

June 2011 Newsletter

Peninsula Homeless to Housing (PH2H) Round Table

Providing leadership in the South Surrey White Rock communities

This month we focus on the working being done within the faith community on homelessness. Please circulate our newsletter to your members and congregations. We welcome your feedback and any news items can be sent to:

petergreenwell@telus.net

The PH2H Roundtable meets at 9:30am on the first Friday of each month at the White Rock Baptist Church at 1657-140th St Surrey. We invite you to attend our next meeting June 3rd.

Guest Speaker:

**Jonathan Bird, Executive Director
City Gate Leadership Forum**

Jonathan Bird is the Executive Director of City Gate Leadership Forum, a faith-based charity dedicated to informing, equipping and coordinating organizations and leaders for the spiritual and social renewal of the city. Jonathan will speak on City Gate's work to mobilize the Christian community around issues of affordable housing and food security, including the development of best practices. <http://www.cglf.ca/>

City Gate has an interest in sustainability and holistic care and is looking at the whole food system: How can Christian and other concerned organizations shift the balance from a charity model to a predominant emphasis on community development and social enterprise? Can new tools and collaborative frameworks be developed to support existing programs and guide new ones?

Jonathan will also talk about the upcoming Church and Affordable Housing Forum to be held October 28th – 29th. This will be the third such conference since 2006. The theme this year will be "Beyond Homelessness", looking at the crucial ways that "home" involves more than being physically housed. Beyond workshops concerning the Three Ways to Home (continuum of housing, support service, adequate income) the conference will also focus on the greatest factors for long-term tenancy and life outcomes – finding a diverse community to belong to and give back to – and will emphasize how all of us are homeless in one or more significant aspects, in order to break down "us" and "them" stereotypes.

If it is true that visible homelessness is in rapid decline then how can we understand the other factors that make permanent housing work for the hardest to house and for all of us? The conference keynote speaker will be Brian Walsh, author of [Beyond](#)

[Homelessness: Christian Faith in a Culture of Displacement](#)

This conference has an anticipated attendance of 300 from across Metro Vancouver, from the public, private and non-profit sectors.

Regional Homeless Count Initial Results

On May 24th the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness released the initial results on the March 16th homeless count. The current results have reported White Rock numbers within the Surrey total. (We have asked for separate numbers in the final report due in July.) Homeless counts are always an undercount and show only the MINIMUM number of people who are on the street or in shelters. From this count we know that there are a minimum 388 people in Surrey/White Rock who have no place to call home. For further details of the count please go to the following link: <http://stophomelessness.ca/news/>

Peninsula Homelessness in the News

Homeless in the Peninsula:

http://www.bclocalnews.com/surrey_area/peacearchnews/community/118035449.html

Homeless count on the Peninsula:

http://www.bclocalnews.com/surrey_area/surreyleader/news/118179169.html

Meals at Grace Church:

http://www.bclocalnews.com/surrey_area/peacearchnews/opinion/letters/118656029.html

Homeless Count Results

http://www.bclocalnews.com/news/122527738.html?c=y&curSection=/surrey_area/peacearchnews&curTitle=BC+News&bc09=true



PH2H Food Security Initiative

Working with the White Rock South Surrey (WRSS) Community Foundation, the Peninsula Homeless to Housing Roundtable has undertaken the initial steps to develop a fund to support low-income meal programs in our community. If you wish to contribute to this fund please contact:

WRSS Community Foundation

Contact Debbie Magson Tel: 778-292-1367

Email: info@wrssc.org

July's Newsletter will provide additional updates from the homeless count if they are available.