

streethope

VICTORIA BC

CONNECT

As a volunteer, sometimes it is easy to see the needs of the Street Hope folks before you really see them as a person. When I am caught up in my service to others, instead of seeing the relationship as mutual, it can result in a skewed perspective.

Thankfully, this is corrected by the longevity of some of the relationships we have with folks at Street Hope, where our exchanges can be deep and real. And sometimes it takes being reminded of one's own vulnerability and humanity to acknowledge that we all struggle, that we need each other for support and encouragement, and that each of us is dependent on Christ's goodness and care.

Early in the year my husband Tim, who is also a volunteer at Street Hope, had a minor stroke. As a healthy and active, middle-aged man, it was a complete surprise and a bit of a shock. As Tim recovered at home one Tuesday, I went out to the RV without him. One of our long time Street Hope friends, Ron, met me on the street outside the RV. He had heard about Tim's stroke and expressed his concern with thoughtful and meaningful words and with a big hug. Ron has experienced, and is experiencing, some medical issues of his own right now – and I think this has given him particular insight into how vulnerable a person can feel when their health, or the health of a family member, takes a sudden turn.



Tim, Ron and Michelle.

INSPIRE

Ever since that night, I have had a new appreciation for Ron, and for the support and care I receive from him on Tuesday nights. Openness about our own concerns can be an asset in caring for others, giving them the opportunity and dignity to express care to us. There is also something special about acknowledgement of our mutual dependency on Christ and his grace and mercy to all of us.

-Michelle, Street Hope Volunteer



Friends and volunteers of Street Hope Victoria, in the RV.

For more info visit: www.streethope.ca

Operations Update

In September 2016, we began serving our street people from a newly renovated RV. We now can seat twelve (which is two more than the old RV). We also have a new soup/drinks counter and a sandwich counter. Individual volunteers work from each space providing personal contact, food/drink and conversation (which may include prayer, as needed).

HOW WE OPERATE:

Every Tuesday and Thursday, six 2-liter thermoses provide hot water for hot chocolate; two 5-gallon containers provide cold water to support our "juice bar"; and six metal insulated 3-liter containers carry soup. If there is need, additional soup may be carried in our older containers.

WHO WE SERVE:

Approximately sixty to ninety people were served each Tuesday and Thursday evening in the fall. We gave our volunteers a break and did not serve for two weeks over Christmas. From January through April, we saw fifty to eighty people nightly. Since April, closer to ninety to one hundred are served regularly - which stretches us but is good. We use sixteen loaves of bread, two and one half containers of (900gms) Cheese Whiz, one 2-k peanut butter, one 1-k strawberry jam, and three to four jars (725gm) of nuttella. We fill in the gaps with home humus, bananas on Tuesdays and Cheddar cheese on Thursdays. Each person receives a Dad's cookie package.



SOME RECENT CHALLENGES

City changes like new bike lanes, construction and car parking affect where we can park - so connecting stretches both us and our friends whom we serve.

-Barbara Stoeckel, Street Hope Volunteer

Financial Update



Friends of Street Hope Victoria, in front of the RV.

Street Hope Victoria is currently running a large deficit. Our donations this fiscal year (since October 2016) are pretty much on budget, but our expenses are significantly higher than usual at this point in the year. Some of this is due to some unusual one-time expenses to set up the new RV.

We have applied for some grants offered by local organizations to make up some of this deficit. Please pray with us that God will provide as He has done faithfully in the past.

Balance at May 30, 2017	-\$5,917
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Give

Your support is vital to keep our ministry going.

You can make a donation by:

1. Mailing a cheque, payable to "Threshold Ministries", with Street Hope Victoria in the memo line.

2. Online, by visiting,

www.thresholdministries.ca/donate. You can make a one time donation or sign up for pre-authorized giving.

Volunteer Profile



Street Hope Volunteer, Anthony.

Want an update on the real estate market in Victoria, or a cup of cheesy potato soup and a side of hot chocolate? Then come on over to the Street Hope RV on a Tuesday evening and meet Anthony, one of our “new” volunteers who has been with us for around two years. Anthony has the incredible capacity to serve the steady stream of visitors to the Street Hope RV a cup of soup (from three soup options) and/or hot chocolate, keep up a conversation, maintain a smile, and tease or joke with someone else without missing a beat. He is gifted with a great sense of humour and a positive spirit, which goes a long way in maintaining a happy and light atmosphere in the RV on Tuesday nights. We are thankful for him!

Anthony started to help when Eric, another driver, was not able to cover the Tuesday evening shift. Anthony picks up the RV and drives it downtown, and spends the evening interacting with folks who come into the RV. He appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the community and to help others, spending the evening in conversation.

Trust

Trust yourself,
Is the key to the start of the meaning of life.
Without trust,
There is no real life, which happiness is made of.
Trust is,
The road where love builds the bridge,
Of relationships with your fellow men.
Trust is,
Where peace of mind reached its destination,
Into the heart of ourselves.
Trust is,
The map of our confidence in life.
Trust is,
What leads us to self- knowledge.

-Normand, Street Hope Visitor

Join Us

Interested in volunteering? We would be happy to have you join us, whether it would be on an ongoing basis or as an auxiliary volunteer when needed. Contact Rob Hosie for details (robhosie@gmail.com).

Street Hope is a project of:



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A vibrant and loving Christian fellowship where the most desperate and desolate can

“belong, believe and become”

while also having essential practical needs met.

Be a part of making a difference in Victoria: www.streethope.ca