

ENVOY

SUMMER ~ 2012

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Guest Column by Susan Morrissey

Events & Announcements



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"A Day in the Life Of"

By Michael Farris, CEO

"Good Morning"

7AM

Across the city, kitchens are humming, not just for a breakfast meal but with preparations under way to feed a few thousand hungry children nutritious snacks and lunches, hundreds of youth and adults in E4C programs and services, children in early learning programs, and participants in many programs. Kitchen staff and volunteers are quickly working to bring essential nutrition to so many.

If it is winter, staff from the E4C maintenance team are headed out for snow clearing at E4C apartment buildings, housing facilities and E4C programs. If it's summer, it is time to plan for yard maintenance and to load supplies and equipment into the trailer. Teachers and other staff are arriving at Clareview Headstart, and other E4C early learning programs across the city, getting ready for another day of learning through fun and play and for work with children and their families. Buses begin to head out on their routes to pick up children for our morning classes.

Shift change meetings are underway at E4C programs that operate 24 hours a day; oncoming staff catching up on information provided by overnight staff and preparing for the activity of the day. This may include welcoming interviews with new arrivals, counselling sessions for those with individual plans, trips to see potential permanent housing, doctors and other health care professionals, employment interviews for participants in job training and readiness.

Pleasant wake ups are taking place, morning laundry beginning, lunches for school attendees are being prepared, maintenance and custodial work schedules being reviewed. Early arrivals in the various E4C offices click on the lights and computers, checking e-mail, voice mail and overnight faxes. Staff at Kids in the Hall Bistro are well into opening the kitchen, reviewing the daily specials, starting the coffee, making preparation for the early morning breakfast crowd and begin welcoming the youth participants.

This is the second part of a series that provides insight to the daily life of E4C's many and diverse programs and services –helping thousands of people find dignity, safe housing, nutrition, education, employment and much more.



The day begins.

Throughout the morning E4C staff and volunteers work to build stronger, safer, healthier community one child, one youth, one person, one family, one school, one neighbourhood at a time. Today, thousands of lives will be touched. Just like any other day at E4C.

9AM

The morning is well underway. Meeting rooms have been made ready, classrooms organized for morning activity. Breakfast has been cleaned away. Buses arrive, disgorging happy faces and chirping voices. The phones have been busy.

At the Kids Bistro classes are underway in a portioned section, with a teacher

helping youth work toward and earn high school credits. Classrooms at early learning sites are buzzing with the sounds of engaged children, developing the skills that lead to success.

Staff begin meeting with people newly admitted overnight to the E4C's Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC). They will work to establish trust, intervene in crises and begin building a way to a safe life. They attend to critical issues and begin the healing. They begin to foster hope. The same is true at many places – our Mosaic Centre partnership, E4C's Crossroads House, E4C's Elizabeth House, and others.

Meetings are conducted, some with funding partners, some with sister agencies, some with health care resources but most are simple meetings with people in crisis, people in jeopardy, people in need of a helping hand. Some meetings have anger and tears, some take a while to really start as people learn to trust, some have fear, hesitancy and deception because people have come to fear anyone with perceived power. Many are the beginning of a long and often difficult road to recovery, discovery, learning and

development. But all of these meetings are, with intention, designed to bring about change and to bring positive self development to the forefront.

Other meetings are going on across the city. Staff are meeting with tenants – checking in to see how people are, modeling what it means to be a part of a caring, healthy community. Team meetings are held to coordinate activity, share information and to problem solve challenging situations. Elsewhere, staff and volunteers are working together to find and develop resources to provide the power for our work; develop new friendships, partners and supporters.

Letters are being written, reports being developed, data being gathered – and, yes, information is power, and in our case, information gained from our services inform us on next steps, what is most successful and brings best results. We gather and share information with our partners and others in our area of work. We must stay current to be effective and be efficient.

Oh, look at that, it's almost time for lunch.

THANK

Thank you to HMCS Nonsuch!

HMCS Nonsuch has been raising money for E4C's School Lunch Program since 2008. Money is raised at Christmas and a few other events during the year including their "Civilian Dress Night" once a month.

The members are given the opportunity to wear civilian clothing into work and when they do, they donate \$5.00 towards E4C's School Lunch Program. At Christmas each department has a lot of fun putting together a basket - tickets are sold and put into a draw for the baskets.

Thank you to Dennis Milne and members of HMCS Nonsuch for all your efforts!

