



Envoy

Snack in the Shack, a program of Edmonton's School Lunch Program, celebrated 10 years of feeding hungry kids on August 16. Snack in the Shack, which runs during the summer months, fills the gap left for children by the absence of school breakfast, snack and lunch programs. This year 1,877 children registered for Snack in the Shack at 38 City of Edmonton Green Shack summer playground programs. Both programs are free and welcome children to participate for the seven or eight weeks that each park is open.

The staff of Edmonton's School Lunch Program and a strong core of volunteers prepare snacks for the children. Thirty four dedicated volunteers contributed over 250 hours of time in snack preparation. A variety of snacks were prepared including muffins and fruit, scones and vegetables with dip, sandwiches with milk/juice, yogurt and fruit, and crackers and cheese with fruit or vegetables. Much of the food for the project was generously donated by local businesses and organizations.

The Green Shack Summer Playground Programs also provides a great opportunity for children to



Children enjoying fresh fruit donated by Sobey's, one of the many donors who make Snack in the Shack a great success.

experience fun, supervised activities and are the perfect location for addressing children who struggle with hunger issues.

Ongoing community support is essential to ensure that Snack in the Shack remains an effective, sustainable snack program.

Our special thanks goes to: the Edmonton Realtors' Charitable Foundation for their ongoing and generous support of the Lunch Program through the Road Race and Bike for Kids; Jennifer Martin, spokesperson for School Lunch, has helped to raise funds through the Road Race, Bike for Kids, and the Voxcom Adrenalin Gala; Gary Chung and Sarah Hooyenga, Program Managers with Community Services, Green Shack Playground Program; Alanna Ferguson, Sara Napp, Jody Nelson, Melissa Roste, Jennifer Sloan, and Chantel Kein - with the Green Shack Playground Program and the Northeast Rotary Club of Edmonton who has provided funding for Snack in the Shack and are our main source of volunteers.

Other Snack in the Shack donors include: Edmonton General Hospital, Edmonton's Food Bank, Enbridge, GM Community Wheels Program, Sobey's, Misericordia Hospital, TD Canada Trust and the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region.

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E4C

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Look for new and exciting E4C information in our next issue!

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Home is where the heart is.

Nice sentiment, isn't it? If it were only true...

Since returning to E4C, I have renewed my acquaintance with the circumstances of people and families who try to find “home” in rental accommodation and rooming houses.

The housing market in Edmonton is hot. No news there. But what we often don't think about is how a hot housing market affects those with marginal and minimal incomes. A hot market results in increased competition for available rental housing and the conversion of some rental housing stock to the condo market. The end result is that available rental stock declines and rental costs increase.

If your income is also increasing at the pace of the marketplace, your concerns may be lessened. If not...well, that is another story. Perhaps you have a disability and receive a monthly income that works out to about \$12,000 a year. Maybe you have a minimal wage job and can count on an income of about \$14,500 a year – provided, of course, that you can be scheduled for a full shift every working day.

I sometimes wonder when I am in the market shopping for groceries what it would be like to have this kind of income. After rent, after utilities, after clothing to wear to work or to the interview, after soap and other personal care items, what would I have left for food? If I had children, how would I clothe them, and get their school fees and supplies?

The unfortunate part of the housing picture that we see is the unsafe rooming house and the run down apartment and the decrepit rental house – small, dirty, run down and unsafe buildings and rooms; sometimes

erratic or non-functioning utilities and appliances; pests and vermin; strange or dangerous neighbours – lots of things that it make it hard to call “home”. These are buildings that should be condemned; these are the product of landlords that take what the market will allow with the least amount of maintenance and with no concern for health or safety.

We see new Canadians who have come to our country of freedom, tolerance and hope; people who are willing to take the jobs that no one else will take for minimum wage; working hard every day to make it in this place of opportunity. We see single parents struggle with the task of single parenting and no support who work when they can for whatever they can make. We see the person with debilitating illness or challenged with disability struggling to make ends meet.

Safe, affordable housing makes safer communities. It provides a healthy place for children and adults. It creates a place where people can develop a sense of dignity and “home”.

We at E4C have an increasing concern about the unmet need for safe and affordable housing. The gap between available units and the numbers of individuals and families who need this housing is growing.

We are challenged—as is any affordable housing advocate and provider—to stay in the business of developing and operating affordable housing. The hot market and rising costs make it very hard to acquire land and to develop housing.

We need to have the issue of adequate, safe, affordable housing back on the

agenda as a priority. We need the interest and the participation of the housing development industry at the table, ready to contribute to an adequate response.

With a continued hot market and a labour shortage we will likely see increased migration into Alberta and its cities. We will continue to see housing costs increase. Without the development of safe, affordable housing, those on minimal and fixed income will become more disadvantaged – unable to compete. Are we ready for tent cities, increased homelessness and all the individual and social destruction that homelessness creates? I think not. It is not the Canadian way nor is it the Alberta way. This is not the Alberta advantage.

We need to think bigger and we need to think and work in collaboration. We need a social will to change and to be inclusive. We need a political will to be adaptive and proactive. We need some common sense and an orientation to something other than the short term “What's in it for me?”.

We need you to be informed and involved. We need you to join us and hundreds of others and to share the dream of stronger, safer neighborhoods and communities.

Next time you're at church or at the club or when you pick up the phone or a pencil, we ask you to tell the leaders and developers of the housing industry and of each level of government that safe and affordable housing is a priority in our community, our province and our country.

