



Children Without Poverty (CWP) monthly newsletter: February 2008, ed 22.

Please do your part.

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

www.childrenwithoutpoverty.com

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

~Melody Beattie

Did you know?

There are currently more than 114,000 foster children waiting to be adopted in the United States and 30,000 children in Canada. The average foster child is nearly 9 years old, and spends about five years in the foster care system.

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption Canada

The Calgary Committee to End Homelessness

(All Quotes in this section are taken from the 10 year plan directly)

The Calgary 10 year plan to end Homelessness has been released this month from the Calgary Committee to End Homelessness.

It takes a critical look at the homelessness situation in Calgary. "Today, we estimate as many as 1,200 Calgarians have been homeless for more than a year; nearly 400 of those have been homeless more than 5 years."

"On any given night, more than 3,400 Calgarians sleep in shelters, under bridges, on the streets or in their cars. More than 58,000 Calgary households are living only one pay cheque – one family crisis – away from homelessness."

I've enclosed the 5 main strategies of the plan. To download or read the whole plan, please go to: www.endinghomelessness.ca

Volunteer activities towards the plan are coordinated by Volunteer Calgary at www.volunteercalgary.ab.ca

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.

Strategies

At the core of this plan are five broad strategies:

- 1 Stop homelessness before it begins with effective prevention.**
- Create opportunities for the most vulnerable to increase incomes in order to gain and retain housing.
 - Reinforce emergency prevention through emergency financial assistance.
 - Streamline access to housing and services.
 - Stop discharging people into homelessness from hospitals, corrections and foster care by December 31, 2011.
 - Improve housing opportunities and services for homeless youth.
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- 2 Re-house and provide the necessary support to Calgarians experiencing homelessness.**
- Make permanent housing the first objective of all homeless-serving programs and services. (Housing First is the operating philosophy of our 10 Year Plan.)
 - Move 1,200 chronically homeless and near-chronically homeless
 - Implement a city-wide, common, but physically distributed, intake and assessment process by December 31, 2011.
 - By December 31, 2011, ensure that every person who becomes homeless in Calgary is assigned a case manager to guide them through the system and into permanent housing.
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- 3 Ensure adequate affordable housing, supportive housing and treatment capacity.**
- Acquire 114 acres of land for affordable housing, supportive housing and treatment capacity.
 - Develop 11,250 new units of affordable housing including 1,200 supportive housing units and treatment beds. By involving the private sector, keep the average public sector cost of this new housing to less than \$60,000 per unit.
 - o Leverage public and private sector involvement to build 3,750 new affordable home ownership units.
 - o Create 2,000 new secondary suites.
 - o Create 2,500 new affordable rental opportunities with the private, public and non-profit sectors.



- o Encourage development of 1,000 affordable multi-residential rental opportunities with density bonusing, inclusionary zoning and tax incentives.
- o Create 800 new single resident occupancy and student housing units.
- Optimize affordable housing utilization through an affordable housing registry.
- Employ a housing trust model to establish a one stop shop for co-ordination of affordable housing development, to leverage stable and long term revenue sources from the public and private sectors and to implement investments that meet community needs.

4 Improve our data and systems knowledge.

- Introduce a mandatory Homeless Management Information System to give us real-time data on every aspect of the homeless-serving system.
- Develop and maintain a detailed services directory.
- Expand, co-ordinate and deepen research capabilities to gain a detailed understanding of homelessness in Calgary and evaluate performance of our 10 Year Plan.

5 Reinforce non-profit organizations serving Calgarians experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

- Address the critical human resources issues facing homeless-serving non-profit agencies including wages, benefits and workload. (The heart of the homeless-serving system is the people who deliver its services, and they are often underpaid and overworked.)
- Improve efficiency by improving co-ordination and optimizing existing resources.
- Reduce the administrative burden on homeless-serving non-profit organizations.
- Build public support and encourage community action on homelessness.

To be added or deleted from this newsletter please email: Richelle@childrenwithoutpoverty.com

