



## From the Boulevard December 2011 Newsletter

Three-in-one location:



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Dear Colleen,

It's hard to believe that we're at the end of another exciting year. There's so much to talk about with so little space to do so in this newsletter!

This year we competed for the Aviva \$150K Community Challenge to support our Care Village project. Aviva's marketing phrase, "supporting what's important to you", was certainly demonstrated in all your faithful voting: people in need, without a home and without hope are important to you. Although we didn't make the semi-finals, your prayers weren't wasted. Many hearts were touched... We are encouraged and will be taking a run at it again next year.

In my studies this year, I read about Professor Leonardo Boff, a theologian and writer, and his support for the rights of the poor and excluded. He talks about church being a ministry of coordinated community, a caring for the sick, the looking after of people who are poor or homeless, where everything is done with a deep spirit of communion, a sense of joint responsibility and an awareness of building and living actual church.

This epitomizes NightShift and the hundreds of volunteers who demonstrate that same spirit of community, communion and joint responsibility in living church with a small 'c' every day, as we reach out to help the poor and excluded in practical ways.

By supporting NightShift's initiatives, such as voting for the Aviva Challenge, serving dinner, providing clothing and warm blankets, offering prayer, assembling Christmas stockings, promoting The Care Centre, our Care Bus and the next phase of our Community Care Program, you are demonstrating your passion to do 'actual church' and to love

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**REGULAR EVENTS:**

**Evening Street Outreach**  
nightly at  
NightShift 7 pm

\*

**Care Bus**  
bringing nursing  
& counselling to the streets  
on Fridays at 7 pm

**(except 9th & 30th Dec)**

\*

**Info/Oreo Sessions**  
at NightShift at 6 pm

**Fri 9th & 16 Dec**

**Fri 13th & 27th Jan**

\*

**Street Soccer**

4-5:30 pm

**Wednesdays** @ Tom Binnie  
Field

&

**Saturdays** @ North Field /  
Royal Kwantlen Park

\*



**EXTRA DATES:**

Street Friends  
annual **Christmas Dinner** at  
Uptown Church

**Fri 9th Dec**

\*

**Christmas Eve Carolling**  
Join us at NightShift for

others unconditionally.

NightShift's mission is to love unconditionally and help others find hope and purpose. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for loving all people unconditionally. You may think your contribution is small, but I can assure you of this: together we are making a difference!

May God's face shine upon you this Christmas season as we celebrate the greatest gift of all - the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

Blessings,

MaryAnne Connor (Rev.), RPC (Cand.)  
Founder/President  
NightShift Street Ministries

**Excerpts from the Blog**

**Driving in the clothing and blanket donations**

All hands and feet are working overtime at receiving, sorting and distributing the donations of warm, clean clothes and blankets that are so desperately needed at this time of the year. With chilly temperatures come warm hearts, as people turn jackets, warm pants, boots, hats, scarves and gloves into so much more than just the clothes abandoned in a closet...[read more on our blog 5Dec2011](#)

**Reflections on a Gala full of Light**

The light: coming from the dark of despair and brokenness, into the light of the Cross. This is how NightShift has been described and how our logo came into being. Saturday's Gala was an awesome evening of light! Every year the team pulls together - with such a drive and determination... [read more on our blog 24Nov2011](#)

**Donor Gallery**



roaming carol singing  
& stockings delivery!  
Song books & stockings  
provided.

**Sat 24th Dec 4:30-6 pm**

\*

**Christmas Eve Dinner**  
serving at the Upper  
Auditorium, Whalley Legion  
(13525 106 Ave)

**Sat 24th Dec 5-8 pm**

~ volunteers welcome ~

\*

NightShift **offices closed**

**Mon 26th Dec**

**Tue 27th Dec**

**Mon 2nd Jan**

\*

Fraser Heights Rotary Club  
delivers care packages



Surrey Firefighters  
support street soccer



A blessing of Christmas stockings  
- Regent Christian Academy

## Volunteer Services update

It's been a busy season of informing and training potential individuals, youth groups and adult teams of volunteers to become involved with NightShift, either as part of the Evening Street Outreach program or to help in any way they can.



Current daytime volunteer openings include:

- Support on Reception, as the first point of contact for visitors and telephone enquiries, plus help with admin tasks. We have several 2-4 hour slots that need to be filled weekly.
- Help sorting clothing donations, as blanket and coat drives are under way. We encourage individuals or groups to find out more by contacting [Angie](#).

