

MEDIA RELEASE

Local Charity Working to Protect the Community's Most Vulnerable ... but supplies are dwindling

Vancouver, B.C. (Mar. 19, 2020) – As Covid-19 continues to impact the world, The Salvation Army is working around the clock to protect the most vulnerable, especially those living on the Downtown Eastside.

The Salvation Army's Belkin House and Vancouver Harbour Light facilities have been operating at full tilt to ensure that vulnerable individuals are being served. Among the highest at risk are the homeless, the elderly and those affected with mental health illnesses and addictions.

"People living on the streets and the elderly often have compromised immune systems and pre-existing health conditions," says spokesperson Mike Leland. "They need immediate, priority and continued care from us. And we are dedicated to doing so during these extremely precarious times."

We continue to have our doors open to those who need it most, offering programs and services, including:

- Shelter spaces and beds
- Community meal services
- Spiritual and emotional counselling
- Sanitary supplies

"In our larger facilities, we are able to meet the need, but several of our smaller Family Service operations, including our location on Kingsway and Fraser, are already seeing supplies reach dangerously low levels," says Leland.

With local businesses being forced to close their doors and lay people off, the Family Services locations are struggling to keep pace with the increased demand. The Boundless Vancouver Family Services has seen an exponential increase in the amount of families seeking help.

Essential supplies will be needed to continue to serve our communities adequately. We will continue to rely on our community partners and the government to get us through these difficult times, but we are also asking for the general public's help:

- Make a donation online at salvationarmy.ca/donations
- Drop off donations of:
 - food & water
 - soap / hand sanitizer / toilet paper

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The Salvation Army is an international Christian organization that began its work in Canada in 1882 and has grown to become one of the largest providers of social services in the country. In over 56 communities in B.C. and 400 communities across Canada and over 130 countries around the world, we share the love of Jesus Christ, provide practical, compassionate support to meet basic human needs and work to be a transforming influence in the communities of our world. With your support, we give people hope today ... and every day.

For more information:

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