

Together

Making a Difference



Giving
Hope
Today

Spring/Summer 2023

Hope Renewed

A message from Major Ian Gillingham

Having lived in 3 provinces and one territory, I appreciate the diversity of people, land, climates, languages and cultures of Canada. We live in a vast and blessed country. It is filled with richness of many varieties. Our Creator is amazing! Oh, that all could enjoy it and him!

For the past two years the caption on this post has included the word HOPE. That thread continues. "Hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?" (Romans 8:24 NIV)

When I see buds form on trees and bushes, I don't forget that only a few months ago, those same buds that became leaves, died. For discouraged souls in our community, sometimes hope dies. Challenges upon challenges foisted upon those already in a fragile state. Families and grocery bills, single parents, struggling addicts, stability and housing and emotional depletion.

Seasons come and seasons go. Summer and Winter. Then Spring arrives, always bringing renewal.

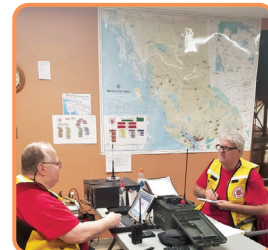
We can count on it. The God of hope continues to inspire The Salvation Army so we can be a bridge to those who lack it. We continue to provide some of the basic necessities of life. We offer love and hope through action and words where hope has died or become dormant. We thank you so much for your ongoing financial partnership and support of our work in this community. This is renewal.



COASTAL RESPONSE EMERGENCY EXERCISE

Article by Ian Pollard, Divisional Director - Emergency Disaster Services for The Salvation Army

Recently The Salvation Army's BC Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) team had the opportunity to practice responding to a large-scale emergency. The exercise called, "Coastal Response 23" ran from February 7-9, 2023 and was based on a large earthquake in the Lower Mainland. The exercise was organized by both the provincial and federal governments and included police and fire departments as well as other emergency agencies.



As part of this response scenario, The Salvation Army activated its Emergency Operations Centre in Abbotsford as it would during a major emergency. The Emergency Operations Centre follows the Incident Command System. Some of the positions that make up the Incident Command team include Operations, Logistics, Planning, Emotional and Spiritual Care and Liaison. Team members practiced coordinating Salvation Army emergency resources from across the province and from other parts of the country to support government response efforts.

Today, The Salvation Army's EDS has grown into an international network involving thousands of trained personnel worldwide, including many volunteers. Salvation Army EDS personnel respond to incidents of various sizes and scopes. In following with its holistic ministry, The Salvation Army provides supports that meet the immediate, as well as long-term, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of disaster survivors and responders.

The frequency and impact of hazards is on the rise worldwide. Earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, forest fires, tornadoes, ice storms and severe rainstorms are happening more often than ever before. The Red Shield continues to be

a symbol of hope and compassion by offering immediate aid, and psychosocial and spiritual support to individuals and families whose lives have been disrupted or shattered by forces beyond their control.



2022 Centre of Hope Stats

Community members assisted by Outreach team: **2,350**

Emergency food hampers: **472**

People secured housing via outreach and shelter teams: **47**

Referrals to detox, recovery and second stage housing : **54**

Shelter bed nights provided: **11,460**

Nutritious meals served at Centre of Hope: **79,281**

Pantry34 nutritious snack program: **2,450 students in 27 schools received healthy snacks**

Visits to the on-site Medical clinic: **1,690**

Virtual appointments: **288**

Residents housed in the Next Steps Program: **19**

Residents graduated from 12 Step and Pathway of Hope programs: **12 grads from 12 Step, 19 grads from POH**

Volunteer hours: **8,096 hours, \$126,702.40 is the value of the service using \$15.65 per hour**

Number of individuals assisted through the Chaplaincy program: **1,132**

Kids attended Fun Day in the Park Summer Camp: **54**

Kids attended Camp Sunrise: **53**

YOUR DONATIONS
WILL BLESS MANY
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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PARTNERSHIP WITH A PURPOSE

We LOVE our partnership with The Salvation Army! It has been just over one year since Cascade Community Church opened its doors to partner with the Gathering Markit. During that time we have partnered on several events that include the customers of the Gathering Markit.