If you know of anyone who is interested in attending one of our regular Information and Orientation sessions, these are generally held on the second and fourth Fridays of the

month. We post the dates on our website for your convenience and encourage anyone wishing to attend to please contact the office to register, as seating is limited. Please note the change in dates for December: **Information on Fri 9th December and Orientation the following week on Fri 16th.**

Please feel free to email or speak with me if you have any questions about getting involved with NightShift in any capacity.

[Carmen](#)

Volunteer Services  
604.953.1114

PS Whalley Legion is looking for volunteers for the Christmas Eve dinner service.

### **Leadership Development Program launching soon**

We are excited to launch at the end of January our new Leadership Development Program. At this time we are re-introducing FORGE, which will now be our second phase of training following our Info/Oreo sessions.

FORGE is a strategic training to better equip and empower our volunteers and to develop existing and emerging leaders. Some of the topics that will be covered will be Effective Team Building, Prayer and Evangelism, Drug Addiction and Mental Health, The Character of a Leader and much more. Each participant will receive a fully packed training manual with tools, books and resources to help them further their passion for working in NightShift and ministry in general. After completion of FORGE each person will have the opportunity to further their training by partnering with an existing leader to pursue their desire to be a NightShift Leader. They will then have the option to take the next phase of training, EMERGE, which will focus more intensely of what it looks like to be a NightShift Leader.

At the completion of the three phases of training, each person will receive a certification which will equip them to effectively serve in our ministry. There will be both training and practicum involved in the three phases of the program.

FORGE will run for four months on a Saturday from 9 am - 3 pm. Our tentative starting date is January 28th. Please be in prayer for our training centre to be completed early January and that God would move in the hearts of our volunteers to participate in this equipping program. We believe that this program will equip individuals both for life and ministry in addition to their commitment to NightShift Street Ministries.

Cynthia Cavanaugh  
Leadership Development Director

### **Takin' it to the street**

I've had the privilege and challenge of getting out on the street with each night's team these past few months. My hope is to help bring all the Leaders and their teams onto the same page with regards to the nuts and bolts of our outreach, without changing the "flavour" of their nights out there, something which I place great importance on. "Familiarity and structure is a

comfort and stability for people, not the least of which to those who are addicted," quoted one dear friend who left the street a few years ago.

That said, I believe an effective witness for God is achieved from not only all the love of our Lord that we can pack into our nightly service, but also through the richness in variety, of the many hearts, hands and feet that come to them. Which brings me to another joy of my role out there - helping to introduce new folks to, and enter into service with, the best possible experience to get them started.

We have to remember, though we may lump together those God has called to serve or be served, each of us is an individual and it is this variety for which our Lord has made these nights. These nights are for us all.

Leaving it there for now, see you...on the street!

Michael Smith  
Outreach & Worship Coordinator

*"Merry Christmas to everyone at The Care Centre. For years I have prayed for a Christian counsellor but I did not find anyone who could help me and counselling was too expensive. Thanks to your work I now have an amazing counsellor who shares and understands my love for Jesus and now I have so much hope so thank you all! As a client I want to thank all of you for what you do. Your counselling program has truly been a God send for me."*



### **Mobile counselling services...and more**

The Care Bus continues to join the Friday night mobile outreach service at NightShift, where our teams of volunteers provide basic nursing care, one-on-one counselling, referral information and individual prayer. For the health and well-being of our Care Bus clients and street friends we are so thankful to be enjoying an abundance of generously donated multi-vitamins, omega 3 and nutrition bars. God is good!

We are always looking for opportunities to share these services in the community and recently participated in the Surrey Pre-Trial Health Fair. Plans are underway to bring the Care Bus to other locations, too.



As part of our *Share that you Care* campaign, we invite volunteers and interns to come - quite literally - on board. And so our Trinity University 4th-year nursing students completed their practicum on the Care Bus for the semester. During their time with us they helped with form development, inventory and practical nursing skills.

At The Care Centre we are seeing an increased number of clients for counselling from all walks of life. Our counsellors continue to participate in the community monthly Outreach Worker Meetings and we recently enjoyed connecting with social workers at Surrey Memorial Hospital. In the New Year, volunteer counsellors will have the opportunity to learn Levelling Prayer Technique, with training provided by [Laurel Hildebrandt](#).