- Michael Farris
Executive Director

Stollery Place opens doors to independence

An 18-unit long-term supportive, bachelor apartment building designed for low-income individuals was formally dedicated and officially opened on August 23 in the city's McCauley neighbourhood.

Stollery Place, named in honour of the Stollery family of Edmonton, is designed to accommodate individuals at risk of becoming homeless and for some individuals who may be exhibiting signs of minor mental health issues.

The two-and-half story, \$1.3 million project was constructed by E4C, with financial contributions from the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund, the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Partnership Initiative and the City of Edmonton. The on-going financial contributions of the Stollery Charitable Foundation greatly assisted with the realization of this project.

"This long-term, supportive housing facility will make a significant contribution to improving the lives of

these residents," said Carol Murray, Chair of the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund. "We deeply value our on-going community partnership with the Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation. Once again they have delivered on an outstanding facility that will enhance the well-being of some of our most vulnerable citizens," Murray added.

"Working together to make stronger and safer communities is what the three levels of government, the Stollery Charitable Foundation, the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund and E4C have accomplished in the creation and building of Stollery Place," said Michael Farris. "Those on minimal and fixed incomes are better able to play a positive role in the community. Stollery Place creates a place that people can develop a sense of dignity, home and community," Farris remarked.

All the units are self-contained and rent for \$400 per month, including all utilities. The facility has been full since it opened.



Carol Murray, EHTF Chair, presents a plaque to Michael Farris and Doug Stollery at the opening.

Linda Manuel honoured with the 2006 Esquao Award in Social Services & Advocacy

Linda Manuel, an employee of E4C's Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC) for over 20 Years, was honoured with the 2006 Esquao Award in Social Services & Advocacy.

The Esquao Awards were created by The Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW) to recognize the outstanding work and recognition of women from Aboriginal communities in helping women of all ages.

Linda was presented with the award on May 12, 2006 at the Mayfield Inn with her family, friends and coworkers in attendance.

Kourch Chan, E4C Director of Programs said, "Linda is absolutely deserving of this recognition, for her 20 plus years of commitment to the many homeless women, often aboriginal, who are neglected and forgotten. It also speaks to the relevance of E4C's programs when



Linda accepting her award.

our organization has staff like Linda who are passionate and make a difference to someone's life everyday."

"While it was an honour for Linda to receive this award it came as no surprise to those of us that know her. She is very dedicated to the cause of women in her professional life as well as her private life. She is an awesome role model for all women," said the staff at WEAC.

On July 21, 2006 the 1st Annual Voxcom Adrenalin Gala was held at the Shaw Conference Centre in support of Edmonton's School Lunch Program. The event, which kicked off the Edmonton Grand Prix, was a wonderful success raising over \$140,000.

Gala Chairperson, Jennifer Martin, once again proved her enormous dedication to kids and our community by pulling off 'the event of the year.'

Thank you Jennifer Martin and the rest of the dedicated Gala Committee members!



E4C News, Information and Updates

E4C celebrated 36 years of providing vital services to our community at our AGM on May 18.

May we introduce you to...

E4C's new Board Member, Dr. Tom Kieren. Tom, a long time member of Augustana Lutheran Church, is a retired professor of Secondary Education at the University of Alberta. He is active in the congregation at Augustana, serving on council, teaching Sunday School and singing in the choir.



Tom is no stranger to the work of E4C and has been an active supporter for many years.

In his spare time, Tom likes gardening, hiking with his wife, Dianne, and playing with his 5 granddaughters.

This is Tom's first time serving on the E4C board. We wish Tom a very warm welcome!

We say goodbye to...

Bertha Lang, long time board member and past president of E4C who stepped down from the board at this year's AGM.



P.J. Duggan, E4C's current President, said it best, "We have been very fortunate to have Bertha as our president and for her to have served as a dedicated board member for all these years. Bertha was a pioneer in children's education and a consultant before taking on the challenge of leading E4C. Bertha's team building skills and attention to both board and staff helped smooth the transition to a interim management model while we searched and prepared for a new Executive Director. Bertha has been a vital part of the executive over the last year, we hope she will continue to support and advise us into the future.

Thank you Bertha and best wishes from all of us at E4C."

E4C Board 2006 - 2007

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United Way
Member Agency

We need your help

Who is dynamic and indispensable?

You Are.

Do the people you know really understand homelessness and child hunger? Have you thought of helping E4C share a message of hope and change? We need you to raise your hand and say yes.

Simply phone E4C and let us know who you are and how you want to help.

Tell us about yourself and help us get to know your community organization, church, service club, auxiliary group, professional association, or even just your neighbourhood friends.

Help E4C support people, build potential and develop opportunities to help people change lives.

Phone Rob at: 424-7543 ext.229

We need your donations

- Digital Camera
- Hockey Equipment
- Cribs (CSA approved),
- Disposable diapers & baby wipes
- Kitchen 'starter' items (pots, dishes, can openers etc)
- Vacuums & microwaves
- Dance slippers (ages 5-10),
- Art supplies & white glue, scissors & plasticine
- Musical instruments (wind, brass, piano, etc.)

Please call Rob at 424-7543 for more information or to make a donation.



E4C is registered at CanadaHelps.org to make an online donations.

E4C Programs include: ArtStart • Clareview Head Start • Crossroads • Early Head Start • Edmonton's School Lunch Program • Elizabeth House • Gold Nugget Suites • 12 Unit & 17 Unit Apts • Kids in the Hall Bistro Program • Meadow's • McCauley Apts. • Nutrition Snack • Our Place & Our Other Place • Stollery Place • WEAC • Women's Reintegration Chaplaincy