

# ENVOY

WINTER 2012



## On the Cover:

Residents of E4C's housing services



Charitable Registration  
Number:  
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Head Office:  
9321 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton AB  
T5H 3T7  
[connect@e4calberta.org](mailto:connect@e4calberta.org)  
[www.e4calberta.org](http://www.e4calberta.org)  
ph (780) 424-7543  
fax (780) 425-5911

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If you have any questions, comments, submissions for the  
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Communications Department at [connect@e4calberta.org](mailto:connect@e4calberta.org)

*This is the fourth, and last 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 more.*

# A Day In The Life Of



**A Resident at the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre**

## **7PM**

As the dinner hour wraps up within E4C supportive housing programs and dishes are cleared away, residents will complete household chores for the evening, as they anticipate the planned recreation for the night.

Saturday night is billiard night, and a time for socializing for the men at Meadows Place, a place to call home for people living with mental illness. Not everyone goes to the poolroom, but for a few, it is the first time all week they have displayed uninhibited joy and camaraderie.

At WEAC, the buzzer is already ringing. Nine o'clock is approaching fast, and rounds are being completed by staff to ensure who has made it back for the night and how many beds are available.

One of the two staff on duty for the night grabs several bags and runs upstairs to start stripping bedding off the three beds that no one has returned to. The other staff member lets the new ladies into the second floor to start intake. She realizes there is more

people than beds and immediately arranges transportation to send the extra two people to other shelters. At Elizabeth House, some residents return from AA meetings and begin to settle in for the night; others participate in the volunteer-led painting class or surf the Internet looking for housing or education opportunities. The evening caseworker counsels a distressed woman who is worried about an approaching court date and about losing guardianship of her children.

## **10PM**

The outreach worker from E4C's Kids in the Hall Bistro responds to texts from two youth. One had housing issues and the other and wants to talk because she had a relapse with her addictions and now cannot see her son on her visitation day. The outreach worker is happy the youth have reached out to her and that she has begun to build trust with them.

At E4C's supportive housing programs, staff do the last security check of the shift, complete logs, catch up on laundry, collect

garbage and prepare for the overnight staff change.

