



a community that honors the inherent dignity of all, where individuals, especially the most vulnerable, are safe, respected and included

June 19, 2017

Inn From the Cold, Kelowna – Volunteer Update

Just wanted to give you all an update to let you know how things are going within our little organization during these challenging times of change.

Our shelter has been operating by our expanded team of staff members since May 1 at the request of our funding partner (and this will continue until the end of September). This is going quite well although the ever changing mixture of guests is challenging. Our landlords, The Knights of St. Columbus, have kindly allowed us to go month to month on our lease until such time as the developer is ready to demolish the building. At this time, we have no definite date by which we will have to vacate, and we are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to operate our shelter at its current location for one more winter season. We are planning to re-open the shelter with our usual mix of volunteers and staff on Nov. 1 as usual. BC Housing and the City of Kelowna are actively trying to assist us in finding a new location for our shelter. We will update our staff, clients, volunteers, and the public as we have more information.

We have almost completely moved out of Chandler House, all the residents have found alternative housing and we are in the final stages of restoring the building to an acceptable condition prior to returning it to our Landlords. Thanks to all the supporters and staff who have assisted us with this. Although it is very sad that Chandler House has closed, the burden on our staff of trying to operate a drop-in and outreach service from such an unsuitable location was becoming intolerable. Despite all our efforts it has proved very difficult to persuade our guests not to 'camp out' around the building because they had nowhere else to go. This prompted a storm of protests from the neighbours and others in the local community.

We are looking forward to the fall when we will move into our new office space with Metro Community on St. Paul's Street, where we will be able to jointly operate a drop-in and outreach facility. This new building will be amazing and will enable the community partners involved to offer a much improved service to our guests and, by sharing the responsibilities, reduce the strain on our loyal staff and volunteers. We don't have a date when the new facility will open, but we are hopeful that it will be before the start of our winter shelter season.

We are getting organized for our major fundraiser of the year - *The Push to End Homelessness*, which will take place on Saturday, September 30. If you are willing and able to help organize, please get in touch with us as soon as possible. We are in great need of more assistance to organize this great event.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place in the next few months and we will likely have a few vacancies for new board members. If you are interested in joining the board of our organization, please contact Jan Schulz, Executive Director, as soon as possible.

Thank you so much for your support and encouragement during these difficult times of change, we really appreciate the efforts of each and every one of you.

Mark Dixon
Chairman of the Board
Inn From the Cold, Kelowna
info@innfromthecoldkelowna.org
www.innfromthecoldkelowna.org