

Peninsula Homeless to Housing (PH2H) Round Table

Providing leadership in the South Surrey White Rock communities

February 2011 Newsletter

This month our theme is food security and meal programs. We welcome your feedback. Please circulate our newsletter to your members and congregations.

The Peninsula Homeless to Housing Roundtable 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 4th.

Please send us news and information to:

petergreenwell@telus.net

It's About Food

Over the last 10 years community agencies have provided essential meal programs to low-income residents in White Rock South Surrey. These programs have been a partnership with volunteers, agencies and businesses. Recently two of these programs have had significant funding cuts.

Since 2001 the South Fraser Women's Services Society (SFWSS) has provided a hot lunch program, and Alexandra Neighbourhood House and White Rock First United Church have jointly provided a meal program since 2002.

Each of these programs has met a real need with upwards of 110 meals provided each day of service. Service providers have strived to make the meals complete and nutritious.

Partnerships with the White Rock Elks, Whale House, United Way of the Lower Mainland, St. Mark's, Dunsmuir Gardens, Clancy's and Cobb Breads have been essential. South Fraser Women's Services Society has also provided food safe training for volunteers in the program.

The total cost of a program like this is \$30,000 per year between the two organizations. Some of this is provided by the in kind donations of volunteers, businesses and agencies. The generous support from United Way over the last 10 years, ended in 2011.

Denise Darrell, Executive Director, South Fraser Women's Services, reports that: "Due to the volume of applications received and subsequent requests for funding, we have been declined funds from United Way food security funding stream this year." In 2009 SFWSS received almost \$22,000 in United Way funding, in 2010 this was reduced to \$15,000 and in 2011 no funding was approved.

Darrell says that: "SFWSS will continue to offer this free program, this is one of the most crucial direct service programs we offer to our clients and with the support of our partners we remain committed to it. We will cut back on some items but we grow some of our own produce in our raised bed gardens and we will plant again in the spring."

How You Can Help

In the spirit of planting again in the spring the PH2H Round Table has committed to pursuing its own partnerships to support this program. We will have information available in our next newsletter on ways for local community members to make a direct donation to support existing food programs for low-income residents of our community.

Each of the organizations we have mentioned can accept donations for their existing food programs. To donate please contact:

Wendy Kaczur
South Fraser Women's Services
604-536-9611ext 235

Penny Bradley, Executive Director
Alexandra Neighbourhood House
604-535-0015 (227)

Regional Homeless Count 2011

Metro Vancouver's fourth homeless count will happen on March 16, 2011. OrgCode Consulting, of Toronto, has been chosen by the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH) to conduct the count. For more detailed information on the count please call the RSCH at 604-451-6065 or www.metrovancouver.org/planning/homelessness

Our Upcoming March Newsletter will focus on the regional homeless count on March 16th.