



HARVEST NEWS

JULY
2002

Extending a hand up, not a hand out

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BARE SHELVES

We are experiencing a 55% increase in clients and a seasonal decline in donated non-perishable food items, so our reserves are being rapidly depleted. Please remember the Harvest Project and the needs of those in your community. If you'd like to make a donation, you can do so between 10 AM and 4 PM Tuesday - Friday, or between 10 AM and 2 PM on Saturdays.

Harvest Project Remains Open Through July and August!

Dear Harvest Helpers,

Last month we advised you of our precarious financial situation, which included the layoff of our staff and the possibility of closure due to lack of funding. However, the strong response from you - our donors - and from the broader community has made it possible for us to continue to serve those who urgently need our assistance.

I want you to know that we have been so heartened by the warmth of your love and concern, and so encouraged by your generous support of our clients. This, truly, has refreshed our resolve to persevere in the vital work of the Harvest. It's only through your faithful support - donations, prayers, and word-of-mouth advocacy - that we will continue to assist our clients towards healthy, self-sufficient lives.

In the interests of prudent financial management, we chose not to send out a special letter with this good news; rather, we elected to share it with you as part of the summer newsletter. As you know, stationery and postage costs are high, so we want to ensure that the funds that come into the Harvest are used appropriately.

You will recall from our June letter that we were seeking to raise \$200,000 over and above the regular contributions in order to secure our ability to operate until the Thanksgiving season. We are very pleased to advise that, to date, we are two-thirds of the way to our goal! The need for the Harvest's services continues, however, and is growing. In light of this, the Board of Directors and staff are developing a fundraising program that will provide secure, ongoing funding. We invite you to be a part of this ongoing program.

We have received a fair amount of press coverage over the past month. I welcome your questions and comments with regard to any of the information that may seem unclear to you.

Thank you for being a partner in providing "a hand up, not a hand out".

David Richards
Executive Director

***"When God is about to do something great, He starts with a difficulty.
When He is about to do something truly magnificent, He starts with an impossibility."
- Armin Cesswein***

The work of the Harvest Project is made possible through the commitment and dedication of our many volunteers.

If you are interested in joining the team, please call 604-983-9488 and come to a Volunteer Information Session (held the first Saturday of every month - except holiday weekends - at 11:00 am at the Harvest.)

Building Maintenance – carpentry, construction, and/or electrical skills

Cleaning – dusting, vacuuming, windows, etc.

Dress for Success – assisting clients with clothing for work and school

Driving – picking-up food and delivering hampers

Fundraising – professional assistance with strategizing and implementation

Kitchen – preparing lunches, maintaining coffee/snack service

Life Skills – leading workshops on budgeting, interpersonal skills, time mgt., etc.

Reception – greeting clients, answering phones, taking appointments

Resource Centre – providing info. on employment opportunities and training

Secretarial Support – typing, photocopying, data entry, etc.

Special Events – coordination, publicity/promotion, advertising etc.

Tailor/Seamstress – mending and/or altering clothes for boutique

Warehouse – sorting, boxing, storing, and stocking food

Special Events Calendar

Garage Sale & BBQ – Saturday July 27th,
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (rain or shine!)

The Harvest Project will be hosting a Garage Sale & BBQ on July 27th, which is being sponsored by James and Janet Renshaw of M&M Meats. It will be a great opportunity for the members of our community to support the Harvest, take a tour of our facility, and maybe even find some new treasures! Please bring a non-perishable food item when you come down!

(If you have some *good quality* household items, sporting goods, tools, or small appliances that you'd like to donate for our sale, please drop them off during *business hours only* at the Harvest's loading-bay no later than July 20th. We respectfully decline furniture, clothing, and baby & computer equipment – thank you.)

Fundraising Festivities at Joe's Louisiana Grill –
Tuesday July 30th, 7:00 PM

Eat, drink, and be merry – and you'll be helping to support the Harvest! For \$25, you'll enjoy a flavourful buffet of Cajun appetizers and drink specials, and you'll be eligible for great door prizes and a 50/50 draw. For more information, please contact Michael at 604-983-9430 (Joe's Louisiana Grill is located at 999 Marine Drive, by Indigo Books).

