



February 2012 Newsletter

Peninsula Homeless to Housing Task Force

Providing leadership in the South Surrey White Rock communities

Please circulate our newsletter to your members and congregations. We welcome feedback or news, send items to:



petergreenwell@telus.net Thank you to Surrey Homeless and Housing Society for funding support.

The PH2H Task Force meets at 9:30am on the first Friday of each month at the White Rock Baptist Church at 1657-140th St Surrey. Our next meeting is February 3, 2012.

Aging Population and the Shelter System

The Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy represents most organizations in Metro Vancouver that either provide shelter beds or do outreach work with homeless people. Shelter providers recognize there is an aging population amongst those who are homeless; from the regional homeless counts in 2005 and 2008 we know that the average age of those who are homeless increased from 38 to 41 years (figures from the March, 2011 homeless count have not been released yet). People over 65 years represented upwards of 9% of people who were enumerated in the 2008 count; up from 6% in 2005.

- How do shelters better address service needs of an aging population?
- How do shelters better manage end of life issues?

These are some of the questions service providers face and over the next year GVSS will be working with shelter providers to provide some answers. Linda Doig, PH2H's representative, was elected Chair of the GVSS's Community of Practice / Homeless Seniors Steering Committee. For more information on the GVSS see their website at: <http://www.gvss.ca/About.html>

Semiahmoo Animal League (SALI)

SALI is a volunteer driven society that works to assist homeless people with food, spaying and neutering needs for their pets; they try and arrange pet fostering for seniors and those fleeing abuse. As well they operate SALI farm – which has an 8 week program for children 3-12 who have witnessed family violence. In North Surrey

they have worked closely with Surrey Urban Mission. SALI wants to help people to keep their pets. On the Peninsula they have brought pet food to Star of the Sea for the pets of participants. Donations to SALI are welcome.



Donations to PH2H Food Security Fund

Working with the White Rock South Surrey (WRSS) Community Foundation, the Peninsula Homeless to Housing Roundtable has developed a fund to support low-income food security in our community. In October we hosted a *Community Meal* in recognition of Homeless Action Week. We received donations from a variety of people and organizations and after our expenses we were able to contribute over \$400 to the food fund. If you wish to contribute to this fund please contact:

WRSS Community Foundation

Contact Debbie Magson

Tel: 778-292-1367 Email: info@wrsscf.org

In the News

The tangle of welfare and housing policies that can lead to homelessness:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/life/Separated+homelessness/6060265/story.html>

Belfry Theatre, Victoria, focus on homelessness:

<http://www.belfry.bc.ca/news/homeless-project-update/>

BCIT students organize donations of backpacks:

<http://commons.bcit.ca/forensics/2012/01/06/forensics-grad-bringing-backpacks-to-the-homeless/>

Even the Virtual Tourist Blog discusses homelessness.

http://www.virtualtourist.com/travel/North_America/Canada/Province_of_British_Columbia/Vancouver-903183/Warnings_or_Dangers-Vancouver-Downtown_Eastside-BR-1.html

March's Newsletter will provide updates on Homeless Partnering Strategy (HPS) funding decisions by VanCity and Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness.