



HARVEST NEWS

SUMMER
2007

Extending a hand up, not a hand out

Message from the New Executive Director



The last couple of months have been very busy for Harvest Project. Our spring renovations are completed, Open Door Society has joined us in extending a hand up, and our Food Access and Recovery Program is getting off the ground.

When I first came on board with Harvest in January I saw so much un-tapped potential behind every nook and cranny. My vision of molding Harvest into a more successful and sustainable organization is becoming a reality. Our building

renovations wrapped up in June, giving Harvest more office space for staff; creating a more private Client Care space; expanding our clothing boutique into Changing Room; and developing a new grocery store with full refrigeration and freezer space for perishable food items.

Our 1,000 Hands for Harvest fundraising campaign is coming to a close, so now is the time to invest in our neighbours and help make the lives of families brighter. I am looking for community leaders to stand up and 'extend a hand' to those facing difficult circumstances. To reach our goal of \$250,000 we need every resident on the North Shore to contribute two-dollars – that's less than a cup of coffee! What Harvest Project can do with your donations is provide counseling, client care services, resource programs, as well as food and clothing.

Please stay tuned for upcoming information on our fall gala. We will be hosting a game show style evening at Hollyburn Country Club on October 26th. This will be a unique event for our corporate partners and supporters. For more information on table bookings or sponsorship opportunities please contact Brenda Martin, Fundraising Manager at: brenda@harvestproject.org

Finally, I would like to thank all of our supporters. Without your efforts and funding Harvest Project would not be able to call the North Shore home.

Kind Thoughts,

David Polkinghorne
Executive Director

Harvest Project Welcomes New Fundraising Manager



May brought with it sunny skies and new staff at Harvest; we would like to introduce our new Fundraising

Manager, Brenda Martin.

Brenda's outgoing personality and positive outlook have been winning over our current supporters and are helping to build sustainable business relationships for Harvest Project.

Along with her charismatic attitude Brenda brings with her experience and credentials that will help Harvest to gain more community support for our ever-expanding programs.

Brenda comes to Harvest with a degree in English Literature and Communications from the University of Victoria. Before coming to Harvest, Brenda worked with the National Deaf Children's Society in London, England.

Over the years, Brenda's need to help others has been fostered in her activities with summer camps, youth groups and homeless youth shelters. Brenda's spirit and contagious energy have been a welcome addition to Harvest Project.

Harvest Project Picks up the Pace with a New Operations Manager

Please join us in welcoming Derek Pace to Harvest Project.

Derek started with Harvest Project at the end of May and has been hard at work ever since. Derek's first priority was to help complete the renovations and improve our client care area as well as the volunteer information station.

Perhaps the most dramatic change that Derek has helped to complete is the opening of our new used clothing store, Changing Room. Changing Room was an idea that Executive Director, David Polkinghorne had in an effort to increase our revenue stream. "The quality of clothing that's donated is very high," said Polkinghorne, "We should be offering these items to the community in order to improve our fundraising."

Working hard with Harvest volunteers, Derek opened Changing Room to the public by June 20th. So far, things are running smoothly and as always, clothing is free to Harvest Project clients.

Stay tuned for more Harvest developments, brought to you by our efficient Operations Manager.

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Take a Tour!

We want you to get to know us better.

Tours are offered every Thursday at 11 am or by appointment. Call Harvest Project at 604.983.9488 ext. 317 to book a time to visit.

Anyone wishing to volunteer should phone reception (604.983.9488) and sign up for the orientation session scheduled for the first Saturday of every month at 11 am.

Summer Dreams Become a Reality

To mark our new partnership with the Open Door Society, we threw a fundraising party in Heywood Park.

Each summer, Open Door participates in "Mum and Me" camp at Keats Camp. Harvest Project wanted to offer this opportunity to mothers using our services so we have worked together on Summer Dreams to send twenty deserving single-parent families on an amazing summer vacation.



Summer Dreams was an opportunity to have fun and remember what it's like to be a kid. We spent the day with the community listening to live music, eating hotdogs, having our faces painted and bouncing in our bouncy castle.



Francesca Acosta, Open Door's Director, said, "This effort really shows how much the community believes in our work and that they are willing to help others in need."

Both Harvest Project and Open Door hope that Summer Dreams will become an annual event helping to create happy memories for even more families.

If you'd like to support a family in attending "Mum and Me" camp you can contact Harvest Project's Office Administrator at: 604-983-9488 ext. 305 or by email: administrator@harvestproject.org

Volunteer Spotlight



Harvest Project would like to recognize Sheila Drummond for her amazing attitude and belief in the 1,000 Hands for Harvest campaign.

Sheila has been volunteering with Harvest since January. Her wonderful smile is a welcome treat for anyone visiting the Reception Desk on Tuesdays. As time passed, Sheila's heart grew for Harvest and all the community members we serve; "There's no difference between these people and me," she says.

