



Homelessness Action Week

October 8th -12th 2012

Donate Your Face!

If you pay more than 30% of your household income for housing

Help us make a HAP video that describes the diversity of people affected by affordable housing issues.

Take a close-up digital photo & visit the HAP website to upload it! We will post it on our website & social media in the "It makes sense to care" campaign December 2012.

Min 1Mb files, full frame close-ups please!

www.Kamloopshap.ca/donateyourface/



KamloopsHAP.ca

Kamloops Homelessness Action Plan

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Deliver Donations - Oct 1st-12th
to ASK Wellness, 433 Tranquille Rd.
**For Project Homeless Connect
& Homeless Count 2012**

we need: **Clothing** : socks, toques, gloves, sweaters, blankets, long underwear, **Food** : bottled water, food coupons, coffee coupons, granola bars, **Hygiene** : deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, washcloths, lip balm, lotion, nail clippers, travel shampoos, feminine hygiene products

Project Homeless Connect
Friday October 12th 1:00-5:30pm
Spirit Square, North Shore, McKenzie & Yew
Connecting homeless & at-risk people with supports

Free Flu shots from the IHA Street Nurses, Valleyview Overlanders Lions Club
free BBQ, Live Music by Full of Excuses, Community Agencies with free supplies & supports, and more!

It makes sense to care...

... about the right **supports** for a variety of people.
...different solutions for different people from the street homeless to the working poor; from children to senior citizens.

... about the **costs of homelessness**; up to 5x as much when people are not housed, costing everyone in society through health care, supports, community safety & corrections.

... about **affordable housing**; from shelters to subsidized housing, from market rentals to affordable home ownership. CMHC states that no one should pay more than 30% of their income for housing.

... about **changing policies** that make it hard to find & keep housing. Getting ahead of the problem means savings in the long term with real change instead of temporary solutions.

... about **partnerships** that include; the private market, all levels of government, non-profits, community agencies, the faith community, charities, & the business sector.



Kamloops Homelessness Action Plan

6 Goals to end homelessness in Kamloops by 2015

The HAP is a plan to end homelessness built on community input, on the 3 focus areas of Housing, Support Services & Financial Independence. Like homelessness action plans across North America, the foundational principles of the HAP include: ongoing community and stakeholder input, evidence based practices leading to measurable solutions, & partnership across sectors. By working together towards common measurable goals we are confident that we can provide the housing, supports & financial means for people to stay housed.

The Goals of the Plan:

- 1 Assess & enhance local housing
- 2 Provide housing stability
- 3 Connect people
- 4 Build life skills
- 5 Improve fairness
- 6 Create & maintain employment

HAP Life Skills Project Building Skills, Building Lives

We all use a range of Life Skills daily to maintain our housing. From paying bills, house cleaning, cooking & home maintenance, to communication, emotional control & conflict resolution, the range of Life Skills needed are complex. The more Life Skills we are equipped with, the greater independence we can achieve.

Building Life Skills Training programs is an important goal that we are happy to have sponsorship for from Teck – Highland Valley Industries, HRSDC Homelessness Partnering Strategy, the Vancouver Foundation, and the Tula Community Fund. The HAP has hired Life Skills Coordinator Claire Macleod to gather stakeholders and build Life Skills Training programs in our community.

After research on the training programs currently offered in Kamloops, the formation of the Life Skills Network, and the creation and evaluation of new programs, a report will be distributed throughout the community in 2014. The Life Skills Network created through this project will be supported by the HAP to meet and discuss changing public policy, share knowledge, and seek dynamic opportunities to improve Life Skills.

For more info:

Claire Macleod, *Life Skills Coordinator*
Kamloops Homelessness Action Plan
t. 250.320.7945
e. lifeskills@kamloopshap.ca



Women's 2nd Stage Housing



People who work with low-income families and individuals know that it is going to take a variety of new housing creations to end homelessness. Even with the slight increase in the vacancy rates that we have recently seen, there is still a shortage of the types of housing that are most needed.

