



# HARVEST NEWS

SUMMER  
2009

*Extending a hand up, not a hand out*

## Hello to the Friends of Harvest Project

This is my first opportunity to address all of you and I am very grateful to do so. Four months ago I decided to put aside my retirement plans and volunteer to assist Harvest Project as the Acting Executive Director in addition to my Board Member responsibilities. In doing so, I have had the opportunity to meet with our volunteers, donors, church and business supporters.

I am impressed by the generosity, dedication and support that all of you give to Harvest Project so that we can serve our clients. The members of the staff, who work so very hard, appreciate all you do to assist them as well.

All of us at Harvest Project have been working very hard in the first six months to secure funds and services for our clients but **the need has been greater this year than ever before.** Many of our new clients are victims of recent job layoffs and work shortages. Individuals and families that have never experienced shortcomings are finding themselves in financial turmoil.

At the beginning of the year we felt confident that the generous amount of food and funds donated to us this past Christmas would be sufficient to meet the needs of our community but our supply has been drained by the increase in our clientele. **Over 4,900 food hampers have been given out in the first half of 2009 and that is just 100 short of the 5,011 given out in all of 2008 (see THE NUMBERS).**

### THE NUMBERS

Total client appointments first half (2009):	3073
Total client appointments (2008):	3930
Grocery hampers distributed (2009):	4911
Grocery hampers distributed (2008):	5011
Value of food distributed (2008):	\$758,370.00
Value of clothing distributed (2008):	\$32,753
Client care mentoring hours (2008):	1636
36% of clients are single parents	
Harvest Project client programs support 232 children	

### HOW YOU CAN HELP TODAY

Your gift of \$90 provides a month of life changing client programs at Harvest Project.

Your gift of \$1080 provides a year of life changing client programs at Harvest Project.



*A warm welcome from Terry Byrnes, volunteer Acting Executive Director.*

We look to the fall with great hope and anticipation but we need to replenish our dwindling food supply now. There are two ways you can help. First, we are in immediate need of your financial contributions so we can properly serve the many individuals and families in our programs (see response card enclosed). Second, we need your help this fall by participating in our 15th Annual Food Drive (see flyer enclosed). We need you to take a step today to support Harvest Project's programs and services so that together we can serve those in need on the North Shore.

Back in May we initiated a 3-year strategic planning process that involved the input from our staff, clients, volunteers, business contacts, community groups, churches and government officials. By this October our plan should be finalized and our direction set. We look forward to sharing some of this plan with you in our next newsletter.

In closing, I would like to thank you again, so very much for your valued support. If you wish to know more about what is happening with Harvest Project or if you would just like to meet or talk with me, please call me at: 604.983.9488 Local 306.

With warm regards to all,

Terry M. Byrnes  
*Acting Executive Director*

## Homelessness Action Week October 11-17 2009

Homeless Action Week is a time when Harvest Project joins with other North Shore service providers to offer special events and presentations to help build awareness about our neighbours who are experiencing difficult times.

Here are some of the things happening on the North Shore for the homeless and at risk of homelessness during the week:

- Thanksgiving Dinner: North Shore Housing Center (formerly the Shelter)
- Movie: "Something to Eat, A Place to Sleep and Someone Who Gives a Damn" at John Braithwaite Community Center
- Health Fair: For those living on the street and those at risk
- Presentations about Homelessness: Book by calling Harvest Project 604.983.9488 ext 317
- Soccer Game: North Shore Homeless against North Shore Guest Team

## Green Shield Foundation Grant Offers Special Support for Clients

Thank you Green Shield Foundation for granting Harvest Project \$10,000 to be used for the expanded counseling services initiative.

A portion of these funds is to be spent on crisis training for staff and volunteers so they can better meet the needs of our clients.

The balance will be used to partner with a local counseling agency so Harvest Project clients can be referred for short term counseling at no cost to them.

"By the time many of our clients come to Harvest Project for support their lives are burdened with personal crisis and they can't even afford the lowest counseling rates," explains Client Care Leader, Wendy Hiebert. "This new program will allow us to provide much needed counseling to those clients for whom even a subsidized rate is a barrier."

