

Volunteer Corner

The Volunteer Resource department is moving into our busy season. Fall finds more individuals and groups searching out new volunteer opportunities, which is timely since our in house programming ramps back up along with our special events over the 2011 holiday season. One of our new volunteer opportunities can be found at Southcentre Mall. Volunteers are needed for a gift wrapping station throughout the month of December with proceeds being generously donated to Inn from the Cold. Please contact us if you or anyone in your network is interested in wrapping support around homeless families. We have plenty of shifts to fill!

Also as a part of our holiday season, our Adopt-a-Family program is in full swing. Elizabeth Jeanson will be running this program and can be reached at Elizabeth@innfromthecold.org. You can read more about Elizabeth and her history with the Inn in the Volunteer Profile section.

A great BIG thank you is owed to all of our amazing volunteers. The commitment and energy provided to the Inn is a true testament to the generosity of the Calgary community – thanks everyone. We are humbled daily by the contribution you all make.

“How wonderful is it that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” ~ Anne Frank



Devon
Assistant, Volunteer Resources Stefica
Manager, Volunteer Resources

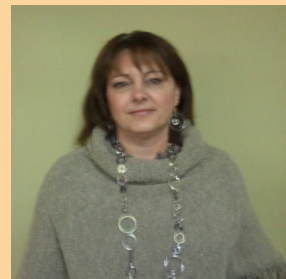
Volunteer Profile

Inn from the Cold considers itself very fortunate to have many long-time, dedicated volunteers. Elizabeth Jeanson, the Inn coordinator for St. Patrick's Catholic Church just happens to be one of those people.

Elizabeth and her husband David, have been dedicated to running this community inn for over 12 years. Elizabeth has also been instrumental in the creation of a yearly breakfast and donation event through her office, Johnson Inc.

However, Elizabeth wasn't satisfied stopping there. Recently she joined the staff at the Inn and will play a key role in office over the next three months. Her tenure at the Inn is made possible as part of a secondment program sponsored by Johnson, which enables their staff to volunteer with non-profit organizations of their choice.

Elizabeth's giving spirit and boundless energy is an "innspiration" to staff and guests alike. As such we want to welcome you to our office and thank you for your exceptional contribution!



Thanks and Giving

October 7th was the 2nd Annual Cenovus Energy Inc. Thanksgiving dinner and like last year's inaugural event, it was an incredible success. A team of Cenovus employees and their families volunteered their time to the evening's dinner service. Cenovus generously sponsored a delicious catered meal that included all of the traditional holiday fixings. In addition, a charismatic magician provided meal-time entertainment for all. Babies perched in high chairs watched intently, parents laughed out loud, and kids jumped up and down with delight as they followed the "magic man" from table to table.

We offer a sincere thank you to Cenovus Energy for providing a unique and meaningful occasion for families at the Inn.

Volunteer Opportunities

Do you consider yourself crafty? Are you into Disney movies?

Inn from the Cold is looking for enthusiastic childcare volunteers. We offer a range of childcare shifts that vary from days to evenings. As a childcare volunteer your main objective is to entertain and care for Inn kids while their parents participate in vital programming.

Time: Varies depending on programming.

Qualifications: Childcare experience an asset but not required.



Are concerts and trade shows your idea of a good time? How about Christmas?

These are just a few of the exciting opportunities that special events volunteers get involved in. Inn fundraising events include everything from BBQs to baby showers, trade shows to taco eating contests, Halloween haunted houses to hula hoop dances. Be part of the fun and gain a great experience while helping homeless families.

Time: Varies depending on event

Qualifications: Varies depending on event

Contact Devon Laughlin at devon@innfromthecold.org or call 403 473.2248.

Inn Coordinators Meeting

Join us for an evening of information and networking. Catch up on the latest news, get to know fellow Coordinators and ask questions or discuss concerns relating to your Inn.

November 7th, 2011 - 7:00 pm

Main Floor Program Room

110 11 Avenue SE,

RSVP to Mike Grimminck at mike@innfromthecold.org

Executive Director's Message

This year has proven to be an extremely difficult one for vulnerable families in Calgary. In fact, it has been the busiest year Inn from the Cold has experienced since being founded in the bitterly cold winter of 1997. For close to 15 years we have served thousands of homeless families during their time of greatest need providing the friendship, shelter and support they require to rebuild their lives and find hope for the future.

While many things in our city have changed throughout the years, this unwavering commitment to reach out to those in need of our support has been steadfast. Together we built Calgary's first and largest full-service Emergency Family Shelter and strengthened our network of community Inns to ensure that no family was without a safe place to stay while we addressed the issues that contributed to their homelessness.

Our network has always been on the front-line in the fight against family homelessness, and this year that need has been overwhelming. Since August 17th, Calgary's family emergency shelters have been over capacity with no available space to handle increased demand. It is during these times that our faith-based partners and community Inns have once again stepped up responding with emergency inns, providing extra beds and an abundance of compassion.

This unconditional concern is deeply appreciated and ensures that families experiencing the crisis of homelessness are not turned away or placed in taxi cabs with their children to spend the night alone in a strange hotel. It is our belief that families, and especially children, need to be immediately connected to services, schooling and the supports they require to end their homelessness, while still offering the stability of a routine where possible.

We continue to work towards our vision of a community where no family is homeless and we are making great strides. This year we have secured housing placements for 106 families and prevented over 230 from entering homelessness by retaining their housing. Yet in spite of our greatest efforts, a tightening housing market and growing poverty has seen an increase in families in jeopardy. We are experiencing double digit increases in the number of families experiencing homelessness with a 30% increase in September alone. Family homelessness is complex and requires many unique supports to address the issues of each individual family member. Appropriate and sustainable housing is challenging to secure with a reduction in the availability of two- and three-bedroom affordable units.

It is at these times I am most humbled and so exceptionally proud to be a part of a network that cares deeply for the less fortunate members of our community. It is through our unwavering faith and commitment to creating a community where no family is homeless that we are making a profound difference in the lives of those we serve.

Inn from the Cold Society

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