If you are interested in finding out more about the services we offer through The Care Centre or on the Care Bus, please contact me.

Blessings of the season to you all.



Val Hoock  
Director of [The Care Centre](#)  
Tel 604.953.1154 Fax 604.953.1415  
[confidential@thecarecentre.org](mailto:confidential@thecarecentre.org)

### **Street Soccer outreach**

We are so proud of our team, the NightShift FC! Not only are they regularly coming out for training and really starting to come together as a team, they are showing all the right skills on the pitch and winning tournaments left, right and centre! Many of them now have football cleats and we're almost there on developing the logo for uniforms. Testimonials from two players with just a hint of pride:

"...Those who DON'T know, the NightShift soccer team has a tourney this weekend coming up in North Van and I feel like we are ready to go and give it our all once again and hope to shut out the teams once more.LET'S GO GUYS AND GALS...Thank you for all the support."

"Out of the 6 games we played this past Saturday in North Vancouver, The team won 5 tied 1. NightShift Street Ministries Soccer Team got 3 SHUTOUTS! We played awesome."

Our thanks also to Michael Cash and Shawn Forde for continuing to put the effort into this amazing project, which offers our street friends - and anyone who wants to be part of the team - a great purpose and determination to pull together. Especially when they have the opportunity to play against some amazing talent, like the Surrey Firefighters!



Andria  
[Street Soccer Supporter](#)

### **What else happens to those clothing donations?**

Our team of volunteer sorters is exceptionally busy at this time of the year as clothing and blanket donations increase as the temperatures drop.

While our first focus is always to serve our street friends daily with a clean, warm change of clothes and blankets to make it through the night, we also welcome donations under the motto "reinvent, recycle, reuse"! We've recently had a lot of fun dressing ladies and gents in need of festive clothing for charity galas.

My special thanks to everyone who has worked so hard on clothing initiatives throughout the year, including all the individuals who constantly clear their closets to benefit others, and all the groups, such as the Mary Kay team, the Cloverdale Girl Guides, and most recently the REALTOR Care Blanket Drive, who care to share!

While we can always use an extra pair of hands, we have enjoyed the regular stream of Pacific

Academy girls who support us each Thursday evening during the school year. During this busy sorting time, there are special opening hours at Sisters Thrift Boutique in December as follows:

Wed 6th - Sat 10th

Wed 14th - Sat 17th

Wed 21st - Fri 23rd

Wed 28th - Fri 30th

Please help us keep the store open! The more volunteer sorters we get through the daytime, the more we can spread the load.

Thank you and a Merry Christmas!

[Angie](#)

Manager

Sisters Thrift Boutique



### **NightShift in the community**

Since I joined NightShift in the summer, the journey of learning about the organization from the inside, of becoming involved in so many special projects and opportunities to reach out and help through the ministry, has been amazing. As I become aware of all the different facets of the organization, I feel so blessed to be part of it all.

Within the community, for example, NightShift continues to be involved with other local groups as together we wrestle the issues of poverty and homelessness in Surrey. The ministry currently has a presence on the Safety Committee for the DSBIA (Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association), WIST (Whalley Integrated Services Team, District 9, RCMP), TARGET (liaison with the RCMP and the City of Surrey Bylaws for local outreach), Outreach Workers Meeting (liaison with local outreach service providers) and SHHTF (Surrey Homeless and Housing Task Force). It's so important that we are connected, share and have an understanding of the services that are provided locally.

Just recently I had the opportunity to participate at the Surrey Homeless and Housing Task Force strategic planning meeting. I found the diversity of service opportunities represented, our common goals, the respect among the organizations and the value of relationships all very encouraging. Since all the organizations are providing services around the reducing homelessness and providing options for those in need, it makes so much sense to partner together. It's an honour for NightShift to be included in these meetings and we look forward to another year of authentic collaboration to ease the burden and provide real hope for our friends on the street.

Britney

Executive Assistant/Fund Development



### A final note...on tax receipts

Please note that in order to qualify for a 2011 tax receipt, we are gratefully accepting donations at the NightShift office up to 5 pm on Friday, 30th December. Donations sent in the mail must be postmarked no later than 31st December 2011. Otherwise the donation will be processed for the 2012 fiscal year. More in the New Year! [Don](#)



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