## Students Knit Blanket For Homeless



*Here is Mat alone and homeless cuddled in the blanket made for him by the grade 2-3 students at Queensbury Elementary School*

A Queensbury Elementary School class of grade 2-3 students presented Harvest Project with a patchwork quilt on June 24th. Their teacher Allison Donahue explained that she had wanted them to learn to knit and the students decided to knit squares to make a blanket for a homeless person.

Each Friday for a month the 19 students had a special block during class time to knit a square for the quilt project. Some knit two and three squares and when they had enough squares, one of the children's grandmas sewed the patches

together and finished the quilt edges.

Harvest Project Communications Manager, Liz Mallender visited the class to accept the quilt on behalf of Harvest Project. She brought an old worn duffle bag and a story about Mat a homeless fellow who uses Harvest Project services. As she told Mat's story about how he became homeless she pulled items from the bag that helped explain how Harvest Project helps those in need.

First, she pulled out an emergency bag of food to show the children what Harvest Project gives out to clients who are living on the street. She explained how the items needed to be ready to use as Mat did not have any way to cook food nor did he have any utensils to use to eat his food.

Next, she showed the children a personal hygiene kit that Mat received to help him keep clean. She reminded the children that Mat did not have any way to wash his hands or brush his teeth. He needed deodorant, shampoo, soap, hand wipes, a toothbrush and toothpaste among other things.

Then Mallender pulled out a dirty worn pair of shoes that she said had belonged to Mat. She explained that Mat wore the same shoes and socks everyday for months at a time. Harvest Project had given Mat a new pair of shoes and socks to replace these old worn ones.

And finally, she pulled a ragged old blue blanket out of the bag and said that this was one of Mat's blankets that he used each night. She explained that Mat slept on the landing of a stairwell sheltered from the rain. He wasn't able to wash his blankets so they just got worn and dirty from over use and they needed to be replaced.

By the end of the story the children had decided that Mat should receive their blanket. They were concerned about Mat and they tried to offer suggestions about how Mat could get a home for himself. For about an hour or more after the story they asked detailed questions about homelessness and what could be done.

## RONA Staff Ask Customers

### "Give 2 Harvest, ask me how..."



"Give 2 Harvest, ask me how..." was the message the RONA Park & Tilford staff wanted to send out to their shoppers in June. As a result, Team RONA raised \$3,167.81 by asking customers at the till to make donations and selling hot dog lunches at their BBQ on Sunday, June 14th. In the picture above, Team RONA gather around their Center Manager, Bob Imai (bottom center) to present a big cheque to Harvest Project Operations Manager, Derek Pace (left front). Ed McNeilly (right front), RONA Yard Manager, organized and rallied team RONA for the event. Thank you TEAM RONA!

## A Client's Story

Elaine had such a positive experience as a client at Harvest Project that she wishes there was one in each community to assist those in need. Her sister who volunteers in the grocery area at the charity encouraged Elaine to seek help at Harvest Project when she lost her job and began struggling financially.

Elaine was the manager of the paint department at a company in Richmond when she and her fellow employees were given notice in April 2008 that their store would be closing. The company tried to relocate as many employees as possible but by May, she found herself unemployed and on employment insurance (EI).

"Receiving only \$1200 per month from EI was a big drop in salary for me as I am a single mom with an eight year old daughter to support," said Elaine. "I could see my expenses building up and I wasn't finding anything suitable through my own job search."

In October 2008, Elaine met with Don Shaw, a Harvest Project Client Care Partner, who worked at connecting her to employment resources to assist her with her job search. He also arranged for her to participate in a budget workshop and started her on the grocery program to ease her financial burdens.

Elaine explained that it was the volunteers that made her experience at Harvest Project so very personal. Each month when she shopped for her month's supply of groceries, George, one of the grocery volunteers, would have something special for her daughter and he would always encourage Elaine to try new food items.