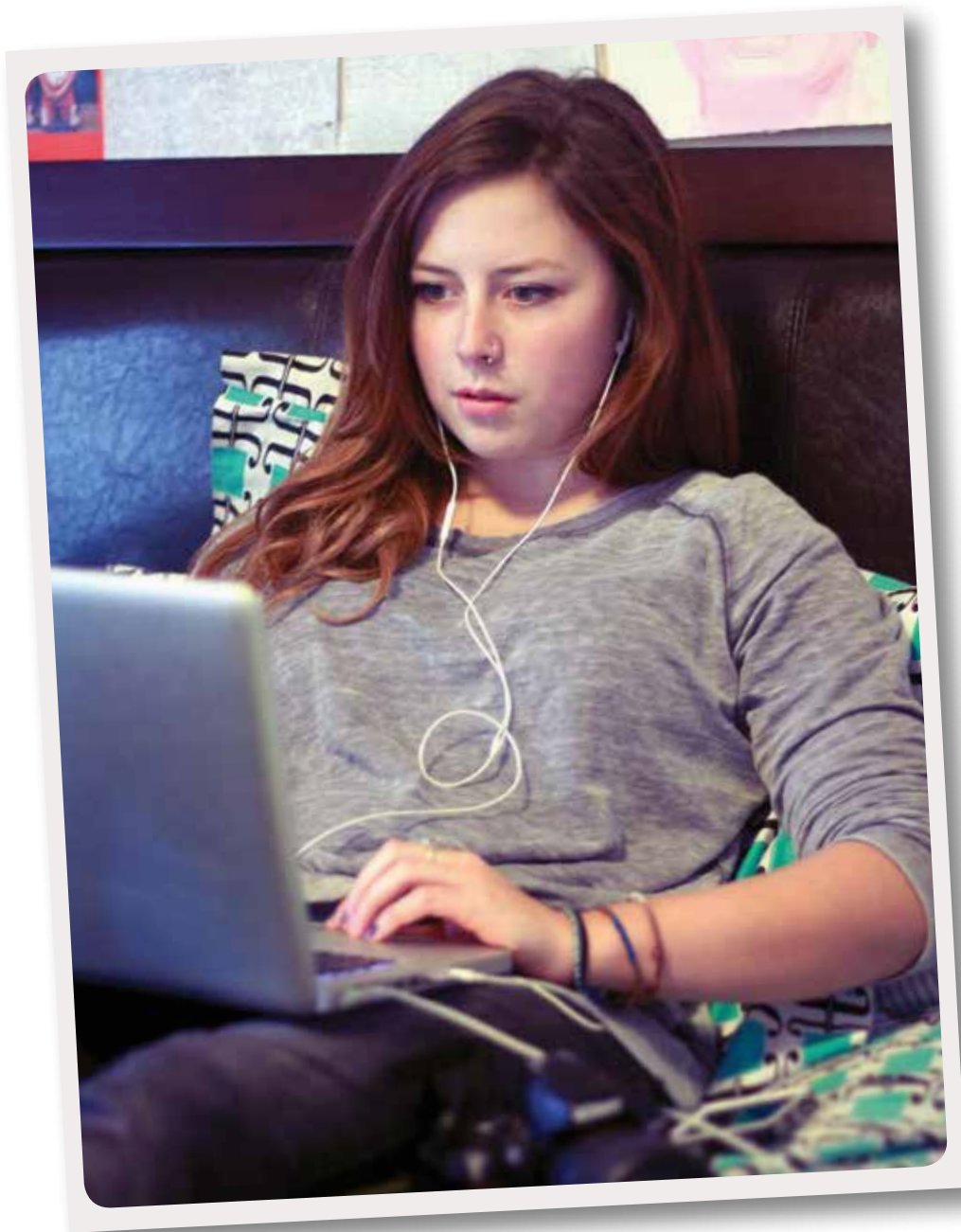
## **11:30PM**

The Crossroads Outreach van is now warmed up and has been driving around downtown streets to meet with women engaged in prostitution. An updated "safe on the streets" report gives women information to stay safe. Volunteers hand out referral information for those looking to change their circumstances and sometimes give a girl a ride home.

## **Midnight**

As the new shift change arrives, another 24 hours of E4C begins again; the same as the last, but extraordinarily unique too.

We hope this portrait of a Day in the Life of E4C has given you a glimpse of the impact we make in building community and providing opportunities for individuals to make positive life change happen.



# *My Name is Katie*

*I'm just another one of  
Edmonton's every-day  
exceptionally average  
teenagers.*

*By Katie Woitas*

I've turned 18 this past year and just graduated this past June from high school. If you know anything about your standard teenager living in North America, you'd know we're all just in absolute dire need of a new cell phone, Macbook Pro laptop, an iPod; along with all the other supposed necessities of teenage life- every few months. And why yes, I do own all three of those things. But I'm not here to brag - in fact, I am here to confess; I've been through 6 cellphones, two iPods, and

several computers. Living with my parents split up in two different homes, I have been showered with Christmas gifts every December from both of those homes. Even on our poorest days (and believe me, there were poor days), my family has more than blessed my life with not only the things I needed, but also the things I wanted.

As much as I am grateful for the many blessings in my life - there are teenagers, children, babies, etc. who would be grateful just to have shoes on their feet, three basic meals a day and a roof to sleep under at night. Actually, in 2011 it was recorded that there are 73,000 kids living in poverty in Alberta alone, 34,000 of those impoverished children are under 6 years of age. And that's just the kids.

