**Notes for announcement for Care and Share mini-campaign.**

*(The following is a suggestion for a verbal announcement at your announcement time at worship on one of the Sundays of Advent. Feel free to put this into your own words. There is some further resource information on the following page)*

As you may know, care and share has been part of the ministry of this diocese since 2011. Care and Share is a means for us to join together to support some of the ministries created by the people and parishes of this Diocese. To date care and share has supported eleven different ministries from a variety of parishes.

The 2020-21 Care and Share recipient is the Urban Aboriginal Ministry (UAM). UAM reaches out to First Nations people from across Canada who are here in Vancouver. For a variety of reasons these individuals are often disconnected from their extended families and communities with no one to reach out to when they need help. UAM aims to provide a space to meet the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each individual through a variety of means.

To illustrate UAM’s ministry I want to share the story of one person whose life has been touched by the ministry of UAM. To protect her privacy we’ll call her Susan. Susan’s life had been stable until a few years ago when the trauma from her time in residential school was re-triggered, initiating a series of problems that resulted in both Susan and her then teenage sons having drug and alcohol addiction problems and ultimately being homeless. Susan connected with UAM and over a number of years Vivien and the team helped her in a variety of ways including support while she dealt with cancer and to get sober, as well as practical aid with things like food and clothes and advocacy for housing etc.

Her time in residential school made Susan wary of church. So, while she loved Jesus she wasn’t able to go to church and worship. UAM has reconnected her to Christian faith and also allowed her to connect to her traditional spirituality.

UAM has also helped her 3 sons with things including temporary housing, helping them get back into the workforce, support for their addiction and connecting them to their First Nations heritage in a healthy way. One son is now sober and has regained custody of his children. Another son has just recently agreed to go for help with his alcoholism – a big step for this young man.

Susan says, “The UAM has made a huge difference in my life and reduced the amount of stress I am suffering. I know in my heart that Urban Aboriginal Ministry members will be there when I face hardships and challenges, or when I feel hopeless.” The story of Susan and her sons is just one of many lives touched by UAM.

The need is great, and your donations to Care and Share will help UAM expand to meet the needs of more of our First Nations brothers and sisters. During this season of Advent I invite you to prayerfully consider making a pledge to support UAM through the care and share program. Any actual donations made prior to December 31 of this year will go to the 2019 recipients, Salal and Cedar and Westside Mobile Care Unit. Donations made in 2020 will go to UAM.

**More information on Care+Share and UAM**

care ╬ share has been part of the mission and ministry of this diocese since 2011. Ministries included in care ╬ share are each supported for a two-year period to help them to expand and strengthen their work. At the end of the two-year period a new cycle begins and new recipients are chosen and voted on by Synod. To date care ╬ share has supported eleven different ministries stretching from Powell River to Aldergrove. Care ╬ share is a means for us to join together as the People of God to support some of the good and important ministries created by the people and parishes of this Diocese. The ministries included in care ╬ share don’t receive set “funding” - instead they receive voluntary contributions made by parishes and individual Anglicans. The intention is that these donations are in addition to the gifts given to each parish and are not intended to redirect donations away from your own parish. The overhead for fundraising and administration for care ╬ share is included in the Diocesan budget, and not taken from donations, so 100 per cent of all donations to care ╬ share go to the ministries being supported.

For 2020-21 the recipient for care ╬ share is the Urban Aboriginal Ministry (UAM). Synod passed the resolution to make them the care ╬ share recipient for the next funding cycle with an overwhelming majority so we are hoping you and your parish will help with the campaign for donations to support this ministry. Subsequently, Synod also passed ‘Resolution 5’ (concerning the redistribution of funds from the sale of Diocesan properties for continued reconciliation efforts with our First Nations sisters and brothers). Both acts by Synod were grand expressions of our commitment to our third Diocesan priority, ‘Our God seeks justice for the oppressed’. Although related to our priority, the UAM and Resolution 5 are not connected to each other. As it stands to date, UAM does not receive funds through Resolution 5 at Synod. Its major source of funding will be through care ╬ share.

UAM reaches out to First Nations people from across Canada who are here in Vancouver. Being far from their own land they are often disconnected from their community and culture and need a space where they can feel connected and supported. UAM aims to provide a space to meet the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each individual through a variety of means. These include events throughout the year to help them reconnect with their cultural heritage and native spirituality (feasts, sweat lodge, ceremonial prayers, dance etc). UAM also provides practical assistance such as connecting people to resources they need like detox facilities, social services, housing and medical assistance as well as occasional ‘hands-on’ help with things like moving into housing, driving them to medical appointments etc.