For Their Contributions, We Thank

Johann Anna Joseph Sacher, Kevin Taft, Daniel Vriend & Erin Wright, Carol A Allen, Patricia and Timothy Hartnagel, St. Stanislaus Elementary School, Royal LePage Shelter Foundation, The Muttart Foundation, Frank J. Flaman Foundation, Royal Camp Services, Chris Page and Associates, FPB Insurance Brokers, and N. McDonald Professional Corporation.

E4C's Kids in the Hall Bistro Wine & Cheese Event

We would like to thank everyone that supported E4C's Kids in the Hall Bistro's Annual Wine and Cheese Event! It was a great way to mingle and support a great cause! If you missed out on this event you can still support E4C's Kids in the Hall Bistro later this fall by purchasing tickets to our 16th Annual Fall Gala event! for more information or to purchase tickets please contact connect@e4calberta.org.

Mosaic Centre

E4C is happy to report that the Mosaic Centre Academy Awards Gala and Charity Auction successfully garnered over \$32,000 from generous supporters like you! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success!

Liliana's Boutique

Located at 12302 Jasper Ave, Liliana's Boutique is selling summer scarves for \$15.00 with 100% proceeds going to E4C's School Lunch Program. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Thank you FedEx for the Mother's Day In-Kind Donation!

WEAC received two huge boxes of leather goods (purses/wallets) from Danier and makeup and nail polish from Revlon. The boxes were brought from FedEx on May 15th with the intention of giving it to the ladies for Mother's Day.

Downtown Business Association Continued Support & Award

E4C's Kids in the Hall Bistro would like to thank the Downtown Business Association for making us their charity of choice for 2012-2013. The DBA has supported many E4C programs throughout the years.



YOU

We want to take the opportunity to thank the people and businesses who support E4C's fight against poverty.



Above: Lynne Heidebrecht, Teena Gill, Dave Greidanus, Katie Walker, Emily Wolbeck, Heidi Ryll, Marilyn McLean-Bourgeois, & Andy Posthumus

MTTP Volunteer Appreciation

E4C's Make Tax Time Pay Program is excited to announce a successful completion of another tax season. We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to everyone who volunteered countless hours to our program this year.

This year we saw an increase in volunteers with over 300 people participating in tax and benefit trainings. With their efforts and support of our program partners, we were able to complete over 4,400 tax returns. More info. to come!

Clareview Head Start Winter Celebration

E4C's Clareview Head Start celebrated their annual Winter Celebration on February 24th. Activities included a Multicultural & Science Room as well as an opportunity to have family photo's taken.

Over 200 children and their parents attended the event. The Chinese Lions Club provided a variety of Chinese dishes which was well enjoyed by the families. The Salvation Army, Sobeys & Walmart also donated to the event.



Highlights Of The 2012 E4C Annual General Meeting

By Michael Farris, CEO

With our Annual General Meeting in May we said an official goodbye to retiring Board members Ary DeMoor and Tom Kieren and welcomed five new members. Ary and Tom both served E4C as active Board members, serving on various Board committees and participating in many Board and special event activities.

Their thoughtfulness, diligence and

enthusiasm contributed to our work, our growth and increased community awareness of E4C. To both of them we extend a sincere Thank You for many years of giving to build a stronger community through E4C. As we said goodbye, we also extended a warm welcome to new Board members, Patricia Bounds, Bob Hiew, Orest Myroon, Jan Pierzchajlo and Sharon Schnell. Our incoming Board members bring

with them a wealth of experience, training and education in fields of education/early education, business and management, community involvement and not for profit governance.

Our new members were offered a comprehensive orientation to E4C and its Board in June. We enter the 2012-13 Board year with a large and talented Board, led by Dawn Pentelechuk, Board President.



We all aspire for our children to have a healthy, full life with better access to opportunities as they grow up than we as their parents did.

Despite our best efforts, unfortunately, this is not always the reality.

Child Poverty: What To Do

*By Susan Morrissey,
Executive Director of
Edmonton Social Planning Council*

Poverty is an extremely complex issue and impacts individuals in different ways. It is more than just the lack of resources and financial security. As adults, despite the obvious, poverty impacts self esteem, how and if we interact with others and how we view the world around us. For children, poverty can mean being shut-out of events such as a best friend's birthday party because there is not enough money for a gift, not being able to attend a social outing with their friends or going to school without a lunch.

