

Together

Making a Difference



Giving
Hope
Today

Christmas 2022

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Celebration... What do you have to celebrate and what does it look like when you do engage in celebration?

We have many reasons to celebrate in life – the birth of a child, another year of life, a good report from the doctor, getting a driver's license, the long-awaited vacation, a beautiful sunrise, meaningful time with loved ones, _____ (you fill in the blank). Life is filled with small and large moments that present us with the opportunity to pause, acknowledge, and celebrate.

I appreciate that the calendar is filled with specific dates that we observe and celebrate together. Christmas is such a time of rich celebration in our community as we celebrate God's great gift to humanity, the gift of his one and only Son, Jesus.

Once again, we are launching into the Christmas season as we dust off the kettles, make plans for a festive community meal, relaunch the Santa Shuffle, 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 I celebrate the incredible ways you have supported The Salvation Army so that we could assist those in need throughout this year.

Your partnership helps to rekindle and renew the fires of celebration that have been dimmed in many lives due to adversity and great suffering. Thank you for joining us in the sacred work of caring for others through your generous giving. May your Christmas celebration be filled with joy and the presence of God's life-giving Son.

by Major Ruth Gillingham, Corps Office / Pastor



Feeding our first responders



Merle - graduate of Pathway of Hope program



Youth for Christ volunteers



Columbia Bible College - Service Fair



Cindy & Lopez - Outreach & Shelter

**YOUR DONATIONS WILL
BLESS MANY THIS SEASON**

please give generously

THE SALVATION ARMY CENTRE OF HOPE

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www.centreofhope.net



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Salvation Army Centre
of Hope - Abbotsford



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The Salvation Army - Abbotsford Mission - 1st Annual HOPE IN THE VALLEY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, November 29th * 11:30am - 1:30pm

Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre, Abbotsford

Thank you to the generosity of
our sponsors to date

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mr. Joe Roberts "From Skidrow to CEO"



Before

After

HOST / MC

Mr. Bob Singleton



PERFORMANCES BY

Gospel Brass Band & Mountain Elementary Choir



TICKETS \$80 EACH | TABLES OF 8 \$600

**www.eventbrite.ca
or 604.852.9305**

Join us in-person for this year's Santa Shuffle Fun Run & Elf Walk



15th Annual Abbotsford Santa Shuffle

Saturday, December 10th, 2022

10am - Rotary Stadium, Abbotsford

REGISTER TODAY - www.santashuffle.ca



Giving Hope Today

Warm up with Mary!



Santa will be joining us!

**Hot lunch by Chef Reg
Centre of Hope!**

**Questions? Contact Marie Lashley-Race Director
604.308.1135 or marielashley76@gmail.com**

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Photography by Davina



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Clearbrook Coffee Company



Join Our Army of Givers



**GIVE
FOOD
CARE
HOPE**

**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**



A Year of Blessings

Where has the year gone? The blessings kept rolling in this year with additional Agriculture Canada Grants that allowed us to continue our feeding program with School District 34. A special thank-you to Ray Brown, owner of No Frills for always getting our orders in on time so we can deliver healthy and fun food to all of the participating schools.

Through an amazing partnership with the Rotary Clubs of Abbotsford, we are exploring ways to add additional schools to our Pantry34 Program that currently provides over 2,500 students in 30 schools with healthy, nutritious snacks. The Kiwanis Club of Clearbrook members deliver the snacks to the schools weekly. It really does take a village!



In July and August we sent 53 kids to Camp Sunrise in Gibsons, BC and ran our third year of Camp at Home here in Abbotsford. With summer coming to an end, we were quickly focusing on our Back to School program. Thanks to an amazing Smart & Caring Community Grant from the Abbotsford Community Foundation, we built over 300 backpacks, 100 more than last year, for students K-12 in Abbotsford and Mission. We also contributed 250 food hampers to the School District's Backpack Day in August.

