



Children Without Poverty (CWP) monthly newsletter: March 2008, ed. 23 Please do your part.

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

www.childrenwithoutpoverty.com

“Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds. “

~Theodore Roosevelt

Did you know?

Worldwide, of the 1 billion people who live on less than \$1 a day, 70 per cent are women. Women make up 65 percent of the worlds illiterate. Although women do two thirds of the work in the world, the rate of paid employment for women is two thirds that of men. A mother dies every minute during childbirth because she doesn't have access to proper health care. The majority of the 80 million children who are not in school are girls.

In Canada, a majority of the poor are women. Over 70% of those working for minimum wages are women. Inadequate social support for children, including lack of affordable childcare is one of the main reasons women are more likely to be poor.

Poverty cannot be eradicated if gender justice is not achieved. Source: www.makepovertyhistory.ca

CUPS (Calgary Urban Projects Society)

This is the CUPS organization's 19th operating year and they are looking forward to celebrating their 20th Anniversary in September. Initially CUPS opened as a health clinic in downtown Calgary to address eye care, foot care, and general health for the homeless. Now CUPS has expanded and includes: Outreach; Housing Registry Network; Family Resource Centre (with a day care); Medical Services; One World; and the Rapid EXIT Program.

Based on discussions with Marina Giacomini, Director of Housing and Services and Lisa Garrison, Program Manager for the Rapid EXIT program, I became interested in a more in depth discussion about the Housing and Rapid EXIT programs.

The Housing Registry Network, www.lowcostrent.org, provides an online tool for landlords and persons looking for affordable housing in Calgary. Although CUPS is not asking landlords to supplement their rental prices, they are asking for Fair Market Value and have restrictions on pricing based on number of rooms available. Check it out online.

CHILDREN WITHOUT POVERTY is not a registered charity. Please donate to the charity of your choice. Our aim is to educate people with facts and information so that they can make informed decisions around their own personal philanthropy.

When I asked Lisa why she is personally at CUPS, she states “I sort of fell into the job. But I really love these families. They are really wonderful people who got a really raw deal! I’m going to stay to alleviate the impacts.”

The Family Resource Centre was teeming with activity the day I was in the office. There is a full scale kitchen, private counselor offices, working area and day care. The case workers work with families to move them from where they are out into the community on their own. They have a barrier assessment tool to guide them on whether or not a family is ready to move out and sustain a home based on their barriers.

Marina recalls in the past year, people have been moving to Calgary based on a job offer, the job fell through and now these people have no place to live and no job - the spiral into homelessness begins.

In the fall of 2007, funding came through and the Rapid EXIT program with CUPS started. Since then they have been very successful, and have placed 17 families into housing. They lost one family. When I asked, “how do you lose a family?” Lisa indicated “We don’t know. They just disappeared - You can’t help people who do not want to be helped.” Of the 16 families remaining in housing all of them are in school or have jobs. Lisa indicated the families can return to CUPS for outreach services for as long as they need to.

Calgary has a very service rich non profit sector, states Marina. With the 10 year plan to end homelessness, a lot of agencies are working toward better coordination to deliver to those goals.

Tired, just plain tired of the ‘hands in your pockets’ wanting your money, and the people at your door wanting your time?

Reduce – Reuse – Recycle: This idea falls into the Reuse part of being environmentally responsible. Not only does it help reduce our garbage/landfill – it provides a mechanism to give second hand goods to someone who can use them at no/low cost – therefore assisting with the elimination of poverty.

Charity Village – has a great directory on where to donate your used stuff, under their donate section:
<http://www.charityvillage.com/applicant/volunteer.asp>

In Calgary, [freecycle.com](http://www.freecycle.com) is a great place to sign up to get free stuff and to recycle the things you have.

www.KiJiJi.ca – pick Calgary and then at the bottom there is a section for ‘FREE STUFF’

To have people added/removed from the distribution list or to provide feedback, please respond to: Richelle@rogers.blackberry.net.