When you're financially stable, Alberta seems like a sweet place to live. Flourishing with opportunities, and our gas prices are generally lower than anywhere else in Canada. For the less fortunate however, the gap between rich and poor in Alberta is higher than anywhere else in Canada, and what does that mean? It means our poor are the poorest of them all.

Thankfully, we have organizations like E4C who are working to minimize that poverty gap, and the amount of homelessness we have here in Edmonton. This holiday season, while you contemplate whom to spoil with gifts; I'd like to encourage you all to check out E4C'S MUST HAVE HOLIDAY WISH LIST (Page 4-5), and consider getting a little something special for someone who really needs it this Christmas.

Thinking about this approaching season, I've come to a very important realization; the gift of giving is greater than any gift I could ever physically possess or own. And I hope many of you will feel the same.

# E4C'S MUST HAVE *holiday* WISH<sup>ES</sup>

## *Belongings*



## *Food*



**\$100** provides food for Young Chef's programming in two classrooms

**\$500** provides transportation for 2 kids attending E4C's Clareview Head Start Program

**\$10,000** provides one youth with education and training at E4C's Kids in the Hall Bistro for one year

**\$100** provides seeds for E4C's Community Garden

**\$500** feeds a child a nutritious lunch for an entire year in E4C's School Lunch Program

**\$1000** provides 2 weeks of groceries to residents in E4C Meadows Place or Our Place, homes for men and women with mental illness





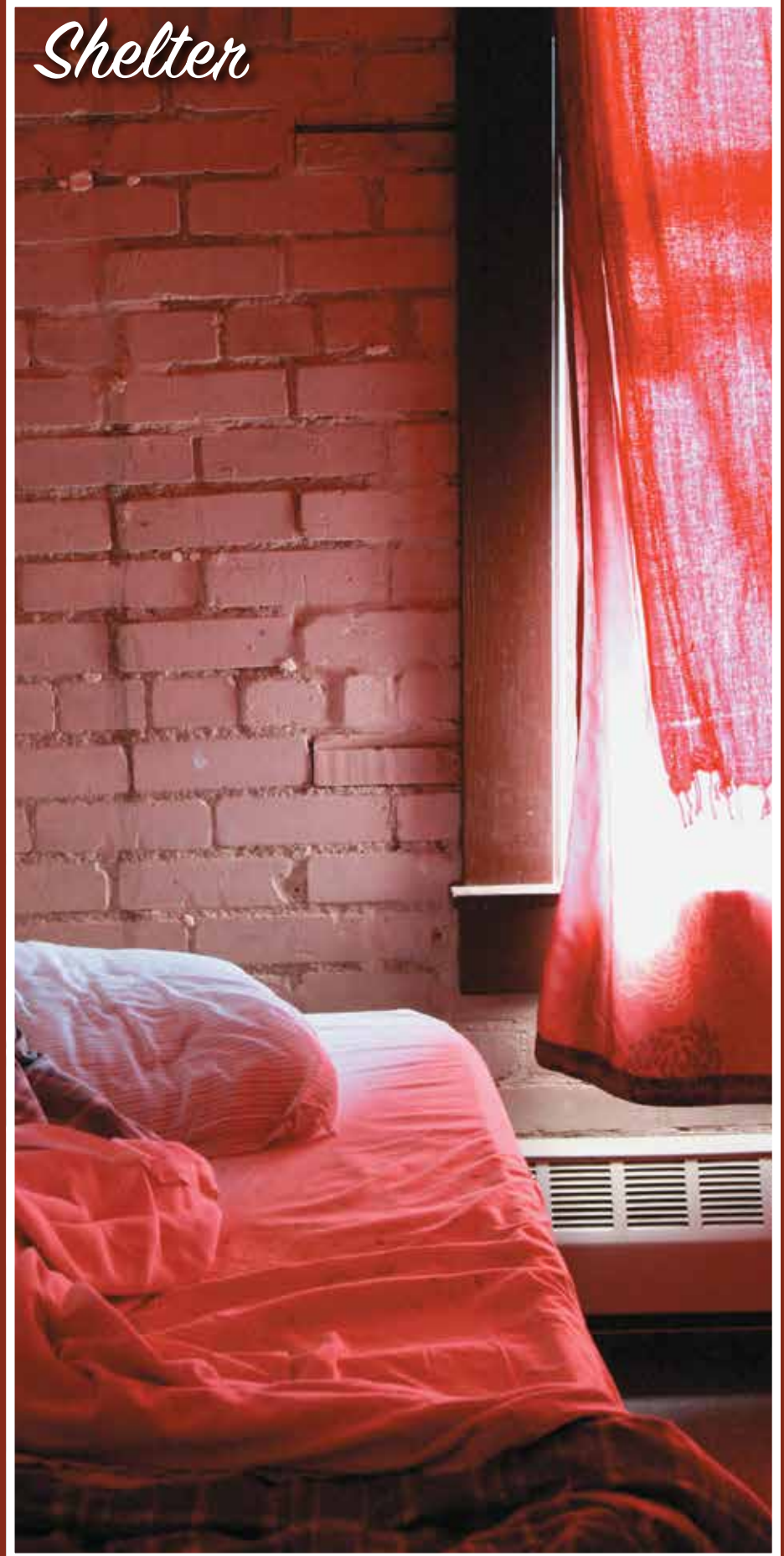
**\$100**  
provides one week's worth of gas for E4C's Crossroads Outreach van