With COVID restrictions easing, we are starting to return to more of a normal environment at the Centre of Hope. Thanksgiving was an outdoor sit-down meal in our courtyard for 150 people, they shared with us what they were grateful for, which was very heartwarming. We are excited to be hosting our Christmas Community Luncheon at The Salvation Army's Cascade Community Church for 250 people on December 16th.

This year we are also hosting the 1st Annual Hope in the Valley Christmas Luncheon at the Clarion Hotel with Bob Singleton as our host and special keynote speaker Mr. Joe Roberts.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. A huge thanks to all the staff at the Centre of Hope that bring "HOPE" every day to all that are in need in our community. We are truly blessed!

Rob Studiman, Community Ministries Director



THE NEXT STEP PROGRAM - EUGENE'S STORY

Eugene was born on the west side of Vancouver. He lived in a nice neighbourhood and had a great childhood. His mother was a homemaker and his father worked.

By the time he was a teenager he began to drink and smoke pot as a way to be accepted by his peers. He never felt pressured, but was always looking for ways to fit in.

When he was age 15 his mom was diagnosed with lung cancer. While his mom was ill, Eugene went deeper into his addiction and regularly stole her pain meds. She went into remission for a year and a half, but the cancer returned and she passed when Eugene was 17.

After her death, the family fell apart; his father was unable to cope, so there was no support for Eugene and his sister. His father remarried within a few weeks and within one year Eugene was kicked out of the house. Eugene remained estranged from his father and when he passed away a few years ago, he felt regret that there were so many unresolved questions for himself and his sister. He wishes now that he had reached out to his father and tried to mend the relationship.

Eugene worked several jobs over the years mainly a labourer in construction. He self-medicated to "have fun" because he did not want to face the responsibility of getting older. He had been in recovery many times over the years, but never really took it seriously. He eventually became a solitary user and began isolating.

In 2020 he met a girl who was also in addiction. They made a pact to get clean and move in together. Eugene went into a detox treatment centre in Maple Ridge, she was to follow, but never did. He had to make the very difficult and painful decision to cut her out of his life. He felt the likelihood of relapsing was just too great of a risk to take.

Eugene completed the treatment and eventually came to reside at The Salvation Army's Centre of Hope in Abbotsford. He was doing well initially, but had a slip. He was sent downstairs to live in the shelter for 30 days. This was devastating and motivated him to get back into treatment - to get back into the program upstairs and not repeat the mistakes he had made. He returned to treatment at Into Action in Surrey in December of 2021, returning to the Centre of Hope a couple of months later. In February of 2023 he will celebrate one year clean and sober.

He is thankful to The Salvation Army for giving him a second chance. He feels safe here and is now equipped with more knowledge on how to move forward. He holds fast to his spiritual principles. He appreciates the accountability that is required of him. He appreciates the mentorship of Rick, the program manager and the friendships he has made with the other residents. "If you are serious about your recovery and your future, give The Salvation Army a call", shares Eugene.

For the future Eugene is focused on continuing his journey of transformation by finding a place to live and enrolling in the Purpose Project, a government funded certification program offered at Kinghaven Treatment Centre with the ultimate goal of job placement in high demand sectors.



2022 Hampers of Hope

During the upcoming holiday season, The Salvation Army will continue to 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 supporting the 2022 Hampers of Hope Campaign.

PROVIDE A CHRISTMAS MEAL TODAY **HAMPERS - \$75 each**
AND HELP US NOURISH OUR NEIGHBOURS (all donations of any amount are greatly appreciated)

Please contact Kim Hissink, Fundraising Coordinator | 604.852.9305 Ext. 138 or kimberly.hissink@salvationarmy.ca

2022 MOMENTS



Donation of care packages



Cascade golf tournament



Canada Day parade



Back to School



Camp Sunrise 2022

www.centreofhope.net

Hope • Service • Dignity • Stewardship