

January 2011 Newsletter

Peninsula Homeless to Housing (PH2H) Round Table

Providing leadership in the South Surrey White Rock communities

Thank you for your interest in the latest information concerning housing and homelessness in the South Surrey White Rock community. We welcome any feedback or news items on homelessness. 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 January 7, 2011.

This month our featured speaker is Tom Keenan, Integration Manager, Integrated Homeless Intervention Project, Ministry of Housing and Social Development.

Extreme Weather Response in White Rock South Surrey

First United Church opened its doors for 10 nights in November to provide shelter for people who are homeless during the freezing weather. This initiative, of First United, works with the added support and involvement of Options Society who provides staff support and outreach and BC Housing which provides financial support for supplies.

Surrey Housing and Homeless Society Responsive Grants

The Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society has put aside funds for Responsive grants that can be made by the board outside of the regular granting cycle. In general, these are only awarded in an emergency, such as where the health and safety of Surrey Residents is in jeopardy, there is a compelling opportunity that may be missed, or there is a significant opportunity to leverage other monies, and these opportunities were not known during the regular granting cycle. For more information, go to the SHHS website at:

<http://surreyhomelessnessandhousing.org/giving/responsive-grants/>

Triage Chart on Homeless Services

PH2H has developed a Triage Flow Chart of services that are available to people who are homeless in our community. The chart is meant to

be an aid for service providers and other agencies to respond in an effective manner to the individual circumstances of people who are homeless. If your agency or group is interested in a training session on the Triage Chart on homelessness get in touch with PH2H. We want to thank the work of the volunteers at SOURCES who updated our information on the chart in November.

Regional Homeless Count 2011

The fourth regional homeless count has been set for March 16, 2011. OrgCode Consulting has been chosen by the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness to conduct the count. OrgCode has previously conducted the homeless count for the City of Toronto. We will have more information available on this important initiative in future newsletters.

Homeless Outreach Services in South Surrey White Rock

Homeless outreach services are available in the South Surrey White Rock communities through Options Community Services. Outreach workers work one on one with people who are homeless to connect them to as detox, shelter or needed health services.

Recently, outreach workers assisted an elderly man in who was living on the street. First, outreach got him into a shelter and helped get him identification including his care card. Then Fraser Health was able to assist with medical issues including immediate supports such as a walker. Outreach continues to provide support to him as needed.

Outreach workers can be reached at 604-765-6751 for either direct assistance or for making referrals for individuals who are homeless.

Our Upcoming February Newsletter will focus on food security issues in our community. Please send us news and information on this important topic to: petergreenwell@telus.net