

Promoting Dignity

at
The Salvation Army



the **DIGNITY
PROJECT**



March 2012

As The Salvation Army celebrates the one-year anniversary of the launch of **The Dignity Project**, an initiative designed to educate and inform the public about the challenges facing society's most vulnerable people, it reflects on the programs and services that have promoted dignity within the past year.

This review looks at some of the programs that are being offered at The Salvation Army that help to give hope and support to vulnerable people in Canada today and everyday.

Chilliwack, British Columbia — Addiction is not picky. It can, and does, attack anyone from any walk of life. Since November 2011, and in response to community need, Fireside Addiction Services is mending broken people, one life at a time. The idea for an addiction centre in Chilliwack, which serves the Fraser Valley, came after The Salvation Army Paetzold Rehabilitation Centre, a 172-bed residential rehab near Mission, B.C., closed in July of 2010. Currently operating out of a store front, Fireside Addictions is an extension of existing services provided by The Salvation Army in Chilliwack. Fireside Addiction Services offers individuals and families a program of recovery that includes motivational enhancement therapy, relapse prevention and CBT (cognitive behavioural therapy) with a strong element of spiritual guidance and 12-step support. The programs are life-changing for those in need of them. When clients make the decision and commitment to sobriety they slowly begin to rebuild their sense of dignity and self-worth. In recovery, dignity takes on heightened importance.



Sussex, New Brunswick — Commencing on April 11, 2012, Sally's Community Kitchen will empower those living on low incomes by providing training in cooking, shopping, meal planning, budgeting, food safety and nutrition. The Salvation Army's desire to help people cope with food insecurity is coupled with its goal of preserving their dignity. Sally's Kitchen is an opportunity for single moms and those living on low incomes to learn how to live within their budgets while providing healthy, nutritious meals for their families. Furthermore, participants in the food-safe program will be able to earn a certificate that will assist them in gaining employment. The six-week program can accommodate eight people at a time. The Salvation Army plans to run the program biannually. The program will not only help participants realize their potential, but they will also acquire the skill set and tools necessary to lead productive, healthy lives, which can be passed on to future generations.

Hamilton, Ontario — The Salvation Army is the organizing force behind Community Access to Transportation (CAT), a course designed to provide a sense of freedom and independence for people with developmental and cognitive disabilities. The two-year pilot program will educate more than 200 people.



Eight-week classes feature one-on-one lessons, 40 hours of on-the-bus training, personal safety, which bus routes to take, what to do if they accidentally get on the wrong bus, where to buy tickets and how to respond to on-the-street crisis situations. By providing solutions to the barriers that prevent people from being as independent as they can be, dignity is restored to participants.

Winnipeg, Manitoba — The Salvation Army's Life Employability and Enhancement Program (LEEP) is a pre-employment training program that assists newcomers to Canada to become contributing members of society. Participants must be from a country affected by war and be between the ages of 18 and 30 years. Since most new Canadians can't afford private driving lessons, last year, LEEP tried something new — a driver training program that is parallel to the one offered in high schools. Through this new initiative, young adults feel self-sufficient and there is a lot of dignity in self-sufficiency. As students report increased self-esteem, bleakness is replaced with hope and success, and surviving is replaced with thriving.

St. John's, Newfoundland — The Salvation Army New Hope Community Centre is helping people get back on their feet. Its 12-week retail skills and commercial cleaning programs are committed to helping those furthest away from the labour market find work and income. Participants include the unemployed,



people with addictions or mental health issues, single parents and newcomers to Canada. Topics covered include everything from learning to write a resume to responding to customer's needs, to hard skills training and emotional readiness. For society's most vulnerable, job interviews are scarce and when they get their foot in the door, lack of knowledge and life-skills often swings it back shut.

The Dignity Project is designed to educate the public about the reality of poverty in the 21st century – and underscore the point that everyone deserves basic human dignity.

Today, approximately three million Canadians, or one in 11 people, live in poverty. The Salvation Army recognizes that poverty is a critical issue, and that everyone has a right to access basic necessities such as nutritious food, health care, education and economic opportunity.

More than 1.7 million people receive assistance from The Salvation Army each year across the country – many among the nation's poor.

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SalvationArmy.ca/dignity



The Salvation Army is an international Christian organization that began its work in Canada in 1882 and has grown to become the largest non-governmental direct provider of social services in the country. The Salvation Army gives hope and support to vulnerable people today and everyday in 400 communities across Canada and more than 120 countries around the world.

The Salvation Army offers practical assistance for children and families, often tending to the basic necessities of life, providing shelter for homeless people and rehabilitation for people who have lost control of their lives to an addiction. When you give to The Salvation Army, you are investing in the future of marginalized and overlooked people in your community.