The Elizabeth Fry Society focuses its programming on women and youth. In our contacts with clients and the community, through our Community Needs Assessment, and from independent reports like the Kamloops Social Plan, we have realized that there is one type of housing that is needed urgently: limited term housing for women and children (2-3 years) that includes supports. There are different names to describe it but it is often called Second Stage housing. The women who live in this type of housing participate in programming within the building, and in the community, to assist with the development of Life Skills. Life Skills include things like good communication, conflict resolution, and good parenting practices, as well as drug and alcohol counseling. After a couple of years in a stable living situation, the women and children are in a position to maintain a healthy lifestyle for themselves and their children in independent settings like market apartments, basement suites, duplexes and townhouses.

The Elizabeth Fry Society is very excited to be working on developing Second Stage Housing for women and children. We have been discussing the idea with several individuals, organizations and groups in Kamloops and we are moving forward with developing a plan to make this dream a reality.

for more info:

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Kamloops & District Elizabeth Fry Society
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Annual Outdoor Flu Clinic Coming to Spirit Square

Flu season is nearly upon us, and immunization continues to be an important preventative measure in fighting the flu.

This year on October 12th the Interior Health Street Nurses will hold their annual flu clinic at Spirit Square. Free vaccinations for Kamloops' marginalized population will be offered from 1 – 4 p.m. This year, thanks to the generous support of the Lions Club, a barbeque will be held from 4 – 5:30 p.m.

"We serve a high risk population so it is really important that we make the immunizations as accessible as possible," explains Street Outreach Nurse Lisa Deol-Rollo. *"Often the people we work with are dealing with poor nutrition and compromised immune health, as well as challenging home environments or housing issues. It's important to offer a setting they are comfortable in, and this year we are able to provide a free meal as well."*

The outdoor clinic will include information displays from other agencies and resources such as ASK Wellness, Community Mental Health & Substance Use, Community Living BC, and others.

The clinic is an opportunity to build relationships, network, and highlight other community services including the Street Outreach Nurse clinics at King Street and New Life Mission.

Influenza season is usually from November to April. In Canada, it is estimated that up to 8,000 people die from the flu and its complications during peak years. For more info about influenza and vaccination, visit www.immunizeBC.ca

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Homeless Count October 18th/19th 2012

Homeless Counts are conducted in many communities across North America and help by:

- Creating awareness for the public
- Connecting with people on the streets
- Tracking trends & measure change
- Informing program development
- Informing Government Policy

The complete report on the count in Kamloops, & in Merritt, will be available to everyone in early November 2012, @ the HAP website (www.kamloopshap.ca) and the ASK Wellness website (www.askwellness.ca)

Want to help? sign up at Volunteer Training Friday Oct 12th or Monday Oct 15th 5 – 6pm @ ASK Wellness Centre, 433 Tranquille For more information call the HAP or Ken Salter, Outreach – ASK Wellness Centre t. 250.376.7558 c. 250.851.5949 e. ken@askwellness.ca

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we need: Clothing : socks, toques, gloves, sweaters, blankets, long underwear, **Food** : bottled water, food coupons, coffee coupons, granola bars, **Hygiene** : deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, washcloths, lip balm, lotion, nail clippers, travel shampoos, feminine hygiene



Nurse Clinics an Important Part of King Street Success

Since January this year, Interior Health Street Outreach Nurses have been running a successful drop-in clinic at King Street, a health care centre established on the North Shore last winter to serve Kamloops' marginalized people. The centre is a collaboration between Interior Health's Mental Health & Substance Use program and local physicians and psychiatrists.

The Street Nurse clinics run each Wednesday from 1 – 3 p.m. No appointments are required. The clinics offer free Sexually Transmitted Infection testing; HIV and Hepatitis C testing; pregnancy testing, birth control and counseling; TB skin tests; immunizations; and help to ensure clients are connecting with appropriate resources available in the community. The nurses work closely with mental health intake and primary care services at King Street.

"We now have two wonderful clinics meeting the needs of people that, for a variety of reasons, have challenges accessing main stream health care," says Street Outreach Nurse Gaudenza Ramunno. "The clinics take pressure off the hospital Emergency Department, and they help us develop relationships with clients and ensure they're getting the help they need."

