

Shelter From the Rain

There's Nothing Wet About On-Air Support

When it rains in BC, it's not uncommon to see a Salvation Army umbrella on TV. Most often it's in the hand of Bruce Williams, the manager of community relations and weather host for 'A' British Columbia.

Williams, who supports several organizations and attends 200 events each year, has a special connection with the Army. His mother trained as a nurse at the Army's Grace Hospital in Windsor, Ontario, and that connection has permeated the Williams family.

Today Bruce lends his equity as a media person to the Army's

efforts to find solutions to societal problems. That's why he hosts the Army's annual Christmas concert with Naden Band, and helps explain the on-air rain gear. "Just as an umbrella is a shelter from the rain," he explains, "The Salvation Army is a shelter for those in need."



Bruce Williams has old and new reasons to help the Army.

No More Shame

Former Addict Finds Acceptance

"A lot of bad stuff happens down there," says 41-year-old Samantha Thomas. She is speaking of her old neighbourhood, Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, where she spent more than 12 years as an

addict and prostitute. A desire to meet her kids, whom she hadn't seen in years, led her to detox and eventually to a recovery house in Kelowna. Although she was nervous, she started attending The Salvation Army church. "I'd always felt so much shame," she says. "But the people looked past that and didn't judge me at all. Then I listened to the pastor and felt overwhelmed with love. I had found faith. I never had it before and I wanted more. The people here loved me until I could start loving myself." Samantha hopes to meet her daughter soon.



Samantha and Capt. Cathy Burrows, pastor at the Army's Kelowna church, are forging a deep friendship.

Join Us in Giving Hope Today

How to Contact the Army

The Salvation Army would like to hear from you. If you want to know more about what we do and why, if you want to volunteer, or if you would like to speak to us about planned giving — or help us in our community service with another form of donation — please use the information below.

Together we're giving hope today to thousands in British Columbia and the rest of Canada.

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Giving Hope Today

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together

giving hope today to people in need



Fall 2009

A Victorious Recovery

From Addiction to a New Life

Heather Guthrie's darkest day was in 2003 when a government agency took her youngest daughter away. "I saw what the bottom looked like," she recalls. "I couldn't take care of her because I was a broken, lost woman and very addicted." For years, crack and alcohol had ruled her life, claiming all of her money and destroying her family.

But at the bottom, Heather — now 52 — found the strength to start changing. "I wanted something back in my life." She went to The Salvation Army's Homestead, a support recovery house for women in Vancouver. She didn't find the program easy, but nine months later she left the Homestead a changed woman.

"I felt like a new baby," she remembers. "I had a new lease on life. I'd been running from myself for so long, but with a safe place to stay I had a serious look at myself and started to change the things I had to change."

Heather reunited with her daughter, went to school and earned a substance



Heather and her daughter Karina now live with hopes and dreams, rather than brokenness.

abuse counseling certificate. Today she works as a case manager/counselor at the Homestead, coming full circle back to the 26-bed facility. "I wanted to give back something of what I was given, and as a recovering addict I can identify how difficult it is. Here I have satisfaction, purpose in life, and a sense of belonging and validation that I have something to give. My daughter and I are so grateful to the Homestead and the staff. Our lives were saved and we found a life."

Giving Hope Today

Better For All

Our hearts are warm with sincere thanks for your continuing generosity. Despite world financial uncertainty, you have enabled The Salvation Army to minister to those who are on the edges of society: the homeless, the hungry, the despairing and the hopeless. With your partnership, we will ensure that Christmas is brighter with meaning for those with little future.

The Salvation Army is truly experienced in meeting human need. Since 1882, the Army in Canada has been recognized as part of the fabric of society. With our proactive yet compassionate understanding of those who are lost in the maze of modern living, we give hope to people.

Under God's guidance — and with your assistance — we are endeavouring to make your community a better place for all.

Major Brian Venables,
Divisional Secretary
for Public Relations &
Development

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Miracle on East Cordova

Steven's Story

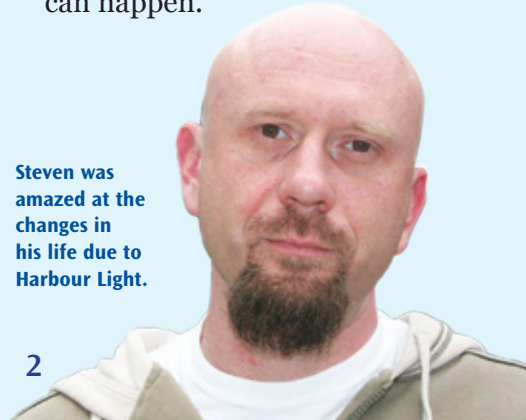
Steven started using drugs and alcohol at age 15 to escape an abusive childhood. "Drugs made me feel normal, he says, "like I was a part of something."