**\$500**  
provides a child with a semester of instruction in music, drama, or dance

**\$6000**  
supports one family to attend E4C's Early Head Start Program for one year



## *Education*



## *Shelter*

**\$100** provides a household cleaning kit to a newly housed person

**\$1000** will cover the damage deposit of a newly housed person

**\$5000** covers 3 weeks of emergency shelter for one woman

# THANK

## Farewell to Michael Farris

In September, the Board of Directors of E4C announced the departure of Michael Farris, who was E4C's Executive Director, then its CEO, from May 2005. Through the time of his leadership, E4C experienced renewal, growth, change and maturation. During his tenure, Michael contributed to human services and social policy with the City and Province, including serving on the Premier's Task Force on Homelessness and Affordable Housing and serving on City initiatives on homelessness and area redevelopment. We wish Michael every success in the next stage of his career and in building strong communities.

## EPCOR Community Essentials Council Makes Tax Time Pay

We're gearing up for another great tax season, and through collaboration with numerous volunteers and program partners, will operate 26 tax sites across the City of Edmonton in March and April. We would like to thank the Stollery Charitable foundation for their continued support, as well as the EPCOR Community Essentials Council for their recent grant of \$20,000.

## Thanks to 124th Street Drop-in Association for a generous donation to E4C's School Lunch Program.

124 Youth is a community initiative which provides a positive, fun and skill-building environment in the Inglewood, Westmount, Prince Charles and surrounding areas. It is a youth-driven program engaging teens who want to give back to their community. This donation will provide a well-balanced lunch to children in Edmonton schools so that they may concentrate on their school work, not on their hunger.



*The planning committee members pictured from left to right, are: Mandie Denning, Barb McIntock, Roger Thomson, Crystal Gossmann, Natasha Gerbrandt, Anne McLellan, Chantelle McNichol, Karen Woitas, Leanne Olson, and Barb Stirling*



*Inskip Spencer of 124th Street Drop-In Association & Roger Thomson*

## WEAC Success!

Overwhelming success was achieved at the very first "Afternoon for the Women of WEAC" fundraiser held on September 16th at the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald. Over \$40,000 was raised for E4C's Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre. Thanks to Hon. Anne McLellan, P.C., O.C. All proceeds will go toward providing a safe shelter and essential assistance for women who have been affected by homelessness. Your support helps women move from homelessness to permanent housing. We had a waiting list for the event and have already started planning for next year. E4C works hard to fulfill its mission of alleviating poverty by helping people move toward positive, healthy and lasting change. Thank you to all our donors for helping make change possible.

