

UPPER ROOM MISSION
People Helping People



VOL. 2 ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2011

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

- Bring us your refundable containers! We will recycle them for you.
- Kitchen and sprinkler system are still in need of funding!
- Volunteer! It is good for the heart...

We have to give thanks to all of you who support us in so many ways. There are no words to express our gratitude for your generosity. Without you, we would not be able to support so many people and give them the hand up that they need to get back on their feet. As the

spring goes by and turns into summer, our numbers are ever increasing. The food and finances you offer continue to amaze us. As well, the donations of goods to the Boutique fill the back room. **Thank you also to the many volunteers who donate their time to help us**

cook, sort clothes and pick up our donations at the local businesses.



UPCOMING EVENTS ...

We are busy planning our backyard **Courtyard Garden** and finding wooden 4x4 ties, plants, and dirt to support it. We continue to fundraise for our kitchen renovations and sprinkler system. We will also be helping our local Volunteer Bureau at the Sunshine Festival with one of our Outreach Workers signed up for the dunk tank. So come on down and **donate to dunk!** Our summer programs include crafting on Thursday afternoons, lunch in the park and we will continue to have

chapel every week day at 11:30.

Our Birthday Bash is in the planning stages for October. Any one with ideas is welcome to share them with *Lisa @ 250-549-1231*.

Our Volunteer Work program is coming along nicely with some of the guests taking responsibility for different chores around the Mission. They are sorting bottles, mopping and cleaning, working as a swamper on the truck and working in the kitchen

peeling vegetables. There are many opportunities to grow and learn new skills. As well, our Courtyard Garden is in the beginning stages with leveling of the ground and planting of the planters underway.

We recently had one of our cherished guests pass away and as a memorial to him; we started a fund to buy a gazebo for the Courtyard Garden. The guests have donated enough to purchase it and we have put it up in the back yard. Thank you!

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FROM OUR CHAPLAIN DAVE...

“He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.” - Proverbs 14:31

“Who is like you, O LORD? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor, and the needy from those who rob them.” - Psalm 35:10
 What are these Bible verses saying? That God

wants to be known for the way He loves the poor. “God requires us to worship Him as He describes Himself,” writes Amy Sherman. “We don’t have the right to construct our own picture of Him. We must take him as He is. And He clearly wants us to know that a central, irreducible component of His self-identity is His love for the poor.”
 Is Christianity an

oppressive religion? Is the God of the Bible a cruel tyrant? On the contrary, **we can place our hope in this God!** Why? Because He has a soft spot for those who are weak, helpless, and powerless - people who know they have nothing to offer. Like us!



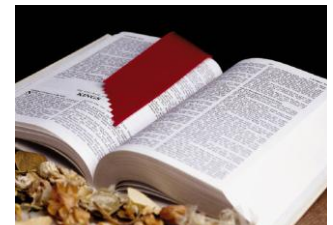
Please send us your prayer requests and we will pray for you during our morning devotions...

“For where there are two or three gathered together in my name, there I am in their midst.” Matthew 18:20

BOUTIQUE NEWS FROM FRANKIE...

We are launching our new Boutique Bonus Card on June 1st and there is a lot of buzz going on among the volunteers and staff – excitement along with trepidation. Our main goal is to bring savings to our customers. We are pleased that they come to us for their needs. Our community supplies our Boutique and provides funds we need to run the Upper Room Mission with the purchasing of the goods. It is a win –win situation. To keep our Boutique running smoothly we need all of our volunteers and at this

time **we are eagerly seeking more volunteers in all areas** – at the till serving customers, sorting and pricing clothing and household goods, receiving goods from our generous donors and numerous other tasks. These tasks require just 3 hours once a week and bless our socks off. You may also feel blessed among the other volunteers and staff having fun, socializing and becoming like a family (only better). Volunteering at the Mission is a way to



give back to the community, creating awareness of the grand scale of recycling that we accomplish every day at the Mission, and the greatest of all - serving God by serving others.



