

Together

Making a Difference



Giving
Hope
Today

Christmas 2025

Your Compassion Transforms Lives, *a message from Ruth Gillingham*

As the air grows crisp and leaves begin to fall, we enter a season rich in tradition—Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the many gatherings that bring warmth, food, and the joy of family. In Abbotsford, this time of year often means tables full of good things, homes aglow with laughter, and hearts filled with gratitude.

But not far from these celebrations, there are others whose experience of the season is very different.

For many in our community, fall and winter bring cold nights, empty stomachs, and painful reminders of isolation. Some are struggling with mental health, addiction, or broken relationships. Others are without stable housing, facing poverty, or living day-to-day without the basic resources most of us take for granted.

At The Salvation Army, we believe that no one should be left outside the circle of care and compassion, especially in a season meant to reflect God's love and generosity. And thanks to your continued support, we are able to reach out in the name of Jesus to those who need it most.

Because of your partnership, we are providing warm meals, safe places to sleep, emotional and spiritual support, and practical help for people in crisis. Every meal or food hamper given, every coat supplied, every kind word spoken is an expression of Christ's love in action.

As we celebrate the season of giving, we thank you for joining us in this mission. Your generosity allows us to minister to the whole person—body, mind, and spirit—and to remind those we serve that they are not forgotten, and never alone.

Together, we are not just meeting needs—we are extending the hope, peace, and joy that come from knowing Jesus.

CHANGING LIVES - YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION

As we enter the Fall and Winter season, I am reminded once again of the incredible generosity and compassion that makes our work at The Salvation Army Centre of Hope in Abbotsford and Mission possible. Every day, lives are being touched and transformed here, meals are shared, warm beds are provided, and hope is restored—all because of the faithful support of our community.

This past year, we have seen firsthand how critical your kindness is. From offering emergency shelter to providing long-term supports through our Next Step program, we continue to walk alongside individuals and families facing some of life's hardest challenges. Together, we are not only meeting immediate needs but also helping people take steps toward brighter, more stable futures.



As Christmas approaches, the need in our community is greater than ever. For many, the holidays can be especially difficult, but your generosity ensures no one must walk this journey alone. On behalf of our staff, volunteers, and most importantly, those we serve, I want to extend my deepest thanks. Your continued support allows us to bring light, hope, and love into the lives of so many.

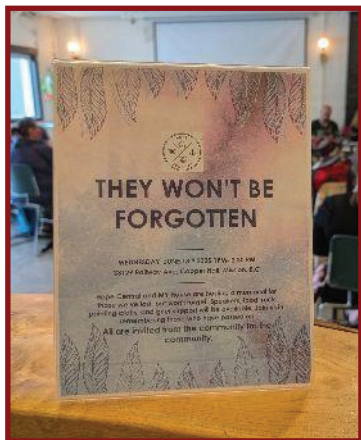
With gratitude,
Rob Studiman - Director, Centre of Hope Abbotsford

**YOUR DONATIONS WILL
BLESS MANY THIS SEASON**
please give generously



A Spotlight on Hope Central & New Heights Church

an outreach partnership with The Salvation Army's - Centre of Hope Meal Centre



In Mission, BC, Hope Central stands as a beacon of hope for those facing food insecurity and social isolation. Operating from Copper Hall in the Houghen Block, this grassroots ministry of New Heights Church has built something remarkable – a community where dignity, warmth, and nourishment come together.

Every week, Hope Central opens its doors to serve free breakfasts and dinners to anyone who needs them. Their regular dinner service runs Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings and breakfasts on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Meals are served by an incredible network of volunteers from local Rotary clubs, churches, schools, and community organizations. From Sunrise Rotary to All Saints Anglican Church, MEI to the Catholic Women's League, teams of five or more volunteers work together to prepare and serve meals with genuine care. *They partner with The Salvation Army - Abbotsford/Mission who provide ready to serve meals for each dinner service.*

But Hope Central is more than just food service. They've recognized a profound need within their community – when loved ones amongst the Hope Central guests pass away, which happens far too frequently, they struggle deeply with mourning and loss. In response, Hope Central has created a yearly memorial event to provide a safe and comforting space where people can process their grief together and remember friends who are gone. This compassionate initiative reflects their understanding that healing involves more than physical nourishment.

Hope Central has created a Services Hub that occurs during and following the Wednesday morning breakfast. Guests can meet with various service providers, while they eat or rest, and get crucial paperwork and other work done.

With growing demand stretching their resources, Hope Central relies on donations, grants, and volunteers to continue their vital work. They're proof that when a community comes together, hope isn't just possible – it's transformative.