In April, Harvest Project launched its 1,000 Hands campaign to gain community support to care for families using our programs and services. Executive Director, David Polkinghorne felt that the community should be more accountable for the downfall of our neighbours, "We need to take the challenge and become leaders on the North Shore." Sheila agreed that the goal of \$250,000 by July 2007 was an ambitious goal, however she felt that many hands make light work.

"After reading about the 1,000 Hands campaign I began to think about what I could do," says Sheila, "I decided to send an email to friends and family asking for five-dollars each, in no time I had managed to raise \$550 for families in our community."

When asked why she volunteers with Harvest Project, Sheila replies, "I believe in what Harvest can do for people," the organization really helps people to get back on their feet.

New Innovations in Client Care Training

June 2007 marks the first time that Harvest Project will run a complete, 25-hour, training course for prospective Client Care Partners (CCPs).

Previously, Client Care did one-on-one training that was primarily observation-based learning. Monica Drefs, Client Care Coordinator, feels that, "This method of training will increase the quality of service which will better help our clients."

The intention of improving training is to make sure that Harvest Project CCPs make use of available community resources and are able to begin their one-year volunteer term, with Harvest, knowing more rather than learning along the way.

A key element of this new training is to involve other community groups and service agencies as keynote speakers on topics such as, income assistance, suicide, addiction and depression.

Drefs is hoping that this new training process will offer support and continued learning to CCPs; "We want to invest in CCPs and make sure we can build and improve their knowledge of Client Care."

Vital Volunteer



Harvest Project simply couldn't open our doors without our volunteers. We have more than 150 volunteers from the community – youth, senior citizens, successful clients, community service jobs, and those with big hearts and free time.

What our volunteers have in common is a willingness to support

Harvest in our work helping individuals and families in times of need. All of our volunteers view their time and talents as the most practical way to support Harvest Project.

Our volunteers are the lifeblood of Harvest. They are directly involved in delivering every service we offer, except counseling. Our receptionists, warehouse workers, client care partners, data entry assistants, workshop trainers, fundraisers, kitchen staff, clothing sorters, delivery drivers and many others are volunteers. Together in 2006, our volunteers contributed more than 17,000 hours of labour to make life on the North Shore better for their neighbours – that's the equivalent of more than nine full-time employees!

Not only do our volunteers bring their varied skills, interests and experiences to Harvest Project, they help us remain exceptionally cost-effective so that we can focus our resources on serving the North Shore.

We cannot fully express how deeply grateful we are to all of our volunteers. Their compassion, commitment and spirit of dedication provide the ingredients for what makes our community special.

Thank you.

Maternity Leave for Sarah Irvine



Harvest Project would like to congratulate Sarah and Jason in becoming parents a second time. We will certainly miss Sarah's warm and fun-loving nature as she leaves at the end of July to prepare for her second child due in September. Working as Office Administrator, Sarah brought with her the perfect balance of organization and humor in handling our Executive Director's many requests.

Please join us in congratulating Sarah and Jason and in welcoming our new Office Administrator, Lauren Martin.

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Spring Wish List

We gratefully accept all donations of non-perishable food, work clothes for adults and personal care items. Many of our clients who are single moms need disposable diapers for their babies.

We also need:

- Canned meat food stuffs
- Household paper products
- Jam
- Peanut butter
- Tomato-based sauces
- Bottles of juice and/or water
- Work boots



Thank You for your Continuing Support

Major Donors of 2007

We are grateful to all who have so generously supported the Harvest Project in 2007. Donations listed are as of May 31, 2007.

Volunteer Opportunities

Our need for volunteers is constant because volunteers deliver almost all of our services. We need people who can work in client care, grocery packing, sorting food in the warehouse, driving, cooking, maintaining our coffee/snack service, sorting clothes, data entry, or fundraising. We are also looking for professionals such as physiotherapists, nutritionists, dentists, and financial planners etc. who can donate services to our clients who could otherwise not afford them.

Donating is Easy


Donations can be made to the Harvest Project:

- By cheque
- Visa or Mastercard
- Pre-authorized bank payments
- In person or by mail
- Online through Canada Helps
- Through the United Way
(designated to the Harvest Project)
- Through stock transfers

We also welcome gifts of RRSPs, life insurance policies, stocks/bonds/ mutual funds, trust and annuities through our Planned Giving Program.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We provide tax receipts for every donation over \$20. If you wish to receive your tax receipt once annually instead of with every donation, please write a note on the donor card or with your next donation.

We are open Tuesday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. Volunteer shifts are four hours in length, once per week. If you are interested in joining the Harvest team, please call 604/983-9488 to register for a Volunteer Information Meeting held the first Saturday of every month (except holiday weekends) at 11 am at the Harvest Project.

Design:  Sandi Ma
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If you would prefer not to be on our mailing list, please let us know by mail, e-mail (administration@harvestproject.org) or phone 604.983.9488 ext 305.

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