

Inn-Home Support

This is a new service working toward *ending* homelessness. Our advocates are a link to our community so that vulnerable people are less likely to fall through the cracks and end up back on the streets.

What it is:

- a person-to-person advocacy to help people who have recently found housing or who are at risk of becoming homeless
- a special group of trained volunteers

What Advocates do:

- offer a listening ear and be a friend in need
- assist client at grocery store or food bank
- mediate with a landlord or neighbor
- chat over coffee or go for walks
- accompany client on a visit to the doctor

Volunteer Benefits:

- serve in a ground-breaking program and gain rewarding experience
- form a special bond with and appreciation for someone in different circumstances
- give a minimal time commitment (one hour weekly) and make a huge difference in a life

Training:

As an advocate you receive in-depth training and support from our volunteer coordinator to prepare you. Get started today!

Call 250-448-6403 or email us
info@innfromthecoldkelowna.org

www.InnfromtheColdKelowna.org

Comments from Volunteers

"The act of being an advocate has been tremendously rewarding ... every family should adopt another person or family and support them. Our community will be a better place when we all do our part."

"Inn from the Cold is community effort that works."

"After having volunteered at Inn from the Cold, I feel as everyone should come and see what it is like for one night. It's very tough to get a place to live now with rent being so high ... I felt like it could have been me sleeping there!"

"Stereotypes are not true - our guests are great individuals with big hearts"

Comments from Guests

"Just wanted to say 'thank-you'."

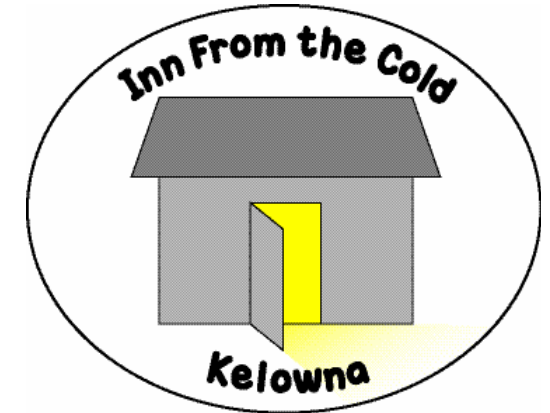
"Thank-you for your love and care."

"Warm place, warm food, warm people"

"Your door was always open when all other doors were closed."

Information Brochure

2009 - 2010



www.InnfromtheColdKelowna.org

Email: info@innfromthecoldkelowna.org

Phone: 250-448-6403

Mailing Address:
PO Box 21130, Orchard Park P.O.
Kelowna, BC V1Y 9N8

About Us

Inn from the Cold was established in 1999 in response to the need in Kelowna for emergency shelter. It is modeled on programs from eastern Canada and Calgary.

Our Mandate

- To provide emergency overnight shelter to people living on the street during the coldest winter months.
- To welcome those seeking shelter, keeping in mind safety of and respect for guests, volunteers and staff.
- To advocate on behalf of persons experiencing homelessness.

Our Program

In the 2008-2009 season, from mid November to mid March - 121 nights - Inn from the Cold-Kelowna provided 3,388 safe, warm sleeps. This is 522 more than the previous year. 295 different people came to our door seeking shelter. We averaged 28 guests a night.

Inn from the Cold-Kelowna is a registered charity (841193758RR0001). In addition to generous donations from individuals, churches, community groups and businesses, major funding is provided by an anonymous donor, Service Canada, BC Housing, the City of Kelowna and the Central Okanagan Foundation.

The People We Serve

Our guests are individuals and couples in the Kelowna area who are facing a night on the street in the cold months of winter. Guests are 18 years of age or older.

Women, couples and people employed or seeking employment through a recognized labour market are given first priority. Kelowna has very limited emergency shelter for women. There is no emergency shelter available for couples, other than Inn from the Cold-Kelowna.

The Need

In 2006, the United Nations declared housing and homelessness a “national emergency” in Canada. Although it is extremely difficult to measure the number of people experiencing homelessness, a recent estimate put the number at 300,000 (2008 State of the Nation’s Housing Report).

Who are the homeless in Kelowna? They are our daughters, mothers, brothers and fathers. Some are old, some are young. Each has a story – each is unique:

- 61% male and 35% female
- Median age 38
- 38% of respondents have lived in Kelowna for more than six years
- Average length of homelessness is 31 months
- People have become homeless while working in Kelowna
- People often drift in and out of homelessness
- 20% consider themselves to be “working poor”

Where do I fit in?

Inn from the Cold – Kelowna is a volunteer-based project. We need you in order to make this program work. You can make a difference by volunteering with Inn from the Cold-Kelowna today!

How can I help?

- by volunteering, you can help us fill one or several of the 1000 volunteer shifts in one season
- choose from various jobs, such as: setting up mats, serving food, welcoming and interacting with guests, staying overnight, helping with morning duties, or helping with administrative tasks

What to expect:

- orientation/training to prepare you
- support of professional, dedicated staff
- convenient shift sign up and flexible hours
- shift updates from our coordinator by email or phone

Benefits of volunteering:

- meet new people
- demonstrate compassion and be of service
- gain understanding in working with people
- learn communication and problem-solving skills
- work with generous people to make a better world

Come help Kelowna's people who are in need of a safe, warm and friendly place of refuge in the winter. Please volunteer or respond to our call for partnerships or donations!