Ministry Spotlight: The Next Step Program at The Centre of Hope

Our Second-Stage Housing Program is currently working through the Gospel of John in conjunction with the Celebrate Recovery curriculum. Program Manager Al Breitkruz and Chaplain Ross Hailes work with our 12 program participants on recovery principles, learning how to read the Bible, and how to work through life's many hurts, hangups and destructive habits.

Residents do group work, individual sessions, volunteer alongside the team at the Centre of Hope, learn life and employment skills, and commit to live alongside one another in community as they maintain their sobriety.

Residents attend Tuesday chapel services in our Shelter Common Room, and a group have even begun attending church together on a weekly basis.

We're excited to see their continued growth and development, and ask you to join us in praying for these participants and the program as a whole!

**** This program is largely funded by your generous donations, alongside a minimal commitment by each resident. We receive no government funding to provide this service, and so we invite you to partner with us in bringing hope to these men, and the families they represent, by committing to a monthly gift to support this vital work. Give us a call, an email, or visit centreofhope.net/donate to give today.***

Spotlight on THE ANGEL TREE



ABOUT THE ANGEL TREE

NOV 28TH-DEC 15TH

The Angel Tree is a Christmastime initiative by The Salvation Army in Abbotsford and Mission to provide Christmas gifts and a bit of extra support to families in need across our community. In 2025, we've committed to 120 families, and we need your help to make this Christmas magical for each of them! Stop by the Angel Tree in Sevenoaks Shopping Centre the first two weeks of December, say hello to our friendly volunteers, and then take a tag, buy a gift, and make a kids Christmas this year! We'll do the rest!

A NOTE FROM ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We're so grateful to be part of the Angel Tree program in Abbotsford with The Salvation Army this year. The Angel Tree is such a beautiful way to share love and joy with children and families in our community during the holidays.

For us at Woodlawn, it's about more than collecting gifts - it's about reminding people they're not alone, that their community cares, and that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference. Being part of the Angel Tree is one way we can give back and help brighten Christmas for local families, and we're truly honored to share in that spirit of giving.

- Joanna, Woodlawn Funeral Home



CALL OR EMAIL US AT 604-309-0660 OR DAN.COMRIE@SALVATIONARMY.CA TO GET INVOLVED





This Christmas,
VOLUNTEER WITH US!
RING A BELL, CHANGE A LIFE. SIGN UP TODAY!

NOV. 28TH - DEC. 24TH, 2025

- Ring a bell for a great cause! **Make a difference locally.**
- Represent** by wearing team or corporate attire.
- Gain **Volunteer Hours** for school, university applications, and your resume!

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO REACH OUR INCREASED 2025 GOAL OF \$175,000.

The Salvation Army serves **vulnerable people** in **Abbotsford & Mission**, offering hope and providing practical, compassionate support. We invite you, your team, business, organization, co-workers, church community, friends and family to join us in transforming lives by participating in the **2025 Red Kettle Christmas Campaign** in support of the services provided by your local Salvation Army

DAN.COMRIE@SALVATIONARMY.CA | 604.309.0660 | centreofhope.net

18TH ANNUAL ABBOTSFORD 5K RACE & 1K ELF WALK

The SANTA SHUFFLE

Presented by:  Dec. 6th | 10AM Race | Mill Lake Park

This year's 18th Annual Abbotsford Santa Shuffle is **in support of the 36-bed shelter at our local Salvation Army** on Gladys Avenue, which provides **unhoused men and women** in our community with a **bed out of the cold, hot meals, advocate support, medical care, and the resources they need to break the cycle of homelessness.**

We invite you, your family, your dogs, and your friends to join us on Saturday, December 6th at Mill Lake Park (Bevan Entrance) as we all:

"SHUFFLE for SHELTER"

SIGN UP TODAY to run/raise money at santashuffle.ca or scan here 

All funds raised stay right here in the Fraser Valley to keep our neighbours out of the cold.

MORE DETAILS AT SANTASHUFFLE.CA OR 604-309-0660

 **Saturday, Dec. 6 Race at 10AM**  **Mill Lake Park Bevan Entrance** 



25th Annual TEDDY BEAR TOSS!




Angel Tree

FRIDAY, NOV. 21st
MSA ARENA
GAME TIME - 7:30PM

in support of:
The Salvation Army
Abbotsford/Mission
Angel Tree Families

music by Cascade Christmas Brass

urgently needed in the shelter this winter

 **TOQUES**
 **GLOVES/ MITTENS**
 **WINTER BOOTS**
 **BLANKETS**
 **JACKETS/ COATS**
 **SOCKS**



COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Our sincere thanks to these long-term community partners. Your ongoing partnership and commitment to our work makes a world of difference in our community!

J'S PIZZA IMMEL **UNITEX**

