

JANUARY 2012

Message from Executive Director

As we enter 2012 we are provided with not just an opportunity to reflect upon the year just past but are given a unique opportunity to honour 15 years of public engagement in pursuit of our vision of a community where no family is homeless. Over the years many things have changed at the Inn but the one thing that has remained constant is our commitment to serve the most vulnerable members of our city, homeless families.

In 2011 we experienced the busiest year in our history with an unprecedented number of families struggling to remain in housing following the global recession. It was a time of recovery, a time for recovery and we were called upon throughout the year to support those who were impacted the most. 2011 was a year that challenged our physical and human capacity but also made us reach deeper into the community to provide essential support and shelter. It was through this time of great need that our extraordinary network of partners, Community Inns and volunteers responded to the rising need and without hesitation went to exceptional lengths to ensure that no family was without shelter as we operated over capacity for 159 days of the year.

I am humbled by both the outpouring of support from our community and the unwavering commitment of our dedicated employee team and volunteers who never once said we cannot do this but who always said we will do this.

Yvette Rasmussen
Executive Director

3rd Annual Polar Bear Plunge

Hopewell Residential Communities are once again gathering their amazing friends from Mahogany Lake and will be taking an icy plunge for our IFTC Families. All participant proceeds raised from this private event will be donated to Inn from the Cold and matched by Hopewell (up to \$5,000). Our team of "INN"-dividuals are very excited to get involved in this great event to raise funds and awareness for the Inn! Do you want to get Inn to the icy cold waters of Mahogany Lake this February in support of Inn from the Cold? For more information contact jess@innfromthecold.org

The Impact you Have...

Many wonderful Calgarians just like you provided the Inn with an abundance of toys and essential items this past December. While the joy on a child's face at Christmas was your hope, we want to let you know the impact that you have had on the lives of our families all year 'round!

Every month of the year the Inn celebrates an average of 4 children's birthday parties – through your generosity this holiday season, we can continue to bring joy to our children throughout the year. Often, our community families struggle to provide their little ones with a gift on their special day or even a gift to participate in their friends birthday parties, your toy donations help us ensure them that no birthday goes uncelebrated and no child is excluded from the Littlest Things we often take for granted! When our youngest guests arrive at the Inn they are often confused and scared having left the security of home and friends. It is then that the gift of a toy or cosy pajamas helps make their entry into our shelter a little less traumatic. It is because of your generosity a frightened child feels more secure as they begin their journey from homelessness back to the normalcy of a home to call their own.

Thank You Calgary!

This past December 21st, IFTC staff celebrated knowing that the last of the over 1000 gifts, donated through the 2011 Adopt a Family Program, had been delivered – just in time for Christmas! We are humbled by the overwhelming generosity of our community during what can be a most difficult season for our families. This past year was our most successful Adopt a Family effort to date with 153 families and 14 Senior Men adopted. In a year of great need we are grateful for your incredible support of those we serve!

96 donors collaborated with their friends, family and co-workers to bring Christmas to those in need. In all we had almost 250 donors and volunteers participate in our Adopt a Family Open House and delivered thousands of presents to vulnerable Calgary families in just under 2 weeks! The smiles and relief on the faces of our families was the biggest gift we received this Christmas.

For those of you who participated, we thank you so very much!



Encana and Inn from the Cold proudly present Playing for Change!

Calgarians are invited to celebrate our community commitment to ending homelessness at Inn from the Cold's proud presentation of international performing group Playing for Change on February 19, 2012 at MacEwan Hall Ballroom at the University of Calgary. Tickets are \$41.50 and available at www.primeboxoffice.com

The inspirational live show brings musicians from around the world together including Grandpa Elliott (New Orleans), Clarence Bekker (The Netherlands), Titi Tsira (South Africa), Mermans Kenkosenki (DR Congo), Jason Tamba (DR Congo) and other special guests.

The group, Playing for Change, began over a decade ago through the passion and vision of Grammy winning producer/engineer Mark Johnson, who began traveling around the world with the desire to promote peace through music. Currently, the group has one of the most-watched videos, Stand By Me, on YouTube with over 20,000,000 viewers worldwide.

The Playing for Change concert is the kick off event honouring Inn from the Cold's 15th anniversary year in the Calgary community.

"The Calgary community is incredibly supportive of the Inn's mission and we wanted to say 'thank you' for the thousands of hours and dollars given each and every year. It sends such a positive message of compassion and hope to the guests we are so honoured to serve," adds Rasmussen.

Inn from the Cold is proudly partnered with Calgary's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and together, we are moving closer to fulfilling our vision of "a community where no family is homeless". Through the provision of over 42 critical programs and prevention networks offered at the Emergency Family Shelter in conjunction with collaborative service providers, Inn from the Cold provides wrap-around services for Inn guests as well as those at imminent risk of homelessness in our community.

Says Rasmussen, "We invite and challenge all Calgarians to get involved in ending family homelessness in our community and to get 'INN'." For information, visit www.innfromthecold.org.



PLAYING FOR CHANGE LIVE
FEBRUARY 19, 2012

Tickets \$41.50
all fees and taxes included

MacEwan Hall Ballroom
University of Calgary

encana natural gas
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Q107 fflwd CTV PATTISON
Inn from the Cold

Thank you to the INNcredible support in 2011 – Just a few of the events from December:

- Husky Giving Tree
- Jazz in the Burbs – Pedrini's and Friends
- Advocis Christmas Luncheon
- Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiatives Domain Groups
- South Centre Mall Lasik MD Gift Wrap, Photos with Santa, Share the Warmth Events
- Evolve Spa
- Give a Child a Wish – Penny Lane Entertainment

Get RIPPED-a-Thon with Jari Love!

On Monday February 20th from 10AM - 1PM you can get fit with Jari Love. You can choose to do 1 - 3 hours of invigorating and energizing workouts at 4 different locations around the city, with all donations supporting Inn from the Cold. For more information please contact the Talisman Centre or go to their website www.talismancentre.com

Your participation will also give you access to our Playing for Change unplugged concert! For more information please check out our website www.innfromthecold.org

Inn from the Cold Society

Suite 106, 110 - 11 Avenue SE, Calgary, AB T2G 0X5 • Phone: 403.263.8384 • Fax: 403.263.9067

E-mail: inn@innfromthecold.org • Web: www.innfromthecold.org



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