



HARVEST NEWS

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2002

Extending a hand up, not a hand out

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Nancy Robb joined the Harvest Project as a volunteer in the Client Care department in January of 1999, and it was soon clear that we had someone very special working with us. Nancy showed a remarkable degree of wisdom and compassion when helping people. She always sought to truly hear their needs and concerns; she was empathetic, but knew where to draw the line. It was not unusual to hear, "Nancy made my day," "She gave me hope," or "I feel valued as a human being" from her clients.

As might be expected, Nancy's abilities reached the ears of the Board of Directors, and she was invited to join their team. Nancy accepted this position and was diligent in attending to her new responsibilities, while maintaining her role in Client Care.

Eventually, Nancy stepped-down from these positions in order to become our first-ever Volunteer Liaison. This was a very demanding position, requiring long hours and a great deal of initiative as she strove to build and manage our Volunteer Program. Of course, Nancy's positive attitude and loving nature were always evident in the midst of this challenge.

Unfortunately for the Harvest Project, Nancy has come to a point in her life where she feels unable to continue in this role. So, she is leaving us at the end of November to do some traveling with her husband before retiring to the Okanagan Valley.

We want to take this opportunity to say, "Thank you so much!" to Nancy, and to offer her our most sincere blessings. "We will all miss you, Nancy, both as a colleague and friend."



"...and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which means, 'God with us'." (Matthew 1:23b)

A TIME OF BLESSING

Christmas is fast approaching, and with it comes the hectic pace of work parties, children's concerts, post office line-ups, late-night shopping, and family gatherings – the hallmarks of the holiday season! But in our haste to make delicious food, buy beautiful gifts, and spread good cheer to our families and neighbours, let's not forget to pause and consider those for whom Christmas is a time of disappointment, sorrow, and loneliness. Many people in our community are experiencing the difficulties of unemployment, divorce, illness, single parenting, bereavement, and addiction, and are struggling to simply make ends meet. We at the Harvest will be reaching out to these people over the next few weeks, and we invite you to join us as we extend a hand of love and hope into their lives. Together, we can make this Christmas a time of blessing and joy for our whole community!

When we first met Erica, she was an overwhelmed mother on the edge of despair. With tears of frustration and shame, she explained the crisis that had brought her to the Harvest Project. Erica's husband worked long hours at a low-paying job in order to support their five children but, due to illness, he'd been unable to work for a full month. This complete lack of income transformed their already-strained financial situation into a frightening financial emergency. Erica and her husband borrowed money to cover their rent payment and sold two pieces of furniture to pay for some groceries. In distress, Erica came to the Harvest for help.



We provided her with enough food and diapers to meet her family's immediate needs for the next month. This helped to ease Erica's stress and release her to consider her family's future. We then taught her some basic budgeting skills, and referred her to counseling to learn about realistic goal setting and positive decision-making.

Nine months later, life is getting better for Erica and her family. She is now working on weekends as a caregiver and her husband's new job includes medical benefits. They've paid-off a credit card debt and are even starting to put \$25 aside each month for savings! Erica's voice was filled with energy as she described the journey that had begun so many months before at the Harvest Project – through our support, this family found not only some stability, but also much hope for a brighter future.

HELP OTHERS HELP THEMSELVES

"What's this card included with the newsletter?" you might be asking. Well, it's the Harvest Project's new "referral card", designed by our graphic artist, Kenneth King. We know that there are many people in our community who are in need of assistance but who are unfamiliar with the Harvest Project. If you know someone who is a North Shore resident experiencing difficult life circumstances and who is willing to help him or herself, please pass the card along. Your concern could be the beginning of a life-changing story!

The work of the Harvest Project is made possible through the commitment and dedication of our many volunteers.

If you are interested in joining the team, please call 604-983-9488 and come to a Volunteer Information Session (held the first Saturday of every month - except holiday weekends - at 11:00 am at the Harvest.)