But all Steven was really a part of was a spiral of addiction that eventually deposited him on the streets, with no job and no hope.

That's where he found healing and peace through The Salvation Army Harbour Light, which is a unique and very effective addiction recovery program that stresses community, patience and teamwork.

Since he entered Harbour Light, Steven's life has been turned around through group therapy and one-on-one counseling. He has progressed enough to act as a leader and mentor for others in the program. Also, he graduated with an equivalent diploma at Vancouver Community College.

"I'd recommend this place to anybody," says Steven. "You need to come in honest and willing. If you can do that, you'll be amazed at what can happen."



Steven was amazed at the changes in his life due to Harbour Light.

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Poverty Shouldn't Be a Life Sentence

Last year, The Salvation Army surveyed hundreds of homeless men facing extreme poverty and using our shelter services. Following are highlights of the study, which underscore many of the root causes of poverty and homelessness in Canada.

Poverty & Employment

- **28%** of the homeless men surveyed were **employed**.
- While **72%** of participants were **unemployed**, just 6% had accessed employment assistance services.

Poverty & Welfare

- **37%** of respondents were **on welfare**.
- The amount these recipients received was **not enough to afford housing**.

Homelessness & Housing

- Salvation Army shelter users have been **homeless** for nearly **three years**, on average.
- **Canada does not have enough** affordable and permanent **housing** to accommodate the current homeless population.

Homelessness & Poor Health

- Nearly half of survey participants suffer from **healthcare** and **addiction-related problems**.
- Noted **health issues** range in severity and pertain to **mental health**, **physical health**, and **addictions to drugs and alcohol**.

"You don't know where to start ... You don't know what to do to recover your dignity. It's hard to get out of there. It's a wheel because a lot of times people put a stamp on you and a lot of doors close because of that."

— Quebec shelter user



One in ten Canadians — or almost 3.5 million people — live in poverty.



Giving Hope Today

Read the entire study at www.SalvationArmy.ca/PovertyStudy

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Partners in our Community

Medicine Centre joins the Army in the Fight

The connection between The Salvation Army and pharmacies in BC can be viewed from many different perspectives, but most recently a working partnership has been forged. Medicine Centre pharmacies, which has 55 locations, has supported The Salvation Army's fight to end human trafficking and various community events across the Lower Mainland.

For Deborah Kerr, Director of Retail Operations for the store chain, getting behind the Army is the start of

something big. "It comes down to values," she says. "We operate in small communities, focus on the holistic health of the community and help people maintain health. In a similar way, that's what The Salvation Army does." For more information about upcoming events between the two, visit www.salvationarmy.ca/bc, or about the initiatives to fight human trafficking visit: thetruthisntsexy.ca.



Major Brian Venables, Deborah Kerr and Donna Kill, Medicine Centre Coordinator with a Sparkle of Hope advertising board.

Annuities music to donor's ears

Gordon and Mary Webster purchased their first \$25,000 Salvation Army joint annuity in 1981. The couple continued to buy additional annuities every year, and were delighted with the tax-free monthly payments and the substantial charitable tax receipt.

Although Mary passed away in 2004, Gordon continued to purchase charitable annuities yearly from The Salvation Army until his death in April. Because they knew the tremendous impact they had in rebuilding the lives of many hurting people who are served by The Salvation Army, Gordon — having no children — chose to leave a substantial gift to The Salvation Army in his will. Their legacy will have a huge impact in transforming the lives of many deserving people in the years ahead.

For more information on how you can remember The Salvation Army in your will, please contact us by calling 1-800-725-2769 or by e-mail at donor_questions@salvationarmy.org.



Although he worked for CP Rail, Gordon's first love was music and for many years he played saxophone and clarinet in several groups.



Peter and Marnie Mitchell work with parents and kids to heal old wounds and find new hope.

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Art Director/Designer	Production Artist(s)	Creative Director	Initials	Date
DGY				
Production Art Manager	Centralized Production	Account Team	Initials	Date
Proof Reader			Initials	Date