

CALGARY HOMELESS FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

JULY 1—SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

QUARTERLY OUTCOMES FROM TIM RICHTER PRESIDENT & CEO

“Having a 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness is great, but I don’t have 10 years! We need help now!” is something we hear from our homeless neighbours all the time.

And who can blame them? As winter approaches, the daily challenges of life on the street become much more acute and potentially lethal. A sense of urgency and desperation is understandable, with snow and freezing temperatures soon upon us.

That sense of urgency drives the Calgary Homeless Foundation in our efforts to implement the 10-Year Plan. We’re prioritizing efforts that will have an immediate impact. Calgary’s 10-Year

Plan to End Homelessness was developed by community leaders who felt they had to join the fight to end homelessness. The Calgary Committee to End Homelessness (CCEH) stepped in behind the people who have worked tirelessly to address the explosive growth in homelessness in our city. The Calgary Committee to End Homelessness (CCEH) came together with a sense of urgency and a common purpose – an end to homelessness in 10 years or less.

But that long term objective is part of a plan that demands immediate action. We work day in and day out with the same sense of urgency felt by our homeless neighbours.

We know all too well that far too many of our neighbours will sleep outside tonight, in shelters or in substandard housing.

Given the sheer magnitude and complexity of the homelessness issue, we know the launch of the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness is truly only the beginning of the hard work that has to be done.

They can’t wait 10 years, and neither will we.



VISION

By the year 2018, all people facing homelessness in Calgary will have access to safe, decent and affordable housing as well as the resources and supports necessary to sustain it.

MISSION

To end homelessness in Calgary.

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calgary homeless foundation

SECOND QUARTER OUTCOMES

The Calgary Homeless Foundation has just completed the second quarter (July 1-September 30) with the following outcomes to report to the community.

- We've been aggressively lobbying the Alberta government for an expansion of the Alex Community Health Centre's Pathways to Housing program. To date, Pathways has housed 36 chronically homeless individuals and is on track to house 50 by Christmas, 60 in total by March 2009.
- More than 70 families have been housed through the CUPS Rapid Exit pilot program and they are on track to house 120 before the summer of 2009. Premier Stelmach announced a \$900,000 expansion of the Rapid Exit program to house 300 individuals living in emergency shelter over the next year. We're working with CUPS and local landlords to see if we can accelerate this program.
- The Foundation hosted our second Project Homeless Connect (PHC) event on September 20, 2008 with more than 800 guests. Each

of these events connects people to the services and supports they need to immediately gain or retain housing. PHC3 will be held November 22nd in the Calgary Municipal Building (City Hall). Four PHCs are on tap for 2009.

- With the Discovery House Family Violence Prevention Society, CUPS and the Province of Alberta, we launched a domestic violence pilot project to house 50 women and families in crisis living in domestic violence shelters around the city.
- We have identified more than 1,000 potential affordable housing units in Calgary. While these opportunities range from potential purchases to renovation projects to new construction, we are focusing our efforts on finding units that can be brought into the system immediately, and units that will be able to house people directly off the street.

Meanwhile the longer term measures for deep and sustained success are falling into place:

- The Calgary Homeless

Foundation has restructured itself to successfully lead the implementation of the 10 Year Plan.

- The Province of Alberta committed itself to ending homelessness in 10 years. The Provincial Secretariat for Action on Homelessness is due to report this fall. Funding for our 10 Year Plan, and others around the Province, will hopefully follow in the 2009-2010 Provincial Budget.
- The Government of Canada has promised renewal of the Homeless Partnering Strategy, a program that funds many homeless serving agencies in Calgary as well as supports a number of capital projects.
- The City of Calgary endorsed Calgary's 10-Year Plan and identified specific actions to take within their jurisdiction to support the plan.
- The Calgary Homeless Foundation is working with local agencies to develop a Streets to Homes pilot project modeled after Toronto's

successful program that has housed over 2,000 people directly off the streets over the last three years.

- We are also partnering with CUPS to develop a Housing First based family centre to add to our city's capacity to shelter and quickly re-house families experiencing homelessness. Our goal will be to house 120 families per year through this facility.

- The Foundation is developing a Housing Trust Fund to support affordable housing development.

For more information or to download the 10-Year Plan and its highlights, go to www.endinghomelessness.ca or www.calgaryhomeless.com.

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT TWO

On Saturday, September 20, 2008, the Calgary Homeless Foundation hosted its second successful Project Homeless Connect, a one-day one-stop full service event. Project Homeless Connect fulfills one of the recommendations in the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness (www.calgaryhomeless.com).

Held at the Municipal Building, Project Homeless Connect provided participants with on-site access to services including medical treatment, counselling, housing, obtaining new identification documents, access to income support, employment opportunities, comfort kits containing personal items, haircuts, food, and more.

Project Homeless Connect Two saw 800 individuals experiencing homelessness (participate in the event) 50 agencies and over 150 agency staff. Over 1,000 meals were consumed.