Every month Cascade hosts a Just Show Up and Messy Church event, many of the Gathering Markit customers attend these events that are always free, family friendly, fun and filled with food!

Through the Markit we provide access to affordable healthy food and meal kits to roughly 75 families each week.

We have sold 2400 meal kits which equals just under 10,000 homemade meals. Even more exciting is the relationships we are building with these families. Many come to the Markit to pick up groceries but also to visit with us and have become dear friends. If you are looking for a dose of encouragement stop by the Markit on a busy Thursday morning. There are plenty of babies to hold, groceries to be carted out to cars and new friends to be made.

We are thankful for everything from the beautiful space we call the Markit to the kitchen we use to build the kits. But most of all we are thankful for the amazing people that we work with every day at Cascade.



SPRING MARKET BAKE SALE & GARAGE SALE



SATURDAY, MAY 6th, 2023
10AM-2PM

Cascade Community Church, 35190 Delair Road, Abbotsford
604.556.7000 www.cascadechurch.ca

Vendors * Brunch Buffet * Bake Sale
*** Garage Sale ***Buffet by Donation**

Supporting 2023 Partners in Mission
in Kenya & Papua New Guinea



GREG TAYLOR - AN UPDATE TO HIS AMAZING STORY OF TRANSFORMATION

I didn't come from a bad home. I had good parents and a loving family, and I finished high school. It was there, however, that I started using drugs and alcohol that almost cost me everything.

A welder by trade, good pay and too much free time was a recipe for addiction, and crack cocaine took hold. I didn't do anything with my life except take drugs and go to work.

The union put me through rehab once, but after relapsing two years later, I lost my job and home. Then, as my mother passed away from cancer, I sat in prison, instead of being with her.

On the streets and escaping into alcohol, a fall down a river bank followed a particularly bad binge. If it wasn't for the walkway at the bottom, I might have drowned. That was like a metaphor for my life. The next day I went to the Salvation Army shelter staff and said, "Can you get me into a treatment program?"

My journey through Abbotsford's Kinghaven program worked ... for a time. But as I collected bottles to earn a little money, the temptation of alcohol returned. Asked to leave the transitional residence, I lived under the Peardonville overpass for 18 months, but after a few months of heavy drinking, I returned to The Salvation Army Centre of Hope. I realized that trying on my own didn't work, so this time I asked God for help and went through the 12-step program.

I had also discovered the Centre of Hope's Supportive Independent Living program, designed to provide safe, affordable, secure housing for men in recovery from alcohol and substances as they transition to independent living.

"While not always easy, working with people struggling with addiction, mental health issues and homelessness is so rewarding", shares Michelle Veeneman, former program director. "The best part of my job was celebrating milestones with residents of our SIL Program. I have celebrated with residents who have been clean and sober for a year, two years, three years - what an accomplishment!" she says. "It was an absolute pleasure to rejoice with the individual and their family and friends. Over and over, I heard clients say, "if he can do it, so can I!"

I have been sober for almost seven years and I am now a full time employee at the Centre of Hope. I continue to volunteer doing kettles at Christmas, and at Cascade Community Church.

I recognize the power of asking for help. As men, we drive around and around until we run out of gas, rather than asking for directions, but if we ask, they have no problem providing help.

2022 update:

I am so grateful to The Salvation Army and the Kinghaven staff. GOD IS SO GOOD. I look at what has happened to me as nothing short of a miracle. I have been in my own apartment now for 4 years, got my driver's license back, I am taking better care of my health, I have new dentures and had recent cataract surgery. I have never been healthier or happier ever in my life. GOD IS SO GOOD.



Greg receiving the 'Hero for Hope Award', November 2022

www.centreofhope.net

Hope • Service • Dignity • Stewardship