

children without poverty (CWP) monthly newsletter: August 2008, ed. 28

Working locally (Calgary, Alberta) to stop the cycle of poverty for the children.
www.childrenwithoutpoverty.com

" Within the strength and inspiration of a helping hand, lies the will to move beyond poverty. "

Did you know last year over 300 volunteers clocked in well over 5000 hours of work helping make life a bit easier for the children and families Calgary Urban Projects Society (Cups) helps on a daily basis? It still costs nothing to be a volunteer.

[A Story... A Hope...A Person. Calgary Urban Project Society](#)

By Tasha Brown

Cups Mission Statement:

We seek through compassionate health care, social and educational services to nurture and promote healing to those that have rejected or have been rejected or neglected by society.

Out of Christian concern for people with many needs in Calgary, our work is founded on the conviction that at the heart of all religious faith is a deep affirmation of the worth and dignity of every human being.

We strive to be aware of the suffering and brokenness in ourselves and in our community. We work to provide support and empowerment to individuals and families. We welcome and serve all persons from all backgrounds.

Our focus is on human healing. Our resources are offered in this service, and the boundaries of our work know no limits other than those of human need.

Most of the families we assist, are living below the poverty line or are homeless. Cups is comprised of many different parts that make a whole.

Family Resource Centre: The FRC offers counseling, parenting classes, hot lunches, emergency hampers, phone and internet access, referrals, as well as free child care while parents take part in the other services we offer. Showers, clothing, diapers and toiletries are also available as we get them through donations.

The Outreach Team: Turns no one away! They are available on the streets, 13 hours a day,

CHILDREN WITHOUT POVERTY A Foundation of Alberta will soon be a registered charity. The newsletter is aimed to educate people with facts and information so that they can make informed decisions around their own personal philanthropy.

Monday to Saturday. The support they provide is for people who need help with hunger, prostitution, mental illness, addiction and crisis counseling. They give out condoms, blankets, lotion and sandwiches to name a few things.

Over 30% of people helped by the team are homeless. 37% are between 30-39 yr.

The Health Clinic: Opens at 8am where a line forms outside for the drop-in patients. They offer everything from hygiene services; foot and eye care, to treatment of chronic disease. Dental services for tooth extraction and fillings are also available. The Women's Health Unit provides care for pregnant women and their newborns. Programs focusing on parents and their children (0-3 years) are well attended. They also have healthy snacks and a cold water cooler I often frequent.

Average monthly visits approx.: 1,343

One World: Is an early intervention education centre that offers full day preschool and kindergarten classes. For parents they offer workshops on parenting skills, safety, literacy and nutrition. The children get to learn in a fun and safe environment and are able to attend many field trips throughout the school year.

93% of the children enrolled have identified speech and language issues.

Street Talk: Is a newspaper published monthly and tells a story of poverty in Calgary. It also relays the hope and strength in the stories of people who have lived through and overcome poverty and homelessness. Over 20 vendors distribute over 47,000 copies each year and for some, this is their only income. The paper is sold by donation on different street corners throughout the city and costs the vendor 60 cents each. I encourage you to check out my advice column when you pick up this month's paper.

Cups turns 20 on September 13th

Church Service: is attended without fail. Through songs, scripture, sharing stories and good friends, people leave feeling lifted up, refreshed and renewed in their faith. Often times we hold memorials for clients, vendors, or special friends who have passed away. It is amazing to see people from all walks of life, financially, ethnically and spiritually come together and cry together because one person was able to touch so many.

" Every child deserves the opportunity to learn and the hope to dream "

Further information on the Calgary Urban Project Society can be found at www.cupshealthcentre.com or by calling 403-221-8780.

To have people added/removed from the distribution list or to provide comments, please respond to: Richelle@childrenwithoutpoverty.com.