In 2007, only 3.4% of Alberta children living in two-parent families were living in poverty. In 2009, this increased to 8%. This increase is likely due to low income families with both parents working experiencing job loss, reduction in hours and/or pay cuts. This loss of employment income may have been sufficient for them to fall below the poverty line. To reflect this percentage in a different context, in 2009, 73,000 children under the age of 18 in Alberta were living in poverty (Edmonton Social Planning Council, 2, 2011).

Though these numbers are very disturbing, I am encouraged by some recent actions that will allow us to get to the root causes of poverty within our community. Recently, Premier Allison Redford announced a goal of ending child poverty in 5 years. Though ambitious, with the

support of many partners in the community who have been working on poverty reduction/elimination initiatives for years, I am hopeful that this will come to fruition.

“To reflect this percentage in a different context, in 2009, 73,000 children under the age of 18 in Alberta were living in poverty.”

This last week, Edmonton City Council approved an initiative to develop with partners a “made in Edmonton” poverty reduction strategy which falls in line with many other poverty reduction strategies in other municipalities. (City of Edmonton, 2012). Already in existence for some time, the Action to End Poverty in Alberta group has been educating the general public, continuing to build momentum within the social service sector and lobbying the government to become involved in developing a provincial poverty reduction strategy. We only have to look to the early successes and gains being made in other provinces that have established poverty reduction plans to know that this will work.

At a very concrete level, child tax benefits are the most effective way to reduce child and family poverty. They do not discriminate based

on source of income and are easy to administer. The only eligibility requirement is filing an income tax return. At no extra administration cost, the provincial government could introduce an Alberta child Benefit for low and modest income families to parallel federal child tax benefits.

I have barely touched the surface of the many initiatives and possible solutions that exist to address child poverty within our community. In a recent research study by The Salvation Army, one in eight Canadian believe that helping out poor families helps set up children of these families for success (The Salvation Army, 2012). The time is right to move forward, to learn more and address poverty within our community.

**For more information on Action to End Poverty in Alberta please visit their website at:
www.actiontoendpovertyinalberta.org**

References:

City of Edmonton. (2012)Item 6.9: Steps to an Edmonton Poverty Reduction Strategy: City Council Minutes (Draft) May 16, 2012. Retrieved on-line at: <http://bit.ly/LRzeAJ>

The Salvation Army. (2012) What Does the Public Think? Retrieved on-line at: <http://bit.ly/N7m15D>

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In each ENVOY edition we invite our partners, friends, and associates to contribute as guest writers to give you, the reader, some outsider perspective.

SEIZE THE DAY

This is your chance to support an Edmonton based youth-at-risk training and education program. Come for the philanthropy - stay for the good food and company!

OCT. 19th @ 6PM

Wine & Silent Auction at 6PM - Dinner at 730PM

Tickets are only \$200* and selling fast. Don't miss out on this event!

To purchase, call Kayla at (780)424-7543 ext. 115 or by email at connect@e4calberta.org

*\$160 tax deductible

This event will include a silent auction, a superb wine tasting, a four course gourmet meal, and of course: raffle prizes!



**Kids
in the Hall
Bistro**

Fall Gala

OCTOBER 19th
@ Edmonton City Hall

Programs of E4C

Early Learning Services

ArtStart
Clareview Head Start
Early Head Start
Northeast Community Program

Nutrition & Community Services

Community Garden
Make Tax Time Pay
School Lunch Program
Snack Program
Summer Snack Program
Young Chefs

Youth Services

Crossroads House
Kids in the Hall Bistro
Inner City Youth Housing

Homeless Support Services

Crossroads Outreach
Crossroads Downtown
Elizabeth House
Intensive Case Management Team
Women's Emergency
Accommodation Centre (WEAC)

Housing & Mental Health Services

Brigid's Place
G-C Place
Chipman Housing
Gold Nugget Suites
Holmes Place
Housing Works
McCauley Apartments
Meadow's Place
Our Place
Our Other Place
Sorensen Place
Stollery Place

Collaborations

Edmonton Head Start Project
Housing Support Services Hub
Mosaic Centre
Night Safety Centre
Shared Financial Services

E4C funded in part by:



United Way
Member Agency



Yes, Please! I'd Love To Donate.

Name: _____ Total Amount: \$ _____

Payment Method: () VISA () MC () Cheque

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Your Name (as it appears on card): _____

Address: _____

Province/State: _____ Country: _____

Postal Code: _____ Email: _____

Please Send the Tax Receipt to the Above Address: () Yes () No

Signature: _____



Changing Lives • Growing Community

Please complete and return this form to E4C in the attached envelope. Additional information can be found online at www.e4calberta.org

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