WORDS FROM OUR CAP SITE SUPERVISOR

The CAP site has been busy these past few weeks. The volume of activity has increased slightly. In the beginning of 2011, we shifted focus of afternoons to individuals requiring personal assistance, and dedicated two afternoons a week for typing classes. This income tax season we have

also had individual filing their 2010 tax forms on line. Guests are continuing to enjoy the opportunities to social network and keep up with family and friends and are taking the opportunity to search for employment and affordable housing. We also refer them to other service providers throughout the community. Rob has

continued to maintain the Cap Site, volunteering many hours of his time. **We would like to take this time to thank him.** Without his technical assistance, the site would have a difficult time operating. We have enjoyed the last few weeks and look forward to the summer being just as successful and active.



WORDS FROM LISA...

Spring has finally come and it feels like summer is just around the corner. With the warming of the season, there seems to be an increase of activity. As the Mission continually experiences an increase in the demands of its services, the community of Vernon rises up each time to help us meet those needs. Individuals stopping in to drop off a check, some food supplies or to share their time bless us on a regular basis. Our plans and activities focus on improving our services, streamlining our operations, and truly being a place where guests receive a hand up and not a hand out. This includes looking for ways to encourage the guests of

the Mission to take more responsibility and develop an attitude of gratitude for the services and help received in the community. One way is the **Mission Guest Volunteer Work Program**. This program provides opportunities for the guests to work alongside the Staff and Volunteers, by providing volunteer positions. These include helping with the development of the **Back Yard Garden Project** and its maintenance, washing dishes, cleaning tables and floors after meals, sweeping our parking lot and small maintenance duties. These are only a few examples, but the result has been to develop accountability for their volunteer position and

sense of pride for the care of our facilities. Our **new washroom facilities** will be completed by the end of summer, which means the final fundraising efforts for the **New Kitchen** project will begin shortly. The fundraising stalled when we needed to gather the cost of the additional sprinkler system expense. Since the fundraising for the new kitchen began last fall, the community has rallied behind us and helped us raise almost \$50,000! Please be watching for the release of the total project costs. Thank-you for all of the interest and inquiries for the ministry programs of the Upper Room Mission and for your ongoing financial support.



LETTER FROM MIKE...

A letter to my community... Through the years, I have appeared in the Morning Star- mostly Crime Stoppers. My influence on my community was profound. Bi-polar, addict, drug dealer, thief, unfit parent and one of societies undesirables. I would like to thank my community for RCMP, judges, Community Corrections, Mental

Health workers, the hospital, doctors, nurses, drug and alcohol councilors, outreach workers and the food bank. All of these are reflections of a communities' warmth, caring and compassion and the example I used to achieve my second year of sobriety that I am celebrating by writing this letter. Although our community is riddled

with these services it was through the gentle persuasion of three meals a day and unflinching examples of my community that I found at the Upper Room Mission that guided me to utilize all the services to my benefit. It is with thanks to my community that I write this letter.

“Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.” Col. 4:2-4

*“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.”
2 Corinthians 1:3, 4 NLT*



THANKS TO THE CITY OF VERNON!

We have been blessed by the City of Vernon. They have donated 6 concrete planters for the front of our building. Now we are planting them with cherry tomatoes, basil, oregano, thyme, petunias and lobelia which were very kindly donated by the Flower Spot and Art Knapps. A shout out to Surplus Herby's and

Fischer's Hardware for supporting our Garden Courtyard. Our local businesses are always so supportive of the Mission. We are very grateful that we will be able to improve the look of our front yard and also be able to support our kitchen by growing herbs that they can use.



Psalm 23 ...

¹ THE LORD is my Shepherd [to feed, guide, and shield me], I shall not lack. ² He makes me lie down in [fresh, tender] green pastures; He leads me beside the still and restful waters. ³ He refreshes and restores my life (my self); He leads me in the paths of righteousness

[uprightness and right standing with Him--not for my earning it, but] for His name's sake. ⁴ Yes, though I walk through the [deep, sunless] valley of the shadow of death, I will fear or dread no evil, for You are with me; Your rod [to protect] and Your staff [to guide], they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before

me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my [brimming] cup runs over. ⁶ Surely, only goodness, mercy, and unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life, and through the length of my days the house of the Lord [and His presence] shall be my dwelling place.

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