In addition to the Street Nurse clinics, King Street offers physician appointments; mental health intake assessments; referrals to other community agencies/resources; diabetes education; life skills including kitchen groups; counseling; assistance with disability applications; access to psychiatry; and pharmacist services.

King Street Centre is located at 126 King Street. The Centre is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Street Nurses run a similar outreach clinic at New Life Mission from 10 a.m. – noon every Tuesday



Kamloops Working Group on Homelessness

Homelessness Partnering Strategy

The federal government provides funding to address issues of housing and homelessness across Canada through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). In Kamloops, these funds go to local non-profit organizations who have developed projects to help local homeless people and those at risk of homelessness find and maintain stable housing, and transition to being independent. The Kamloops Working Group on Homelessness (KWGH) is the local body that provides direction and makes decisions on the organizations that receive the federal HPS funding.

The KWGH is made up of representatives from all sectors of the community – health, seniors, children & youth, food, Aboriginal, business, faith, disability, poverty, women, men, and homelessness. All three levels of government – municipal, provincial, and federal – also have seats at this table. The KWGH consults with community groups and committees; makes recommendations to the three levels of government; and helps support an ongoing community strategy to address homelessness at the local level.

Until recently, the federal government (Service Canada) was responsible for overseeing and administering the HPS funding in our community. As of September 1st of this year, that role has now been taken up by the City of Kamloops. The City of Kamloops supports the KWGH and works with the local non-profit organizations receiving funding to help ensure the success of their projects. Together, local non-profit organizations, the KWGH, the City of Kamloops and other community partners are working to help people find stable housing and become independent.

We all want to help move people from poverty to possibility

Underlying many social issues is a single but massive problem: poverty. United Way provides opportunities for people to move out of poverty and thrive by working to ensure that:

- The local housing situation is assessed & the stock of acceptable housing is enhanced and able to respond to changes
- Housing stability is increased & evictions are reduced
- People are connected to the help they need
- People have the basic skills they need to maintain housing & independence
- Systems are fair, accessible & responsive
- People find & maintain employment

United Way invested \$187,000 into our local community under the poverty to possibility focus area this year and are committed to funding coordination of the Homelessness Action Plan until it's completion in 2015. United Way also funds the ASK Wellness Sexual & Health Options for Persons in the Sex Trade (SHOP) program, New Life Mission's Outreach Centre, & Elizabeth Fry Society's Housing Support Worker / Court Worker under this focus area.

Homelessness affects all of us. Ending homelessness will improve our community, improve lives and save money. Only by addressing root causes can we hope to make lasting change in our community.

More info:
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Canadian Mental Health Association - Emerald Centre

One of the most frequent questions we receive about our system of supports for homeless people is, “Why do you call everything ‘Emerald’ – Emerald Hostel for men, Emerald House for women, Emerald Outreach Services, and the shelter building Emerald Centre”?

In the Wizard of Oz, Dorothy is swept away in a tornado that is completely out of her control. She finds herself in a strange land with no resources – and no friends. What Dorothy wants is to go home, and she is told that to do this, she has to see the wizard who lives in the Emerald City.

Dorothy can see the Emerald City from a distance, and she sets out accompanied by her new companions, the scarecrow without a brain, the lion without courage, and the tin man without a heart. After many adventures and upon reaching the Emerald City, Dorothy learns that the wizard is not really a wizard, and there are no magical powers to help her get home.

What Dorothy and her three companions do discover is they have all the things they have been looking for: they actually do possess a brain, courage and heart, and with this new insight, they discover all is possible if you believe it is.

At Emerald Centre, we are the wizard that has no magical powers. We create an environment where people –some of whom have been homeless for decades – see that they, too, have all the resources they need and they, like Dorothy can succeed as well.

And they do. Every day we watch people with immense barriers such as addictions, mental illness, life-threatening health conditions and

illness, life-threatening health conditions and multiple traumas chip away at these obstacles with quiet determination.

We never give up on people, and the rate at which our clients overcome outrageous odds to change their lives has been both startling and heart-warming.