Fundraising Feast at Amici Restaurant –
Tuesday August 13th, 5:30 PM & 8:30 PM

Amici Restaurant, near beautiful Ambleside Beach in West Vancouver, will be hosting a gourmet four-course "Taste of Italy" dinner on August 13th to benefit the Harvest. The first seating is at 5:30 PM and the second is at 8:30 PM. Tickets are \$100 per person, and are available from Amici Restaurant (604-913-1314). All proceeds from this fantastic event will be donated to the Harvest Project.

Wish List

The Harvest is in need of:

- Men's & women's footwear for work and school (in good condition, please).
- Men's blue jeans.
- Men's business-casual clothing (khaki's, golf shirts, etc.)
- Shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, feminine hygiene products.
- Metal utility cart for warehouse.
- Pest- and water-proof storage bins for bulk foods.
- Upright freezer.
- Digital camera.
- High-speed laser printer.
- P3 laptop computer with 5 Gig HD, 128Mb RAM, and TV out or S video.
- Pentium II (or newer) computer to be compatible with our network.
- Portable projector and screen for PowerPoint presentations.

Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Capilano for your financial gift that will enable us to buy some stacking chairs!

Open House & Auction –

Thursday September 26th, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

(please note the change to date & time information since the publication of our May newsletter)

Join us on Thursday, September 26th for an Open House and Silent Auction. This exciting event will be your chance to tour our facility, meet our staff, board, and volunteers, and bid on some exceptional auction items. Come and enjoy an evening of jazz and delectable desserts, and find out more about the work of the Harvest in your community - you don't want to miss it!

"Broadway, Ballads, & More" Benefit Concert–
Saturday November 2nd, 8:00 PM

Danielle St. Pierre, a talented West Vancouver singer, will be performing a benefit concert for the Harvest Project on Saturday November 2nd, at Centennial Theatre. Her CD, "With You", was the #1-selling Adult Contemporary CD on HMV.com for two consecutive weeks in 2001, and her latest video has had rotation on MuchMore Music. Danielle, who has been called "the most promising independent artist in Canada", recently performed at the "Women of Distinction Awards", where she thrilled the audience with her extraordinary voice.



Danielle St. Pierre

Tickets are \$29 each, including all applicable taxes, and guests will have an opportunity to meet the performer at a post-event "soiree". This will prove to be a fabulous evening – mark it on your calendars now!

You can find Danielle's full biography and samples of her music at
www.daniellestpierre.com



Celebrating Our Volunteers

On June 26th, we threw a party to honour our volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the Harvest Project. Our group room was transformed into a candlelit café, complete with a trio of local artists who entertained the crowd with their melodious music! We served steaming lattes and delicious desserts, and awarded door prizes that were supplied by local sponsors. Following speeches by our Board and Executive Director, each volunteer was presented with a certificate of recognition, and those who had served with distinction were acknowledged with a "Spirit Award" for exceptional effort. It was a terrific evening that was enjoyed by all!



"Melissa", a single mother of two, came to the Harvest filled with anxiety and visibly upset. She had been separated from her husband

for two years and received only sporadic financial support from him for their two children. The Ministry of Family Services had helped Melissa with a daycare subsidy for her younger child that allowed her to work full-time and be relatively self-sufficient. However, following recent cutbacks by the provincial government, Melissa received notice that she made "too much money" and no longer qualified for the subsidy.

Desperate to remain independent, Melissa had made repeated reviews of her budget to find enough money to cover the difference, but managed to pay only a part of the daycare bill and went without groceries as a result. In tears, she came to the Harvest for help.

We immediately provided Melissa with food for her and her children. And after a careful review of Melissa's expenses, she and her Client Care Partner decided that it would be best for her to move from a two bedroom to a one-bedroom apartment. This change allowed Melissa to continue working full-time and ensured quality childcare for her daughter. We are not sure how long Melissa will be able to live like this, but her determination to keep working in spite of her circumstances is an inspiration to us all!

A Holistic Approach To Caring For People

As the Manager of Client Care and the full-time Counselor at the Harvest Project, I have the privilege of seeing lives changed for the better every day of my working life. This is possible because the Harvest endeavors to care for the whole person, who not only has physical needs, but also emotional and spiritual needs. Our eight Client Care Partners build relationships with our clients so that the circumstances, goals, and obstacles in each person's life can be honestly and compassionately addressed. Regardless of the particulars of a client's situation – whether there are issues of illness, addiction, or relational breakdown – the Harvest offers unconditional assistance as he or she strives to find employment, return to school, or overcome difficult life circumstances. The only prerequisites are North Shore residency and a commitment to personal accountability.