# YOU

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



*Courtesy of Andy Devlin  
Edmonton Oilers Hockey Club*

## Edmonton Oilers Support E4C's Snack Program

The Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation (EOCF) is setting the table for success by pledging \$53,000 to E4C's Snack Program. These funds will provide daily, nutritious snacks to students at John A. McDougall, Norwood, Mother Teresa, St. Alphonsus and St. Catherine schools, ensuring that more than 1,300 children can focus on their studies. One in six children in the Capital Region live in poverty - many come to class with little to no food in their stomachs.

The impact of the Snack Program extends far beyond the walls of the classroom and this type of investment demonstrates a true investment in our community.

## Recent Donors Who Make a Difference

### Private Donors

Masa Y, Pat & David P, Jacqueline B, David & Janette E, Mary G, Ken H, Eugene & Annette K, Dennis & Dianne M, Kay L, Mary S, Carol P, Sjoek F, Ken and Ruth G, Patricia L, Cecily M, Karen B, Karen G, Debra H, Alan C, Alan M, Lorraine M, and Patricia B

### Corporate Donors

**Vicky's Homes** (E4C's Snack Program), **Liliana's Boutique and Fine Art** (E4C's School Lunch Program), **John H. and Maria Koziak Family Foundation** (E4C's Snack Program), **Wellington Garden Centre** (E4C's Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre), **Korean Veterans Association of Canada** (E4C's Clareview Head Start and E4C's Early Head Start), **Abbey Lane Homes** (E4C's Snack Program), **Polish Canadian Women's Society of Edmonton** (E4C's School Lunch Program), **CPC Children's Charitable Society** (E4C's Snack Program), **Downtown Business Association** (E4C's Kids in the Hall Bistro), **Alberta Blue Cross** (E4C's School Lunch Program)

### We'd like to thank the following at Edmonton Community Foundation:

Hartnagel Family Fund, Kathryn and Robert Merrett Fund, Joyce A. Hendrickson Fund



## Meet Kourch Chan

With 19 years of experience with E4C, from front line work with Crossroads and Crossroads House to his appointment in 2008 as E4C's Chief Operating Officer, Kourch knows our people and programs like no other. Born in Hong Kong, he immigrated to Canada, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts at the U of A and later, his Registered Social Worker designation. Those that have worked with Kourch can attest to his belief in and commitment to collaborative effort with E4C's supporters and partners. He is passionate, not only about his work, but for theatre too. Kourch minored in drama at the U of A and met his wife while performing in a play. He enjoys running and golf (which keeps his energy level really high) and in his rare moments of downtime, loves travel and anything to do with Star Wars. There is great excitement at E4C as the Board launches its review of its organizational structure and leadership needs. We have every confidence that in the interim, Kourch will continue his long tradition of excellence and commitment to building a healthy, resilient community.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Volunteers Needed

Inner City Agency's Foundation is seeking volunteers for the 2012 Mac & Cheese and Roast Beef Dinner Events. For more information please visit [www.ICAF.ca](http://www.ICAF.ca)

## Struck the Harp and Join the Choir | Dec. 8th at 7 PM

St. Joseph's Basilica, 10044 - 113 St. A performance by the Polonia Choir and children of the Polish Bilingual School. Proceeds to support St. Basil Elementary/Junior High School, Jan Pawel II Polish Bilingual Program and E4C's ArtStart Program.

E4C funded in part by:



## Programs of E4C

### Early Learning Services

- ArtStart
- Clareview Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Northeast Community Program

### Nutrition & Community Services

- Community Garden
- Financial Management Hub
- 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
- Mosaic Centre
- Night Safety Centre
- Shared Financial Services

## Yes, Please! I'd Love To Donate.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method: ( ) ( ) ( ) 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](http://www.e4calberta.org)

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