



March 10, 2009

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Get Ready for Homeless Connect 2



Sunday May 24th, Shaw Conference Centre

Homeward Trust is coordinating Homeless Connect 2 and planning is well underway. Homeless Connect aims to galvanize the support of the community to end homelessness in Edmonton by contributing to lasting solutions for homeless people in Edmonton.

A volunteer steering committee and smaller specialized sub-committees are meeting regularly to plan for the upcoming event. These include services (offered to homeless guests), communications & marketing, volunteer development, sponsorship, logistics & facilities and data/evaluation.

Larisa Kreider, who is co-chairing the Services Sub-committee said, "The Shaw Conference Centre is letting us use all 3 Halls at the next event, which means more space to have more services on offer. The Services sub-committee is looking to reach out to the business community, in particular employment agencies / temp agencies / pre-employment programs and to education / training / skills agencies. If we can help homeless people access jobs and training then this will be a positive step for them to help them out of homelessness."

Over 40 agencies are represented in the planning and delivery process, making this event a truly community-inspired and community-delivered event.

If you would like to be part of this transformational event, then please contact Wendy Myshak, wmyshak@homewardtrust.ca or

We're Moving!

Homeward Trust is on the move! Our offices will be **closed on March 19th and 20th**. Our new address from March 23rd is:

6th Floor, 10242 105 Street

Edmonton AB T5J 1G4.

Our phone and fax remain the same. Please ensure that your files are updated.

The new office provides more space for Homeward Trust staff as well better meeting and training space, which will be accessible to other agencies.

We will be hosting an Open House in the early summer, details to follow.

Homeward Trust - You Tube

Be the first to see the Homeward Trust on video on You Tube. Click on the link below. And if you search under HomewardT

780 944 5697 www.homelessconnect.ca



>> [Click Here](#)

Focus - Housing First in Edmonton

Homeward Trust recognized early on that the Housing First model of housing homeless people with supports made a huge impact on the lives of previously homeless people. A view shared by the Edmonton Committee to End Homeless in its recent publication of the 10 year plan. To this end, Homeward Trust has funded a number of pilot programs to test which mechanisms work best within Edmonton. Over the next few months we will be featuring Housing First programs. Our first feature is the Shelter Rapid Exit, operated by Jasper Place Health & Wellness and Hope Mission. The primary objective of this Housing First - Shelter Rapid Exit is to reduce homelessness by developing a Rapid Exit Strategy for individuals using the Hope Mission as a "home". This is done by placing "housing first" specialists within the Hope Mission to identify people that want to be housed. These clients are then placed in an independent living apartment where they are supported for up to one year.

This initiative targets single men who use Hope Mission as a shelter on a frequent basis, and for which there is a high probability of successful placement in independent, permanent units, with support provided for the first year.

PROGRESS AND LESSONS LEARNED

- The project commenced November 1, 2008
- To date, the program has **housed 82 people**, which is the optimum number for this program

you will find videos on Homeless Connect, Homeless Count and Affordable Housing.

[Click Here](#)

mac & cheese Luncheon

March 19 2009 sees the 14th Annual Mac & Cheese Luncheon, a fundraiser for the Inner City Agencies Foundation at the Shaw Conference Centre. Tickets can be purchased from Christa Broadfoot, 780 990 1000.

[Click Here](#)

Donations required for Homeless Connect

If you would like to help homeless people but don't know how, here's what you can do - hold a "Donation Drive" at work or in your community for Homeless Connect most needed items.

- Get together with your colleagues, arrange a day or a week for the Donation Drive.
- Get posters from Homeward Trust advertising the Drive (fill in the date etc., to personalise the poster), place

- Quick availability of funding for damage deposits, rents and utility hook ups continues to provide the opportunity to move quickly once accommodation is secured
- Many landlords have supplied more than one unit in their buildings, making the task of finding units much easier
- Overall, apartments are easier to secure, however finding affordable rents still continues to present a challenge
- Finding an adequate supply of furniture for the housed clients is still in short supply.

April's issue will feature the Boyle Street Parklands project.

UN Report on Housing in Canada

Canada urgently needs a "comprehensive and coordinated national housing policy" to meet its international housing rights obligations, according to a powerful new report from Miloon Kothari, the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing that is being tabled at the United Nations' Human Rights Council in Geneva on Monday. The report, is based on Mr. Kothari's recent fact-finding mission to Canada.

"Canada is the only major country in the world without a national housing plan – and that leaves local communities to cope with deep and persistent housing insecurity and homelessness on their own," says Michael Shapcott, Senior Policy Fellow at the Wellesley Institute. "As a leading and well-respected global expert on housing and homelessness, Mr. Kothari is telling Canada that it is failing to meet its fundamental obligations in international law. This is the latest in a series of damning reports from the United Nations – and should be a clear warning that Canada needs to adopt the practical recommendations set out by Mr. Kothari." For instance, in May 2006, the United Nations' Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concluded its review of Canada by calling housing insecurity and homelessness "a national emergency" and noted that "most of its 1993 and 1998 recommendations have not been implemented".

