

Together

Making a Difference



Giving Hope Today

Spring/Summer 2024

Hope in the 'hood

A message from Major Ian Gillingham

Our neighbourhood is changing. Drive down Highway #1 in Abbotsford and you'll see it. Trees cut down, earth displaced. Drive down Lonzo road in the past year and you'll have seen it. Homes displaced, and individuals uprooted from their familiar surroundings. Lonzo Road serves as a poignant symbol of this upheaval, where burnt-out RVs and vanished residents speak volumes about the struggles of the marginalized.

A long time ago in the Middle East, a young baby boy was taken by his parents in the middle of the night to a foreign land - for the child's safety. He became a refugee, moved and displaced. He later returned and re-settled in His homeland. His name was Jesus. He can readily identify with displacement and a lack of home and a lack of hope.

We, The Salvation Army, endeavour to follow in Jesus' footsteps by representing Him in the 'hood. That means visiting and engaging with the former residents of Lonzo road and other homeless areas of the city. That means supplying clients and residents with basic necessities of life and well-being. At the Centre of Hope we connect them with resources to help them meet their goals for renewal.

We are pro-renewal because the God of hope continues to inspire The Salvation Army so we can be a bridge to those who lack it. We continue to offer love and hope through action. How grateful we are for your ongoing financial partnership and support of our work in the communities of Abbotsford and Mission. All of this is hope in the 'hood.



2023 STATS - Centre of Hope

Community members assisted by Outreach team: **2,350**

Emergency food hampers: **565**

People secured housing via Outreach and Shelter teams: **44**

Referrals to detox, recovery, second stage housing, etc.: **64**

Shelter bed nights provided: **11,460**

Nutritious meals served: **58,585**

Pantry34 nutritious snack program: **5,760 students in 28 schools received healthy snacks**

Visits to the on-site Medical clinic: **1,852**

Residents housed in the Next Step Independent Living Residence: **15 with 10 completing the 12 step program**

Volunteers: **9,143.25 hours, \$148,578 is the value of the service using \$16.75 per hour, 33 per month + 200 at Christmas**

Children attended Camp Sunrise Holiday Camp in July: **48**

YOUR DONATIONS
WILL BLESS MANY
please give
generously



Ministry Receives Recognition:

Our Area Commander, Lisa MacPherson, presented the Accreditation Distinction Award to the leadership team during an all staff meeting held on February 13, 2024, recognizing the excellent result achieved by Cascade Community Ministries - comprised of Cascade Community Church and the Centre of Hope.

Accreditation review is conducted every three years to assess social mission ministry units using standards that reflect organizational policy, legislative requirements, and practices preferred by the organization.

THE SALVATION ARMY CENTRE OF HOPE

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THE SALVATION ARMY IN PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO IS AN EXCITING PLACE TO BE!

Four years ago, Ron and Jennifer Bonar began a ministry with the officers to serve the children and adults in a poor neighbourhood on the outskirts of Puerto Vallarta. A nutritious lunch was provided for approximately 20-25 children per day, as well as crafts, personal care items, school supplies and Sunday school material. This was during the covid period and restrictions hampered any other activities as well as bringing in more children.

Many family members and friends have been helping with various aspects of the programs over the last few years.

In the fall of 2021, we contacted Rob Studiman at The Salvation Army's Centre of Hope in Abbotsford and he graciously had his staff put aside some clothes and shoes for us to take to Mexico for the children. This relationship has grown the last two years and this past winter we were able to take three full suitcases full of donations, mostly from the Thrift Store. Fortunately, West Jet allows us to take suitcases for charitable causes at no charge. We are extremely grateful to Rob and his staff for helping us support the children.

In January 2023, with help from others we were able to start a soccer team for the U-11 children. It took effort but it was a huge success and we quite enjoyed watching the boys and girls playing their favourite game. For most of the children this was their first experience being on a team of any sort, and provided a positive alternative to other activities they may have been engaged in.

In August 2023 new young Officers from the Training College in Mexico were appointed to this Centre.

Lieutenants Levi Flores and Jennifer Sanchez are doing an outstanding job in expanding existing programs and creating new ones. Sunday school and church attendance are up, more than fifty children a day are provided a nutritious lunch and children's programs have started, including a choir, guitar band and tambourine group. The children are also enjoying more craft activities, movie nights and English classes.

With the tremendous increase in activities, the priorities for support at this time are funds for various behind the scenes items, such as a new washing machine and more tables and chairs to provide a designated area for helping with homework, teaching English etc.

We appreciate The Salvation Army in Abbotsford and look forward to more opportunities for partnership as we serve "With Heart to God and Hand to Man".

Ron and Jennifer (McBride) Bonar, Sandy McBride and Bonnie McBride



In 2023 you gifted
over 9,100 hours of
your time!


VOLUNTEER
BÉNÉVOLES
CANADA
**NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER WEEK**
APRIL 14 - 20, 2024
#NVW2024 #EveryMomentMatters



Giving Hope Today

THANK YOU TO THE AMAZING SALVATION ARMY VOLUNTEERS Abbotsford & Mission!

We are truly inspired by the 70+ volunteers who generously give their time to The Salvation Army in Abbotsford and Mission. Their commitment to making a positive impact is truly commendable. They are a vital part of our mission: to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world. The volunteers give hope to those who have lost hope. Their selfless efforts in providing hot meals to the homeless, supporting seniors, and assisting young families with children contribute immensely to the well-being of their communities. Their caring hands help us to generate income through our thrift store, so we may provide food and essential programs and services to those we come alongside each and every day. We simply could not do all that we do without the help of our faithful volunteers. To find out more about volunteering with The Salvation Army and making a positive impact on your community please visit <https://www.centreofhope.net/volunteer/>. #GivingHopeToday

www.centreofhope.net

Hope • Service • Dignity • Stewardship