroin, cocaine, smoking and alcohol took a toll on his body. He now suffers from emphysema and other health concerns that prevent him from doing hard labour, but he enjoys working and finds projects to get involved with as often as he can.

In 2019, after 45 years of alcohol and drug use, Chris decided he was sick and tired of being sick and tired. He did not want to die; he did not want to be another statistic. Chris connected with Michelle and Fred at The Salvation Army's Centre of Hope who encouraged him to check into Kinghaven Treatment Centre. After the 70 day program he moved into the Centre of Hope in February of 2020

Chris volunteers at the Centre of Hope in food sorting and distribution, sorting in the Thrift Store and at MCC's warehouse.

December 12th, 2021 will mark Chris's 2 year anniversary of being clean and sober. He appreciates the staff at the Centre of Hope and how they relate to him and each other, and feels they create a good and positive environment. He finds comfort in reading his Bible daily and is working on being comfortable sharing in a group setting.

Chris has made many friends at the Centre of Hope and he hopes to continue to volunteer and grow those relationships once he is living on his own. The Salvation Army are his family, he now has a better understanding of life and is thankful every day.





Giving Hope Today



The Salvation Army

Abbotsford / Mission

2021 Hampers of Hope

During the upcoming holiday season, The Salvation Army will once again come alongside vulnerable individuals and families 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 2021 Hampers of Hope Campaign. Each hamper is filled with nutritious staples. We are also providing Walmart Gift Cards to assist families in stretching their holiday budgets.

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

GIFT CARD DENOMINATIONS: \$25, \$50, \$100 & \$125

Please contact Kim Hissink, Fundraising Coordinator at 604.852.9305 Local #138
or kimberly.hissink@salvationarmy.ca

BLESSED & GRATEFUL – A YEAR IN REVIEW

On the heels of 2020 - 2021 brought its own set of COVID-19 challenges. Our amazing team's outstanding efforts have made it possible to maintain a clean, safe and COVID free environment for all staff, shelter guests and community members who rely on our services.



This year we rolled out *The Next Step* program for the Independent Living residents at the Centre of Hope. Several men have experienced a life changing year, graduating

from this new and innovative walk together through recovery, finding employment and securing housing. We look forward to enriching the program further as COVID restrictions lift in 2022.

We were so humbled to have been the recipient of the 2020/2021 Community Matters Award from Abbotsford School District. The Community Matters Award is presented once per year as a way to formally recognize community partners who have exceeded their community service mandate and have made a significant, deliberate contribution to Abbotsford School District students. We are very grateful for this ongoing partnership.

Agriculture Canada generously provided another round of funding allowing us to continue supporting Abbotsford School District by purchasing food for their Fuel Up and other inner city school meal programs, surpassing the number of families and students impacted in 2020.

Abbotsford Community Foundation provided Smart & Caring Community Grants for both the Summer Camp at Home program and the Back to School Event. Over 100 campers enjoyed 8 weeks of activities including sports, games, arts and crafts, stories, and weekly day trips. 180 Abbotsford-and for the first time 20 Mission K-12 students received a brand new backpack filled with much needed school supplies and VIP haircuts. Each family was provided with a bag of fresh apples, a Walmart gift card to help with budgeting and some sweet treats.

As always, our faithful volunteers helped whenever and wherever they were needed. From meal prep to service in the kitchen, from sorting food for distribution or clothing in the Thrift Store, they never cease to amaze me. A huge thank you to all the staff and volunteers that step up to be servants and give so much to make a difference in our community. Wishing you all a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Rob Studiman- Community Ministries Director

www.centreofhope.net

Hope • Service • Dignity • Stewardship