Our food hamper program is certainly a great blessing to many individuals and families who are experiencing "hard times," and our Dress For Success boutique is invaluable to those who need help creating an appropriate image for the marketplace. But much of the brokenness that is evidenced in the lives of our clients is the result of struggles that go much deeper than their dressers or bank balances. So, in my position as Counselor, I work with people to address the distressing experiences in their lives and to help facilitate the healing of their painful emotions. This often leads to discussions of a religious nature; so spiritual - or "pastoral" - care is made available as another means of hope and restoration.

As many of you are already aware, the Harvest – like the Salvation Army, the YMCA, World Vision, and so many other familiar benevolent organizations – was founded upon the Biblical principles of being generous toward the poor and needy (Deuteronomy 15:10,11) and loving our neighbours as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). As a result, the spiritual care that we offer naturally comes from a Christian perspective. Still, because the Harvest treats individuals of every belief system with respect, those clients who request spiritual support from another major faith group are given assistance in this regard through our Resource Centre.

The Harvest Project's commitment to wholeness continues to succeed – as seen in those many clients who discover their own unique potential and, thereby, positively transform their lives.

- John Day, Client Care Manager & Counselor



Staff and volunteers enjoy a great Canada Day parade!!



Representing the Harvest on West Vancouver's Community Day.

Thank You for your Continued Support!

including all individuals, who are not listed to protect their privacy.



HAVING MODIFIED OUR DONOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM, WE HAVE CHOSEN TO TOTAL DONORS' CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE END OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR, AND TO LIST THE HARVEST HEROES IN EACH OF OUR THREE NEWSLETTERS IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

HARVEST HEROES OF 2001

Cornerstone Heroes \$6,000 + per year

*Employees of the Harvest Project
Face the World Foundation
Global Institute
Kimberly-Clark Inc.
KP Wood
North Shore Alliance Church
Prudential Sussex Realtors
T.J. Hickey Group – Todd Hickey & Stephen Batten
West Vancouver United Church*

Legendary Heroes \$1,200 - \$5,999 per year

*AG Professional Hair Care
Christine Designs
CIBC Charitable Foundation
Clairmont Camera Inc.
CWG Engineering Inc.
Haywood Securities
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Howe Sound Lions Club
Kiwanis Club of Capilano
Lamwong Design & Associates
Loewen Kruse Chartered Accountants
Lynn Valley Full Gospel Church
NAIOP Vancouver Chapter
New Hope Community Church
North Lonsdale United Church
North Shore News
Park Shore Motors Ltd.
Prudential Sussex Realty Corp.
St. Andrews & St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church
TD Bank Financial Group
Telus Employees' Community Fund
Zoetic Inc.*

RECYCLE FOR THE HARVEST PROJECT

You can help the Harvest Project by saving your empties.

Simply store your refundable drink containers (pop, juice, water, & adult beverages), remembering to leave the labels on. Then contact the Bottle Lady at 604-926-8853 (please do not bring your empties to the Harvest).

She'll collect them from your home - providing you have accumulated at least \$10.00 worth and you live within a reasonable distance - and will forward the refund to the Harvest.

Thanks for your support!

Super Heroes \$600 - \$1,199 per year

*Capilano Christian Community
Capilano Lions Club
Collingwood School
Commonwealth Insurance
Deep Cove Stage Society
Employees of BA Blacktop Ltd.
Employees of Ballard Power Systems Inc.
ET Technologies
Fawcett Insurance Agency Ltd.
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Gore Mutual Insurance
Great Northern Security
Highlands United Church
Indo-Persian Carpet Co. Ltd.
Kiwanis Club of West Vancouver
Knights of Columbus Lions Gate Council 7095
London Drugs Ltd.
North Shore Optimist Club
Rogers AT&T Pacific
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 60
Soroptimist Int'l of North & West Vancouver
St. Catherine's Anglican Church (Capilano)
Toronto Dominion Bank
Tuesday Breakfast Club
Union Securities Ltd.*

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN DONATE TO THE HARVEST PROJECT:

- IN PERSON OR BY MAIL?
- OVER THE PHONE, USING VISA?
- AT THE NORTH SHORE CREDIT UNION OR NORTH SHORE BRANCHES OF THE CIBC?
- THROUGH THE UNITED WAY (DESIGNATED TO THE HARVEST PROJECT)?

HARVEST PROJECT NEWSLETTER SPONSORS:

GRAPHIC DESIGN
PRINTING
FILM & BINDERY

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