

Together

Making a Difference



Giving
Hope
Today

Christmas 2023

Message from Major Ruth Gillingham

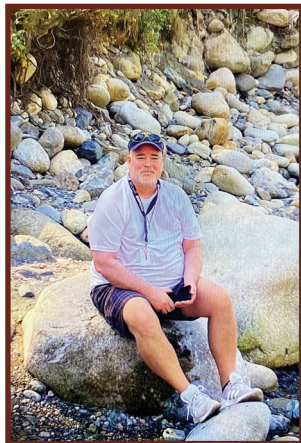
The season of giving is coming quickly once again. I am always amazed each Christmas season at the generosity of peoples of all ages, ethnicities, and faith. Some stop by the Red Kettle in the mall, at the grocery store, or at the liquor store to offer coins, bills, or use their bank card to make generous donations. Others pop into the Centre of Hope or Cascade Community Church bringing cheques, toys, socks, or other gifts to give to those in our community who are in need. This season of giving brings me hope as I witness generous people in action.

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 communities of Abbotsford and Mission and the incredible way you have supported The Salvation Army through your giving so that we could assist those in need throughout this year.



Together we assist hundreds of people in our community so that they can have a special meal to celebrate Christmas, have toys for their children under the Christmas tree, have a safe place to sleep, enjoy a hot meal, receive medical attention at our health clinic, receive a nutritious snack at school, go to camp, or have someone to be present in a time of crisis. We could not provide this kind of care without your generosity.

As I contemplate the generosity of people in Abbotsford and Mission, I am reminded that this reflects the generosity of God, the ultimate giver. It is this gift and giver that we celebrate at Christmas. The gift of Jesus, God's one and only Son who offers us all the gift of abundant life. Merry Christmas and may you know this abundant life in the days to come!



RANDY'S JOURNEY

My Journey with The Salvation Army's Centre of Hope began on October 2nd 2022. I was living in a hotel and was drinking my life away and had run out of money. I was done with living and did not want to continue on. I prayed at night for God to save my life once again. I was very lost.

Then one morning my friend and I decided to reach out to The Salvation Army as he was very familiar with the Centre of Hope. The next day we were told to meet with Rick Cunningham, the Next Step Program Supervisor. I was not sure what to expect, but I knew I had to go and meet him and see if he would consider me as a client. After I met with Rick I was in tears and when he said they were willing to bring me in that day I felt that maybe there is some hope here.

My journey has been a gradual process every day since. I listen to what was required of me to be successful in the program. I attended all meetings within The Salvation Army and outside meetings almost daily, and then slowly, I started volunteering in the kitchen. After a few months I started chairing the inhouse AA meetings.

The staff are amazing people, they have treated me with the utmost respect, they made me feel like a human being and that I meant something. Rick has always been there when I needed to talk or ask for advice.

I am so grateful for the kitchen staff, the front office team. Chris Kendall, Chaplain and Al Breitzkreuz, Program Manager. They have guided me through my Spiritual Journey. I have been here for a year I am now ready to move forward with my next journey. I am so very grateful for these men and woman that are in my life today and will continue to be, as I will continue to be at service when needed.

**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



Like us at The
Salvation Army Centre
of Hope - Abbotsford



Follow us
@abbysallyann



Follow us
@salvationarmyabbotsford

2023 Hampers of Hope

During the upcoming holiday season, The Salvation Army will once again come alongside vulnerable individuals offering hope and providing practical, compassionate support. We invite you to join us in Giving Hope Today and transforming lives by supporting the 2023 Hampers of Hope Campaign.

**PROVIDE A CHRISTMAS MEAL TODAY
AND HELP US NOURISH OUR
NEIGHBOURS**

HAMPERS - \$75 each

(donations of any amount are greatly appreciated)

Please contact Kim Hissink, Fundraising Coordinator

604.852.9305 Ext. 138 or kimberly.hissink@salvationarmy.ca

Join us for this family & pet
friendly * fun event!

Santa Shuffle Fun Run & Elf Walk



16th Annual Abbotsford Santa Shuffle

Saturday, December 2nd, 2023

10am - Mill Lake Park, 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

Thank you to our 2023 SPONSORS

Presenting Sponsor



Photography by Davina



Coffee Station Sponsor

Clearbrook Coffee Company



Giving
Hope
Today

The Salvation Army - Abbotsford-Mission
Red Kettle Christmas Campaign

TAKE OVER CHALLENGE 2023!



December 1st to 23rd

(daily except Sundays)

- Pick a date and a kettle location (several locations to choose from)
- Fill as many of that days' shifts as possible!
- Ring a bell for a great cause!
- Wear your corporate or team colours!
- Challenge others!
- Check Facebook daily to see which kettle raised the most money-was it yours?

\$155,000

We need your support to reach our goal

The Salvation Army comes alongside vulnerable individuals and families offering hope and providing practical, compassionate support. We invite you, your team, business, organization, co-workers, friends and family to join us in Giving Hope Today and transforming lives by participating in the **2023 Take Over Challenge**.



To sign up today - scan the QR Code

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Kim Hissink, Fundraising Coordinator
604.852.9305 Ext. 138

kimberly.hissink@salvationarmy.ca

www.centreofhope.net

CASCADE COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

by Carolyn Pollard, Community Ministries Coordinator



At The Salvation Army's Cascade Community Church, one of the top missional objectives is to be a vibrant gathering place and neighbourhood hub, a centre of holistic care by offering programs and services grounded in the eight dimensions of wellness: emotional, environmental, financial, intellectual, occupational, physical, social and spiritual.