The Wellesley Institute, a research and policy institute celebrating its first decade of advancing urban health, worked with Mr. Kothari and United Nations' officials to help organize his meetings with community and academic experts across Canada. In his report, Mr. Kothari reviewed general housing and homelessness concerns, examined issues facing women and Aboriginal people, and studied the housing impact of the Vancouver Olympics.

The report is available from:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/10session/A.HRC.10.7.Add.3.pdf>

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them in your shared spaces.

- Arrange for boxes to be placed in those areas.
- Advertise the Drive through your email / intranet / other social networking media.
- Collect the donations and drop them off at the United Way In-kind Centre. Voila, you're helping homeless people right here in Edmonton!

The following items can be dropped off at the United Way In-kind Centre, 16821-113 Ave, Edmonton 780 444 5001:

- New Toothbrushes & Tooth paste
- Gently worn and clean Men's clothing - jeans, sweaters, boots, coats, underwear including socks
- New hand soap, shower gel, shampoo, razors and shaving cream, hair comb, deodorant
- Band-aids / First Aid kits, Foot powder, Odour Eaters
- Women's personal hygiene items including sanitary protection

Any items not used by Homeless Connect participants will be donated to local agencies working with homeless

Feature: Services to the Aboriginal Community

Faye Dewar was the Winner of the ROOPH Award for Outstanding Service to the Aboriginal Community 2009. Here's why:

Faye is known to many people as a strong and powerful advocate for the Aboriginal community. In her day job, she is a Health Advocate at Boyle McCauley Health Centre. But her dedication and commitment to representing and advocating on behalf of the Aboriginal community goes far beyond that. She volunteers tirelessly for betterment of homeless people. She is a genuinely compassionate, keen and enthusiastic individual who strives to make a difference to the lives of many vulnerable people in the Aboriginal community. She sits on the Board of Homeward Trust, the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, and the Edmonton Aboriginal Committee on Housing and Homelessness. She is co-Chair of the Wicahitowin: Circle of Shared Responsibility and Stewardship and is President of NiGiNan Housing Venture. She is truly an inspiration to us all.



Faye Dewar and Susan McGee at the ROOPH Awards Luncheon

National Volunteer Week, April 19 - 25

Volunteer Edmonton is gearing up for National Volunteer Week in April. Through a unique partnership with Volunteer Alberta and the Wildrose Foundation, Volunteer Edmonton is able to provide organizations in Edmonton with promotional items to help encourage and support the celebration of National Volunteer Week taking place April 19 - 25.

Volunteer Edmonton will be promoting this special week in a variety of ways, including newspaper stories, ads, media interviews, attendance at recognition events, letters to the editor, etc.

To help you recognize and celebrate your volunteers, we have **National Volunteer Week posters and recognition certificates, "Volunteers are Stars" bookmarks,** and

people.

To register your company's or community's donation drive please contact Kalpana Robbins, Director Communications, Homeward Trust, krobbins@homewardtrust.ca 780 496 2632.

[Click Here](#)

Winter Resources - Fort Road Victory Church

The Fort Road Victory Church (previously Victory Church on the Rock, Northeast) has been involved with the Winter Emergency program for the past two years. The Winter Emergency Program is our community's response to homelessness during the severe winter month. It is coordinated by Homeward Trust and involves a number of community partners. The Fort Road Victory Church is located on Fort Road and the Volunteers at the Soup Kitchen/Drop-in centre ensure that homeless people are provided with a nutritious warm meal.

They serve around 100 people every week. Showers and clothing are available if required. The Boyle Street Community Services Winter Warming Van stops at the Drop-in

Volunteer Edmonton promotional pens and magnets.

For further information contact:

Evelyn Pham Communications Coordinator, Volunteer Edmonton
(780) 732-6655

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Homeward Trust Newsletter

This newsletter was edited by Kalpana Robbins, Director Communications & Fund Development, Homeward Trust, krobbins@homewardtrust.ca 780 496 2632.

If you would like us to include an article or event in our newsletter please be aware of the following deadlines:

- April 3rd for April 7th publication
- May 8th for May 12th publication
- June 5th for June 9th publication
- July 3rd for July 7th publication

Thanks!

Homeward Trust Board of Directors



- Jon Hall, Chair
- Bill Lusk
- Rick Beaupre
- Marg Milicevic
- Harvey Voogd
- Martin Garber-Conrad
- Lorette Garrick
- Faye Dewar
- Susan McGee, Executive Director

Homeward Trust is seeking new Board members to join its Board this year. If you would like more information please click here for the [Board Profile](#) and the [Board Application Package](#).

[Click Here](#)

to pick up people who would like a ride to the downtown shelters. The church has made a huge impact on homeless people in the north east of the city. Our thanks to the hard-working volunteers who provide food and warmth each and every week!



Volunteers with Tamara and Jess from Homeward Trust

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