Administration – data entry, word processing, (knowledge of MS Word is an asset)

Assistant to Exec. Director – project mgt. (requires self-motivated individual with corporate experience; familiarity with Excel & PowerPoint is an asset)

Cleaning – dusting, vacuuming, windows, etc.

Dress for Success – assisting clients with clothing for work and school

Driving – pick-up's and deliveries (drivers with own vehicles needed for December!!)

Kitchen – preparing lunches, maintaining coffee/snack service

Reception – greeting clients, answering phones, making appointments

Resource Centre – researching and providing info. on other community resources

Warehouse – sorting, boxing, storing, and stocking food

Website Development – updating and improving our web presence

CONCERT A SMASHING SUCCESS

It was a full-house at Centennial Theatre on the eve of Danielle St. Pierre's benefit concert for the Harvest Project – and what an amazing night! Guests were treated to a two-hour musical extravaganza that included appearances by Tom Pickett and Katherine Grefner, and covered everything from ballads to Broadway! There were also dozens of quality items available at the Silent Auction, and a spread of gourmet delicacies for those who stayed after the show. Overall, we are pleased to announce that the Harvest was able to raise over \$12,000 towards its continued work in our local community.

So how do we even begin to thank Danielle St. Pierre? Those of you who could join us for this wonderful event witnessed, first hand, Danielle's incredible talent, energy, and charm. But we at the Harvest have also had the pleasure of seeing her down-to-earth, dedicated work ethic. Danielle has been both a benefactor and an inspiration – may God bless her with the success she so richly deserves!

Thanks, too, to Maureen St. Pierre for her dedication to the concert committee and for her wonderful performance, which was a huge hit with the audience! And thank you to Marla Kindrachuk, a Harvest Project volunteer, who generously catered the event. Her delicious preparations and elegant presentation added much to the ambience of our post-event soirée.

We also appreciate the ongoing support of our founding sponsors, North Shore Credit Union and North Shore News. We are extremely grateful for these organizations and are proud of the leadership and contributions they provide in the community.

Finally, thank you to our donors for your attendance and enthusiastic response to both Danielle's performance and the Silent Auction. Your faithful support is what makes our work possible!



Needful Things

The Harvest is in need of:

- MEN'S SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR (NEW, PLEASE).
- MEN'S BUSINESS-CASUAL CLOTHING (KHAKI'S, GOLF SHIRTS, ETC.) AND BLUE JEANS.
- SHAMPOO, TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANT, RAZORS, FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS, TOILET PAPER.

- METAL UTILITY CART OR DOLLY FOR WAREHOUSE.
- PEST- AND WATER-PROOF STORAGE BINS FOR BULK FOODS (3-5).
- UPRIGHT FREEZER.

- SECRETARIAL CHAIR WITH ARMRESTS (IN GOOD CONDITION).
- DIGITAL CAMERA.
- HIGH-SPEED LASER PRINTER.
- PENTIUM 3 (MIN. 600 MHZ) COMPUTER FOR OUR RESOURCE CENTRE.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS ARE ALWAYS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED!
WE ALSO ACCEPT "TURKEY DOLLARS":

THANK YOU TO THE RESIDENTS OF KIWANIS LYNN MANOR FOR HOLDING A PENNY DRIVE TO BENEFIT THE HARVEST – WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR GIFT OF \$260!

Teenagers Serve The Community

On a single Saturday afternoon in October, the Harvest had 100 secondary school students helping to sort food! These teens came from across BC for a Jr. High Conference being hosted by North Shore Alliance Church, and it was a wonderful opportunity to educate them on creative ways to assist in their own communities. The students worked very hard for us and we want to thank them all for their valuable contribution!

