

CHRISTMAS 2016



# LIFE at the Mission



'AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN A POUND OF CURE' ...

## EXCITING NEW VISION!

From our experience in helping hundreds of adults who come to us broken and often addicted one factor is clear; an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.

Dr. John Gray who leads the Residential Recovery program states "So much adult brokenness originates from tough childhoods and each generation passes on their brokenness to the next."

Helping the many broken and addicted adults with our Residential Recovery program is important but takes up to a year of residence and therapy. Intervening with healthy family supports earlier, can change the outcome for children at risk.

On a trip down to visit our friends at Lighthouse Mission

in Bellingham we initiated a discussion as to developing a 'Family Centre'.

For the last two years we have hosted a 6 pm 'FAMILY FEAST' (typically serving over 1000 meals/month). This past November we commenced a KIDS CLUB; it rapidly grew. Leaders saw striking needs in the kids (see 'KIDS CLUB' overleaf).

A house behind the Mission was purchased in 2013. Last year the adjoining one came on the market and was also purchased. Consequently we have seen an increase in need and saw a vision for a FAMILY CENTRE. "I am excited at the potential impact this can have on families at risk, along with the homeless in our community", said Bill Raddatz - Executive Director.

## THE FAMILY CENTRE

Situated on the two lots behind the main Mission building, the new FAMILY CENTRE will total 56,000 sq ft and contain 36 apartment units on 6 stories. The units will all be low income rentals for at risk and homeless families. (Illustration: architects plan)



For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

From all of us at the Mission - we would like to wish you a very blessed Christmas

GIVE A GIFT

TO GIVE

## KID'S CLUB... insights gained

In this 'Christmas' Newsletter we have focused more on Children & families. Christmas Day will see us give dozens of kids of all ages generous gift hampers and a lavish Christmas dinner. Every week we seek to input into our families and kids.

November of last year saw the start of a one hour weekly club run by the students from Summit Pacific College for ages 5-13. After their term with us finished Karen & Jeff Hoeppner took it over. They focused on teaching the kids Bible stories and having craft time. On some weeks there were only a few kids, however it quickly grew.



Karen Hoeppner

"Kids started inviting friends and very soon we were accommodating up to 15 kids and simply outgrew our facilities," Karen said. "Also the large age range needed breaking into smaller groups, so we briefly suspended the Club and looked for solutions."

We were very excited when the Broadway MB Church (a 5 min drive from the Mission) was willing to allow us to merge in with them Thursday evenings. As a Mission we have also grown in our understanding of the kids that come from 'less fortunate' homes. "I'm struck by the fact that a lot of our kids do not have simple opportunities many of us take for granted... a visit to a beach, a car ride, water slides, Brownies, Scouts... A basic lack of transportation, finances or energy can defeat the best intentions of parents," said Karen

Many of the kids also express lots of interest in living skills. They love learning to bake cookies! Kids show great excitement as they look forward to KIDS CLUB through the week!"

**"I'm struck by the fact that the kids do not have simple opportunities many of us take for granted..."**



**Love In Motion** team captain Neil Froc presents Bill Raddatz with a cheque for \$47,000. Love in Motion completed a sponsored bicycle/motor cycle ride sponsored by The Christian and Missionary Alliance. Riders came from Chilliwack, Lower Mainland, Alberta And Toronto. These funds were used to purchase the 'Wear-house' building pictured behind, and our (much needed) new van.

## CHRISTMAS NEEDS

**HAMPERS:** Every year we work hard to make Christmas a celebration and provide generous hampers. We need items for them. Please consider donating:

- Toiletries • Scarves & gloves • Men's socks & hoodies
- Children's toys (all ages) • Coats (men & women)

Drop them at the mission any time 24/7

**VOLUNTEERS:** We need servers for our 2 pm & 5 pm Turkey dinners. Live musical accompaniment and gift hampers for everyone add to this special day!

Please call Cheryl at 604-795-2322 if you can help.

(young people over 16 if accompanied by parents can come)



**Chad** (34) is a Resident of the Mission. He grew up locally in an abusive single parent home. At age 8 he moved in with his dad. "At around Grade 7 I started doing LSD then 'mushrooms' in my late teens, mostly on my own. I left high school and after a brief try at college just picked up labouring jobs." Chad became a 'functioning drug addict', and has 3 kids 12, 5 and 9 years old. Two years ago he discovered Crystal Meth. "It was cheap and easy to get. I started on it when I was 32 and then went right down hill. I could be sleepless for a week," he said. His girl friend kicked him out and he was homeless. Chad describes hitting 'bottom'. He applied to the Mission, and has been in the program for 8 months. "I had no faith background," he said. "The Mission is my first exposure to Christianity, it's completely new. Now I've got so many questions!"

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