Successful outcomes from the day include:

- 125 individuals seeing physicians and 25% receiving prescriptions.
- 150 individuals qualified for assistance under the Volunteer Program through Canada Revenue Agency (to date, 12 returns have been completed).
- Three new families were enrolled into the Integrated Services,

Assessment and Case Coordination Program.

- Five youth housing intakes were completed and numerous referrals made.
- Seven men and four women put onto a wait list for addictions treatment, and
- Four individuals were directly referred to shelters by the DOAP team.

The Calgary Homeless Foundation plans to host four Project Homeless Connects in 2009 as part of the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

The fourth PHC is planned for November 22, 2008 with plans for a full time

opportunity centre as a single point of access to open December 31, 2010.

The Calgary Homeless Foundation would like to extend a special thank you to Burnet Duckworth and Palmer LLP along with Brian and Anne O'Leary for sponsorship of Project Homeless Connect Two, along with the seed funding provided by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy Initiative.

For more information on Project Homeless Connect or volunteer opportunities, please contact lore@calgaryhomeless.com.

CUPS RAPID EXIT FAMILY PROGRAM

On September 12, 2008, CUPS celebrated a milestone for the CUPS' *Rapid Exit Program*. The program has successfully housed 60 families four months ahead of schedule. As well, Premier Ed Stelmach announced three hundred homeless people in Calgary will have a place to call home by this time next year thanks to the expansion of the CUPS Rapid Exit program to house singles.

Premier Stelmach announced the new funding while speaking at an event celebrating the success of the CUPS Rapid Exit Housing Families Program.

"As a parent, I know how important it is for children to have stability and security," said Premier Stelmach. "I commend the Calgary Homeless Foundation and the Calgary Urban Project Society on the tremendous gains they have made with this program to house the city's homeless families and I wish them every success as they work towards their goal of housing 300 homeless single adults over the next year."

The pilot program identifies and obtains rental housing for families and then ensures both the families and the landlords are satisfied with continued tenancies. The expanded Rapid Exit singles program will work

similarly.

Tim Richter, President of the Calgary Homeless Foundation, is encouraged by the program's results. "The Rapid Exit team has done a brilliant job. This is a living, breathing example of a housing first program that demonstrates what is possible under the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. We are thrilled with the support we've received from the government, and look forward to even greater success with the expanded pilot."

The Calgary Homeless Foundation exists to end homelessness in Calgary. The Foundation is

implementing the *10-Year Plan to End Homelessness* in Calgary.

View the Plan at www.calgaryhomeless.com or www.endinghomeless.com





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QUICK FACTS ON HOMELESSNESS IN CALGARY

- An average of **4,060** people use homeless shelters every night in Calgary.
- On any given night in Calgary, **197 families**, will sleep in a homeless shelter.
- Fifty-three per cent of those **without a home** are suffering from some form of mental illness. Over 30 per cent suffer from some form of addiction.
- Half of Calgarians who are absolutely homeless right now **have a job**.
- Between October 2006 and April 2007, average monthly rents increased almost nine per cent. This translates into a \$77 per month increase for a two bedroom apartment (Source: CMHC (Spring 2007), Rental Market Report: Alberta Highlights; City of Calgary (2007), calculations).
- Rising rents have placed **low-income seniors** (aged 55+) at significant risk of becoming homeless.
- As many as 2,500 people are on a waiting list for subsidized rent for the Calgary Housing Company. Some must wait as long as two years for a unit depending on the type of housing required (City of Calgary 2005).
- Many of those on wait lists, individuals and families, are **directly at risk of becoming homeless** if housing options do not become available.

IN THE NEWS...

November 22, 2008 – Calgary Homeless Foundation will host its third Project Homeless Connect at the Calgary Municipal Building, a one-day one-stop service event connecting services to those in need.

October 30, 2008 – A new provincial safe communities' initiative will end chronic homelessness for 600 Calgarians struggling with mental illness, addictions, and physical health problems.

October 9, 2008 – Woman and children fleeing family violence in Calgary will soon have greater access to safe

homes and support services as a result of a million dollar project. Funded by the Alberta Government and the Calgary Homeless Foundation, the Family Violence Housing First Pilot Project aims to move 50 women and children living in emergency or transitional housing into appropriate housing in the coming year.

September 20, 2008 – Calgary Homeless Foundation hosted its second Project Homeless Connect at the Calgary Municipal Building. Over 800 individuals homeless or at risk of homelessness received front line service care.

September 12, 2008 – Homeless

Program receives \$900,000 boost from Government.

To view the full story and other Calgary Homeless Foundation news and events, visit www.calgaryhomeless.com or www.endinghomelessness.ca

Help the Calgary Homeless Foundation save a tree. Email newsletter@calgaryhomeless.com to receive the Calgary Homeless Foundation's Quarterly Report to the Community, or to be included on the Calgary Homeless Foundation mailing list.