KIDS GO TO CAMP

In partnership with North Shore Alliance Church and Lynn Valley Full Gospel Church, the Harvest Project was able to send 11 children to Vacation Bible Schools this summer. These are one-week day camps that local churches hold for the benefit of five to ten-year-olds on summer holidays. It is an exciting week of crafts, games, Biblical teaching, exercise, singing, and serving in the community that is not only fun for kids, but also a welcome break for many parents! The churches generously provided the funds to enable these children to be a part of the week's activities: on behalf of our clients, we thank you!

Bargains & Burgers at the Harvest Garage Sale

We had clear weather for our Garage Sale and BBQ that was held in our parking lot on Saturday, July 27th. Treasure-hunters were privy to a wealth of bargain-priced goods, and everyone was able to enjoy tasty burgers and hotdogs generously provided by M&M Meats. With the support of the community, the Harvest was able to raise \$1,900! Many thanks to all who donated their belongings for the sale or who supported our work by making a purchase, and especially to our volunteers, who tirelessly sorted, priced, and sold the items.



Open House & Silent Auction Raises Funds

On September 26th, the Harvest Project was decorated with hay bales, pumpkins, and twinkling lights for our Open House & Silent Auction. Guests were treated to coffee and desserts provided by Delany's Coffee House, and entertained with live jazz. The Silent Auction offered numerous exceptional items, including paintings by local artists, certificates to fine restaurants, and stylish clothing. Proceeds from the evening totaled \$4,200, all of which goes directly towards the Harvest's many programs and services. Our sincere gratitude goes out to our sponsors and all who attended for making this an enjoyable and successful event!



Guests enjoy a wonderful, entertaining evening!

“Only a life lived for others is worth living.” – Albert Einstein

Christmas Cheer!

Preparations are in full swing for a Harvest Project tradition: the 14th Annual North Shore Community Christmas Dinner at the Lonsdale Recreation Centre (December 14th). Sponsored by Save-On-Foods and over 20 other businesses and organizations, this event provides an evening of fellowship and Christmas celebration to over 300 of our not-yet-fortunate neighbours. Through the community's support, the Harvest is able to present a sit-down candlelit dinner with all the trimmings, live entertainment, door prizes, and gifts for every child in attendance. This special occasion has brought a brighter and happier Christmas to some 5000 people, including 3000 children, over the course of its 14-year history. So please give generously this Christmas to support this event and the work of the Harvest throughout the holiday season.

Wife's Memory Honoured

The Harvest Project is truly touched by the support of Mohan Sull, who held a party in honour of his late wife, Mindy, and collected donations for the Harvest as a tribute to her life. On September 28, Mohan and his guests raised over \$9,500 for the Harvest in memory of Mindy Sull. The staff and board of the Harvest would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Mohan for thinking of others in the midst of his own loss.

Festival of Lights at Dundarave Pier

November 26th, 2002 - January 2nd, 2003

Once again, the Beach House restaurant and the Harvest Project welcome the Christmas season with the 12th Annual Festival of Lights. Together with businesses and families from our community, we invite you to celebrate the lighting of 70 beautifully decorated Christmas trees on West Vancouver's waterfront. Everyone is encouraged to vote for his or her favourite tree, with all donations going to support the Harvest.

The Official Lighting Ceremony, presided over by Mayor Ron Woods, will take place on Tuesday, November 26th, from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm, with festive choral music provided by Collingwood School.

Clients Treated to Thanksgiving Dinner

Last month, members of Westlynn Baptist Church served a delicious Thanksgiving dinner to 57 Harvest clients. The evening included live music, a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, and pie for dessert. It was a great night of family and friendship that may become an annual event!



Staff Corner

We are pleased to introduce the two newest members of our Harvest family: Sandra Vasquez and Jolene Renney.

Sandra joins us as our Warehouse Manager, overseeing the sorting and packaging of incoming donations, the delivery of food hampers, and the maintenance of our building. Sandra recently moved to North Vancouver from Columbia, where she worked with a local non-profit organization. She brings to the Harvest her excellent organizational skills and a great sense of humour.