Equally heartwarming is the support our clients receive from agencies, business, government, and everyday Kamloops citizens. Together, we are making great steps to end homelessness in our city.

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CANADIAN MENTAL
HEALTH ASSOCIATION
KAMLOOPS BRANCH

Canadian Homelessness Research Network 2012 Definitions of homelessness:

Unsheltered, or absolutely homeless and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation

Emergency Sheltered, including those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as shelters for those impacted by family violence

Provisionally Accommodated, referring to those whose accommodation is temporary or lacks security of tenure

At risk of homelessness, referring to people who are not homeless, but whose current economic and/ or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards



HAP Projects

2012-2013

Affordable Housing Need & Demand Study – the first comprehensive analysis of affordable housing in Kamloops is taking place in partnership with the City of Kamloops and the Kamloops Housing Board. We are pleased to announce that this report on the range of affordable housing in Kamloops will be released in late November 2012 and will be used to inform City Policy and Community Agency strategies going forward. This report will also be available to the public. Please email the HAP if you would like a digital copy.

Support Service Inventory – We are surveying over 40 agencies that provide services for people of all ages who are either homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. This process will help people who are looking for information about Support Services in Kamloops including: those who are looking for services, workers who are referring clients to services, agencies designing programs, and interested members of the public. A complete report and online resource will be available by March 2013, updates to the online resource will be performed regularly by United Way.

Rent Bank Research – We are currently developing a Rent Bank in Kamloops and looking for funders! Rent Banks assist individuals and families when they find themselves in crisis, by providing small, low interest, loans to keep people in stable rental housing, or to pay utilities that are in arrears. This is a social program rather than a banking model and usually requires ongoing subsidies. In the case of Ontario Rent Banks the Provincial Government now sponsors the program province wide. It is our hope that B.C. Rent Banks will be able to prove the viability and effectiveness of the model, making the creation of a provincially funded system possible in the future. If you would like to donate or learn more about the Rent Bank visit the HAP website or call.

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Homelessness Resources

The Homeless Hub
homelesshub.ca/

Report on Hidden Homelessness in Kamloops. (SPARC BC). *Research Report. Knowledge for Action: Hidden homelessness in Prince George, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nelson and Nanaimo.*
sparc.bc.ca/resources-and-publications/

Human Resources & Skills Development Canada,
Homelessness Partnering Strategy
hrsd.gc.ca/eng/homelessness/index.shtml

Calgary Homeless Foundation
calgaryhomeless.com/

Edmonton 10 Year Plan to end Homelessness
endedmontonhomelessness.com/docs/report

Lethbridge Strategic Plan to End Homelessness
intraspec.ca/SHIAstrategicPlanBringingLethbridgeHome1.pdf

Streethome Foundation
streethome.org/

Ministry of Social Development
gov.bc.ca/hsd/

BC Housing – Subsidized Housing In BC
bchousing.org/

BC Non-Profit Housing Association
bcnpha.ca/

BC Residential Tenancy Branch
Information & forms for the RTA
rto.gov.bc.ca/



Canada

Highland Valley Copper

Teck

vancouver foundation



visit kamloopshap.ca for info on this community partnership project!



Thank You to All Our Supporters & Partners!

Canadian Home Builders' Association
 Changing the Face of Poverty
 City of Kamloops
 Community Agencies & Non-Profits
 HAP Steering Advisory Group - ASK
Wellness, Canadian Mental Health Association, City of Kamloops, Elizabeth Fry Society, United Way
 Highland Valley – TECK
 HRSDC Homelessness Partnering Strategy
 Interior Health Authority
 Kamloops Alliance Church
 Kamloops Chamber of Commerce
 Kamloops Housing Board
 HAP Leadership Council
 Media Supporters
 Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
 Thompson Rivers University & TRUSU
 United Way
 Vancouver Foundation
 Tula Community Fund
 Volunteers & Local media - we love you!

Coming Soon!

Watch for the first comprehensive **Affordable Housing Need & Demand Study**, The new & **Homeless Count Report**, the new online **Support Services Inventory** & more !