As I reflect on 2023, there are a number of highlights to share. Through our partnership with The Gathering Markit, we're addressing food insecurity in our community by providing space to offer a low cost grocery store specializing in affordable meal kits. Beyond the shopping experience, we're extending opportunities for connection and engagement through our monthly Just Show Up drop-in and Messy Church programs. These free programs invite others to gather for brunch and participate in fun and engaging activities in a

relaxed environment. We're also offering a free weekly Play Café program for parents/caregivers and preschool children.

With the support and generosity of numerous community donors, we sent 48 children aged 7-12 years to The Salvation Army Camp Sunrise's Holiday Camp and 5 teen girls to Brave Camp on the Sunshine Coast connecting with a total of 53 children, youth and their families this season. These weeklong camp programs provide youth fun and safe opportunities during the summer school break, and enable them to discover new interests, develop new skills, improve self-awareness, and nurture independence. They connect kids to nature and each other, develop confidence and resiliency, and build character.

A new initiative was our Chill Zone program. This was a free all-ages drop-in program offered twice a week through July and August. In addition to providing a cooling centre with beverages and refreshments during the hot weather, we were able to hire a Community Ministries Worker through the Canada Summer Student Grant program who led activities and games.

Through all these community outreach endeavours, we have supported the personal journeys of many who are struggling in our community: those facing divorce and custody issues, grief, financial hardship, sickness, unemployment, homelessness, tragedy, displacement, isolation, addiction, and abuse. With the financial resources we received and the kind support and assistance of our amazing volunteers, we're able to offer much needed encouragement, practical help and hope through Jesus Christ.

A Season of "Hope" at Salvation Army Centre in Abbotsford

Dear friends and supporters,

As we approach the festive season, we reflect on the remarkable journey we've undertaken at the Salvation Army Centre of Hope in Abbotsford. Our dedicated staff have been the backbone of our efforts, showcasing unwavering commitment and compassion in the face of challenges.

This year, our community grappled with a surge in overdoses, highlighting the pressing need for support and intervention. Our Next Step Program, with the use of the Pathway of Hope initiative, has emerged as a beacon of success. Through collaboration with Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), individuals have found hope and healing, taking significant strides on their journey to recovery.

During our triumphs, we faced adversity in our Christmas kettle donation drive for 2022. Extreme winter weather posed challenges, but our community rallied together, demonstrating resilience and generosity. Your support remains crucial, especially during these trying times.

We are thrilled to announce the 2nd Annual Hope in the Valley Luncheon will take place early Spring of 2024. This event promises to be a celebration of community spirit, unity, and the "HOPE" that can be achieved through collective effort. Save the date, as we look forward to coming together for a cause that truly matters.

In recognition of our commitment to excellence, we are delighted to share that we have recently achieved accreditation. This accomplishment is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our incredible staff. Their tireless efforts continue to astound us, making a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

As we approach Christmas, we extend our heartfelt wishes for a blessed and joyous Christmas season. May the spirit of hope and kindness prevail in your hearts, as we anticipate a new year filled with promise and possibility.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we are building a community of HOPE.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Hope filled New Year.

Rob Studiman, Community Ministries Director | Salvation Army Centre of Hope, Abbotsford





2023 Salvation Army - Abbotsford/Mission Calendar of Events - November & December

Giving Hope Today



SCAN ME

Kettle Volunteers Needed December 1st to 23rd!

Scan the QR Code to sign up today or call 604.309.0660.
Your gift of time enables us to provide vital services
and programs.



EVENT	NOVEMBER	TIME	LOCATION
Winter Jubilee <i>Visit our EDS vehicle for some delicious hot chocolate</i>	Saturday, November 18th	4 - 8pm	Historic Downtown Abbotsford
Angel Tree Families	Registration by phone begins on November 14th 604.556.7000	9am-4pm	Cascade Community Church
Teddy Bear Toss <i>Teddies go to our Angel Tree Families</i>	Friday, November 24th	6:30 - 10pm	MSA Arena
Christmas Market & Bake Sale <i>Buffet served 10am-12pm</i>	Saturday, November 25th	10am - 3pm	Cascade Community Church

EVENT	DECEMBER	TIME	LOCATION
Angel Tree Table <i>take a tag, purchase a gift for a child this Christmas</i>	December 1st to 18th (daily except Sundays)	10am-6pm	Sevenshops Shopping Centre
Kettles launch in Abbotsford & Mission	December 1st to 23rd (daily except Sundays)	10am-6pm	locations throughout Abbotsford & Mission
16th Annual Abbotsford Santa Shuffle	Saturday, December 2nd	10am - 12pm	Mill Lake Park Bevan Ave. Entrance
Tow Truck Toy Drive <i>toy donations will benefit our Angel Tree Families</i>	Saturday, December 9th	1 - 4pm	Aggressive Tow Yard
Community Christmas Luncheon	Friday, December 15th	11am - 2pm	Cascade Community Church
Candlelight Luncheon	Friday, December 22nd	11am-12pm	Centre of Hope
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sunday, December 24th	5:30pm	Cascade Community Church



Every child deserves to experience the joy of Christmas morning.
Because of your generosity - hundreds of local children and youth
will find a gift waiting under the tree this season!

2023 ANGEL TREE

Sevenshops Shopping Centre by The Garage

December 1st - 18th
(daily except Sundays)



TAKE A TAG * BUY A GIFT
Make a child's Christmas joyful!
return the unwrapped gift to the Angel Tree

Please contact Ruth Gillingham if you have any questions:
604.855.5859 or ruth.gillingham@salvationarmy.ca

www.centreofhope.net

Hope • Service • Dignity • Stewardship