"The volunteers spent time getting to know me and my daughter," Elaine explained. "Don my client care partner spent a great deal of time helping me sort out my employment situation and he connected me to the YWCA One Stop Career Shop program so I could get help with my resume and interview skills. As a result, I'm now self-employed as a painter and decorator."

Don encouraged Elaine to sign up for a contractor course called Successful Contracting and Consulting. He referred her to the government employment office to get assistance with a referral letter so she could be waitlisted for the course.

Elaine went through the course in December and continued with our services until she became organized as a contractor and began getting contracts. She became stabilized with a steady income by April 2009.

"The whole helping process felt very personal," said Elaine. "You weren't just another person."

## Volunteer Recognition Party

A special recognition party was held on June 24th to honor Harvest Project volunteers who had assisted the charity for a year or more.

Here is the list of current volunteers who have served 5 years or more.

Current Volunteers	Start Date	Years	Current Volunteers	Start Date	Years
Joanne Renshaw	Feb 18 2004	5	David Osborne	May 20 2003	6
Christine Kemper	Aug 01 2004	5	Gary Brady	May 07 2003	6
Judy Levitt	Sep 25 2004	5	Gary Cuthbert	May 02 2003	6
Leanne Pendray	May 30 2003	6	Lucy Collings	Oct 02 2003	6
Catherine Cabeldu	Mar 24 2003	6	Margaret Collins	Jun 04 2003	6
Cathy McManmon	Jan 04 2003	6	Audrey Haigh	Feb 02 2002	7
Cheryl Baines	May 24 2003	6	Janet Berg	Aug 25 1999	10

.....

Board Members	Start Date	Years
Irene Leschert	Jan 01 2001	8
Don Mossop	Jan 01 2000	9

## KUDOS

**Kudos** to Dylan Goggs, Associate Pastor at Sutherland Church for coordinating the work teams for Vancouver SERVE 2009 an event that focuses on serving the needs of people in the community. One team of nine Calgary students helped at Harvest Project on July 7th and another group of nine on July 8th.

**Kudos** to Flying Wedge Pizza, Park & Tilford for raising \$500 for Harvest Project. During the month of June one dollar was donated for every regular-priced medium or large pizza sold.

**Kudos** to the organizers and participants of the BMW Car Club of BC for raising \$1,656.25 for Harvest Project at their annual German Car Festival event.

**Kudos** to Harvest Project volunteers Adrienne Brown, Bob Paxton, Ryan Souza, Sherry Thompson, Sylvie Pather and Vivien Lim for helping with the Harvest Project booth at Waterfront Park on Canada Day. Hundreds of children and their parents visited the booth to fish for fun with proceeds going to Harvest Project. Come visit our fishing booth at Party at the Pier on Sept. 6th or the Lonsdale Fall Festival on Sept. 27th.

**Kudos** to teacher Mali Balin at Bodwell High School for coordinating four work parties of students and a presentation about Harvest Project at one of their school assemblies.

**Kudos** to North Shore Alliance Church Youth Ministries Coordinator Jon Livingstone for coordinating the Wednesday night youth volunteer work parties at Harvest Project. These events occurred the last Wednesday of each month from Jan-Jun – five in total.

**Kudos** to Ponnie Matin at North Shore Curves for coordinating two work parties of Curves employees to come to Harvest Project.

**Kudos** to St. Andrews United Church at 1044 St. Georges Street on the North Shore for hosting a community lunch every Thursday from noon-1:00pm. This lunch is free of charge to any who wish to partake.

## Book a Harvest Project Presentation

One of our presentation team members can be booked to come to your school, church or business to speak about homelessness and how you can become actively involved in the solution.

Presentations are tailored to the following audience levels:

Elementary School,  
Secondary School, Adults

## Donating is Easy

Donations can be made to Harvest Project:

- By cheque
- By Visa or Mastercard
- By pre-authorized bank payments
- In person or by mail
- Online through Canada Helps
- Through the United Way (designated to the Harvest Project)
- Through stock transfers

We also welcome gifts of RRSPs, life insurance policies, stocks/bonds/mutual funds, trusts and annuities through our Planned Giving Program.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** We provide tax receipts for every donation over \$20. If you wish to receive your tax receipt once annually instead of with every donation, please write a note on the donor card or with your next donation.