Jolene has been hired as our first Volunteer Coordinator. As an organization that relies heavily upon volunteers to run our programs and services, the Harvest recognized the need for a full-time manager of our most valuable resource! Jolene's love for people will no doubt be evident as she presents our monthly volunteer information meetings and recruits, interviews, and places new volunteers. (If you would like to find out more about our Volunteer Program, you can contact Jolene via email at: volunteers@harvestproject.org).

Treasurer's Report

We are approaching the end of 2002 and the Christmas Season is almost upon us. At this time of year, it is appropriate to reflect on the many blessings we have received.

In June, we sent out an urgent plea for support as we had come very close to the end of our resources. You, our donors, and the community stepped forward and demonstrated your commitment to the work of the Harvest by giving generously and providing the funds needed to continue to work with our clients. Thank you!

The community's support was again evident in the attendance at the Danielle St. Pierre Benefit Concert on November 2. Through the generosity of Danielle, her family, and the other performers, we enjoyed a wonderfully successful event.

Many donors have asked us to arrange for pre-authorized payments. We are looking into the feasibility of implementing this method of donation and will share more information as it becomes available.

Thank you, again, for sharing and helping the Harvest to offer a *Hand Up, Not a Hand Out!*

Thank You for your Continued Support!

including all individuals, who are not listed to protect their privacy.



HARVEST HEROES OF 2001

Cornerstone Heroes \$6,000 + per year

*Employees of the Harvest Project
Face the World Foundation
Global Institute
Kimberly-Clark Inc.
KP Wood
North Shore Alliance Church
Prudential Sussex Realtors
T.J. Hickey Group – Todd Hickey & Stephen Batten
West Vancouver United Church*



The Charity One Club Card enables you to support the Harvest Project while shopping at your favourite stores. When you present your card to participating merchants, a percentage of your purchase is sent directly to the Harvest - it's that simple! So present your card wherever you see the Charity One Angels decal and you *will* make a difference, every time you shop.

For more information about Charity One, including a list of participating merchants, visit www.charityoneclub.com.

Legendary Heroes \$1,200 - \$5,999 per year

*AG Professional Hair Care
Christine Designs
CIBC Charitable Foundation
Clairmont Camera Inc.
CWG Engineering Inc.
Haywood Securities
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Howe Sound Lions Club
Kiwanis Club of Capilano
Lamwong Design & Associates
Loewen Kruse Chartered Accountants
Lynn Valley Full Gospel Church
NAIOP Vancouver Chapter
New Hope Community Church
North Lonsdale United Church
North Shore News
Park Shore Motors Ltd.
Prudential Sussex Realty Corp.
St. Andrews & St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church
TD Bank Financial Group
Telus Employees' Community Fund
Zoetic Inc.*

Super Heroes \$600 - \$1,199 per year

*Capilano Christian Community
Capilano Lions Club
Collingwood School
Commonwealth Insurance
Deep Cove Stage Society
Employees of BA Blacktop Ltd.
ET Technologies
Fawcett Insurance Agency Ltd.
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Gore Mutual Insurance
Great Northern Security
Highlands United Church
Indo-Persian Carpet Co. Ltd.
Kiwanis Club of West Vancouver
Knights of Columbus Lions Gate Council 7095
London Drugs Ltd.
North Shore Optimist Club
Rogers AT&T Pacific
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 60
Soroptimist Int'l of North & West Vancouver
St. Catherine's Anglican Church (Capilano)
Toronto Dominion Bank
Tuesday Breakfast Club
Union Securities Ltd.*

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN DONATE TO THE HARVEST PROJECT:

- IN PERSON OR BY MAIL?
- OVER THE PHONE, USING VISA?
- AT THE NORTH SHORE CREDIT UNION OR NORTH SHORE BRANCHES OF THE CIBC?
- THROUGH THE UNITED WAY (DESIGNATED TO THE HARVEST PROJECT)?

HARVEST PROJECT NEWSLETTER SPONSORS:

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