

The Neighbourhood Ministry: 10 Ways to Volunteer

1. Pray for the Neighbourhood Ministry and its newly established Mobile Care Unit.
2. Bring a donation for the care packets: A wish list is available from your parish liaison(s).
3. Join an Indoor Team: help pack packets, provide fresh food for Street Outreach teams, send Street Team off from your church.
4. Join an Outdoor Team: help distribute packets & build community with our homeless neighbours. Training provided.
5. Serve dinner at Dunbar Apartments: the home of formerly homeless folks and others suffering from mental illness.
6. Help with a Seasonal Celebration at Dunbar Apartments: preparing & serving food & offering fellowship.
7. Become an 'Angel': offering one-on-one support to someone needing assistance navigating the system. Training provided.
8. Join the Mobile Care Unit: offering assistance at one of the sites the MCU visits. Training provided.
9. Help prepare and deliver communications to keep your parish informed of Neighbourhood Ministry activities.
10. VOLUNTEER TODAY! Joan Stewart: jstewart@westerndriver.com ; Vicki Potter: vbpotter@hotmail.com ; Rev. Pitman Potter: pbpotter@live.ca .

Special Seasonal Event:

Easter Monday Luncheon for the residents at Dunbar Apartments
Monday April 17, 2017.
12:30pm-2:30pm
3595 West 17th Avenue, Vancouver.



Please consider participating.

Donations of the following items are also needed:

Ham ♦ Eggs ♦ Chicken ♦ Potatoes ♦ Yams ♦ Casseroles ♦ Rolls ♦ Desserts ♦ Easter Eggs ♦ Hot Cross Buns ♦ Fruit ♦ Soft Drinks ♦ Juices

Please email Joan Stewart jstewart@westerndriver.com if you can participate or donate a food item.



Neighbourhood Ministry News April 2017

Upcoming Events:

Easter Monday, April 17: 1230pm-2:30pm
 NM Luncheon for Dunbar Residents
 3595 West 17th Avenue, Vancouver

Wednesday May 24
 Annual General Meeting
 Location & Time to be finalized



THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Contact: Joan Stewart, jstewart@westerndriver.com

Neighbourhood Ministry welcomes St. John's Shaughnessy

On February 26, 2017, the parish of **St. John's Shaughnessy** passed a motion at its annual Vestry meeting to participate with **St. Anselm's, St. Helen's** and **St. Philip's** in their Neighbourhood Ministry (NM) Outreach Program.

A warm welcome to the parish of St. John's Shaughnessy. Their NM coordinators Ken Pepin & Lynwen Clark, along with other volunteers, have already organized packets for Street Outreach teams. The congregation also participated in a post-Christmas collection of clothing & toiletries.

Initiated in 2008 under the leadership of Deacon Pitman, the NM is now in its 10th year of transforming lives.

At its core, the NM continues its weekly street walks by volunteers who deliver packets of food & clothing to homeless individuals. An estimated 600 packets were delivered in 2016.

In many cases, the Street Outreach teams find individuals who need help completing government paperwork for ID, income & disability assistance and housing.

Of note was the Christmas season street walk during which four carloads of volunteers canvassed from Granville to Blanca, Kerrisdale to the beaches, spreading cheer and distributing new gloves, toques, food and other necessities.

In late 2016, two new services were launched: **The Mobile Care Unit (MCU)** and the **Angels Program**.

In partnership with the UBC schools of Medicine and Social Work, the MCU is a 'travelling' team that visits **Kits Showers** (Saturdays), **St. Mary's, Kerrisdale** (Tuesdays), and **St. Augustine's, Marpole** (Thursdays) each month. The MCU Unit's team of doctors, social work students and NM volunteers provide basic medical care and social services to homeless and needy people who may face barriers to such care and support.

NM 'angels' are paired with clients who require extra support in accessing services for which they are eligible.

For more information about the MCU Unit or the Neighbourhood Ministry, contact Pitman Potter at pbpotter@live.ca or Vicki Potter at vpotter@hotmail.com.



'Angels' at Work

Neighbourhood Ministry (NM) 'Angels' are volunteers who offer one-on-one support to our homeless and needy neighbours who require extra support.

Here's an example of our Angels at work.

For the past many years, the NM Street Outreach teams have reached out to "M", a long-time homeless man who camps in a refrigerator box near Jericho Beach. "M" is now 63. Although he camps alone, "M" is sociable and has always welcomed our Street Outreach teams at his camp.

With "M's" advancing age and in anticipation of another winter, last fall a call went out for an Angel to visit "M" on a regular basis. NM volunteer Karen took up the cause.

Throughout the extremely wet fall and into the cold, snowy winter, Karen and her husband Tim faithfully visited "M's" camp, bringing hot dinners twice per week, fresh bedding and clothes when needed and a pair of reading glasses. As they got to know each other, they discovered their mutual love of *The New Yorker* magazine and the daily newspaper.

Fast forward to early spring, still so wet and cold. Reports from the Street Outreach teams expressed concern about "M's" frail condition. Karen was also sensing something amiss, as "M" was spending more and more time in his box.

Karen put a call into the NM's new Mobile Care Unit program, specifically Dr. Janet. Within a day, Dr. Janet and one of her residents were at "M's" camp to assess his condition and, on the same day, "M" was admitted to hospital. Without immediate treatment, "M" might not have made it.

During "M's" hospitalization, not only did Karen visit him regularly, but she connected with social workers to discuss discharge plans and options. With "M's" consent, she completed a Housing Application for permanent housing and is helping him obtain his CPP pension.

Given his age, health and homeless condition, his file has been sent to the top of the waiting list for government housing. Although "M" is now back at his camp, we are hopeful his wait for housing won't be too long.

Our gratitude goes out to Karen for her commitment and our prayers to "M" for his health and a home indoors as soon as possible.