## Contact Information

**Acting Executive Director**  
Terry Byrnes  
604.983.9488 ext. 306  
terryb@harvestproject.org


**Board Chair**  
Irene Leschert  
board@harvestproject.org

**Communications**  
Liz Mallender  
604.983.9488 ext. 317  
lizm@harvestproject.org

**Volunteering Information**  
Adrienne Brown  
604.983.9488 ext. 303  
adrienneb@harvestproject.org

**Inquiries & Mailing changes**  
Lynn Hill  
604.983.9488 ext. 305  
administration@harvestproject.org

**Harvest Project**  
201 Bewicke Avenue,  
North Vancouver, BC V7M 3M7  
Phone: 604.983.9488  
Fax: 604.987.5813

Design:  Sandi Ma  
sandi\_ma@shaw.ca

## Thank You for your Continuing Support

Major Donors since January 2009.

We are grateful to all who have so generously supported Harvest Project.

### Gold Donors - \$15,000+

DP World  
North Shore News  
Port Metro Vancouver  
Steelhead Business Products  
TSI Terminal Systems Inc.  
Western Stevedoring

### Silver Donors - \$10,000+

Green Shield Canada Benefits Assoc.  
Save-on-Foods, Park & Tilford  
Save-on-Foods, Pemberton Plaza N. Van

### Bronze Donors - \$5,000+

The Albert Friedland Foundation  
City of North Vancouver  
Telus Communications Employee Fund  
Vancouver Coastal Health

### Donor Gifts - \$1,500+

A & W Restaurants  
Aspen Clean  
Bill Irwin  
Bridge Community Church  
BMW Car Club of BC  
Chris Hutchcroft Consulting  
Curves North Shore  
District of West Vancouver  
First Church of Christ Scientist  
Foxvan Productions Ltd.  
Hydrecs Fund  
Knights of Columbus, St. Eugene de Mazenod Assembly, #2458  
Lions Club of Mount Seymour  
Lynn Valley Full Gospel Church  
Methanex Corporation  
Prudential Sussex Realty  
RONA Park & Tilford  
Sandi Ma  
Starbucks Coffee Company  
St. Timothy's Anglican Church  
The Calgary Foundation  
Wendy and Lance Phillips

### Donor Gifts - \$500+

BMO Employee Charitable Foundation  
Big Brothers Renew Crew Foundation  
Capilano Christian Community  
Dr. Brad Forster Inc.  
First WV Scout & Cub Group  
Flying Wedge Pizza Co.  
Garden Works  
Handsworth Secondary School  
John Peachy & Associates  
Kiwanis Club of Capilano  
Laughing Matters Theatre Company  
Lions Club of Capilano  
Manulife Financial  
Motion Picture Studio Production Technicians, IATSE Local 891  
Nintendo of Canada Ltd.  
North Lonsdale United Church  
North Shore News (Employee Campaign)  
North Shore Optimist Club  
Soroptomist Int'l of North & West Vancouver  
St. Andrew's & St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church  
St. Agnes Anglican Church  
St. Richards Anglican Church  
Wanda & Richard Lum  
We Care Home Health Services  
West Vancouver United Church  
Windsor Secondary School

## Join us for:

### Harvest Project Open House

September 17 2009  
3:00pm to 5:00pm

.....

### Harvest Family Dance & Fundraiser

September 25, 2009  
5:00pm to 8:30pm  
Community Room, Lynn Valley Library  
Sponsored by Lynn Valley Merchants Assoc.

.....

### Lower Lonsdale Fall Festival

September 27, 2009  
10:00am to 4:00pm



Thank you North Shore for helping the Harvest Project Food Drive Team. They collected six Save-On-Foods shopping carts full of food and \$480 from parade spectators on Canada Day.

[www.harvestproject.org](http://www.harvestproject.org)