

Winter 2015

hope

MISSION

INSIDE

CHRISTINE'S STORY
A GIFT FOR GRACE
MEET TRISH AND BILL
DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

“I look at my life now compared to what it was before and it's all about love and light; before it was about shame and darkness.”

- Christine



Wellspring is Hope Mission's one year faith-based recovery program for women with addictions. Our goal is to help women acquire the tools they need to leave an addictive past and live healthy lives. We currently have 24 women in the program.

Coldest Night of the Year

Mark your calendars! Next year's event will be held on February 1st. Watch the highlight video from www.hopemission.com

Finding Jesus Christine's Story

"I look at my life now compared to what it was before and it's all about love and light; before it was about shame and darkness."

There is a definite lightness about Christine. Sitting across the table, she has a quiet confidence and gentleness as she speaks about her journey here to Hope Mission.

Christine has been at Hope Mission for seven months in the Wellspring Recovery Community. Once in an addiction that took over her life, Christine reflects on how much has changed in her life and in her heart since coming to the Mission and finding Jesus.

"We say in recovery that there's only one thing that you need to change and that's everything. And so changing everything has been the hardest thing," says Christine with a wry smile.

Christine was born in Toronto and came to live in Edmonton five years ago when she knew she needed to get away from the lifestyle she was leading, surrounded by people who enabled her drug addiction. That move to Edmonton began Christine's journey to recovery.

The journey has been rocky and heart-breaking at times. She had tried living out on her own, but couldn't find any rooms or roommates suitable for her trying to get sober and not fall back into a life of addiction. So, for about three months,

the Year

at year's walk
20th. Watch
last year at:
/cnoy



Christine lived out of her car. She came to Hope Mission often for a hot meal, just to be able to get by.

When Christine came to the Wellspring Recovery Community, she experienced acceptance and love. And most of all, forgiveness.

"It's the love that the Wellspring program provides, and the understanding and the forgiveness," says Christine. "It really gives you confidence to live your life and not fearing making mistakes."

"I've given my whole life to serving God"

Christine found her confidence in Christ and a fearlessness of knowing she has a God who loves and cares for her. She has not looked back.

"I learned about Jesus and I learned about how He lived His life," recalls Christine. "I didn't realize that's how I had been wanting to live for my whole life, but I couldn't get there."

Christine was baptized in the summer, at Hope Mission's annual baptism service at Alberta Beach.

"I've given my whole life to serving God," says Christine. "[And to] living my life the way that Jesus did."

Christine is an active volunteer in the community, helping out at various community organizations in Edmonton; she also runs a Narcotics Anonymous meeting. She goes to a weekly bible study at the Salvation Army church.

Her passion lies in the environment – caring for God's creation and all the living things He has created. **(Continued)** ►

► "[It's] going back to living the lifestyle that I think God made us to live on the earth for. Living off of the planet, not abusing the planet, and taking care of all the life forms on the planet as well," says Christine.

Next summer in fact, Christine plans to spend her time living on an organic farm learning how to grow her own food, catch rainwater and live sustainably.

This December marks one year of sobriety for Christine.

One particular highlight of her time so far in the Wellspring Recovery Community has been spending time at Bethany Homes, a beautiful 140 acre property east of Wetaskiwin.

At Bethany Homes, women in the Wellspring Recovery Community participate in gardening and horse-riding. Gardening allows women the opportunity to cultivate flowers and vegetables, but more than that, provide a time of healing and cultivating peace in their own hearts. Many of the vegetables grown at Bethany Homes are used in the nutritious meals Hope Mission provides on a daily basis to those who are hungry.

Christine learned as much as she could from the staff at Bethany Homes about gardening and growing food.

"I would make vegetable trays for people or salads for us to eat," says Christine.

This December marks one year of sobriety for Christine. An occasion which will be marked with her family by her side—Christine's parents are visiting her in Edmonton. They haven't seen each other in two years.

Christine's journey of recovery continues. The freedom she's found in Christ and the knowledge of a God who loves her sustains her.

When asked how it feels to know Jesus now, Christine replies with a huge smile on her face, "It feels really good. It feels amazing."



Kids Café is a program in Calgary where kids can drop in on Saturdays to enjoy a good meal and spend quality time with other kids and staff playing games, musical instruments and other activities.

A Gift for Grace And a new song to sing

Just a few years ago, we began reaching out to Calgary's poorest kids. Kids from difficult family situations, with great potential. We had no idea the impact we would make. How we would change the lives of not only the kids but also entire families.

We had no idea we'd meet Grace.

Grace connected with our program at Radisson Park School where we host a homework club twice a week for 8 weeks. During that time, we saw Grace's potential. We also saw challenges. She started out stubborn—ignoring instructions. Sometimes Grace could turn from sweet to a sudden burst of raw emotion. She even fought with other students.

As we got to know Grace, we learned about her single mother, Anna. Anna is struggling to find a job to provide for Grace. She needs all the help she can get.

We gave Anna food hampers when she came to our Kid's Café program. We helped provide other things as needed. We helped for an entire year. We never gave up on Grace and Anna, because God loves them so much.

It was a reminder just how much people like you care when a neighbour is in need.

We continued to connect with Grace and her mother at Kid's Café and our holiday meals. When our Hope for the Hungry Radiothon came in October, it was time to share the stories of what God has done in the lives of those we serve. We asked Anna to share, and she agreed gladly.

During her Country 105 radio interview, Anna shared that Grace loves to play guitar. Within minutes of the interview, a kind listener called to donate a guitar to Grace. It was a reminder just how much people like you care when a neighbour is in need.

Grace is growing up to be a vibrant young girl. The stubborn girl we met is being transformed by the power of your love, generosity and care. She has a new song to sing.



Meet Trish and Bill volunteers serving with a smile

You'll often find Trish and Bill Gillespie helping out around Hope Mission – preparing meals, serving guests or even answering the phones at our annual Hope for the Hungry Radiothon during the Thanksgiving season – all, of course, with a friendly smile.

Trish and Bill have volunteered at Hope Mission for almost three years, and come twice a month to help prepare and serve meals to our guests.

“We enjoy it here,” says Bill. “It’s a good place to be.”

For Trish, he relishes the opportunity to serve in a

capacity that is outside of her comfort zone.

It’s an opportunity to put yourself outside the box a little,” says Trish. “Not only wanting to serve, but [putting] myself a little out there because you can stay in your box way too much. It’s very easy to do that.”

Both Trish and Bill love serving in the dining hall because it gives them a great opportunity to connect with our homeless and hungry neighbours. While volunteering, Bill was able to connect with a guest who we’ll call John. He got to know John and learned that John spoke Spanish. Bill was learning Spanish at the time and was able to practice his language skills with John.

“We could go about our lives every day and just look after ourselves and our kids, and not care or worry about anyone else,” says Bill. “But coming here makes it a little more rounded.”



Provide a Christmas meal to those in need.

For just \$2.70, you can provide a holiday meal—and other essential services. Please help Hope Mission provide meals and care for those in need this season.

- ☐ \$27 **helps 10 people** ☐ \$_____ to care for as many as possible.
- ☐ \$54 **helps 20 people**
- ☐ \$135 **helps 50 people**

Help those in: ☐ Edmonton ☐ Calgary

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV _____ PC _____

PHONE _____

☐ please send email updates to my email address: _____

Give Monthly

☐ please contact me about monthly giving

By Credit Card: VISA MC (CIRCLE ONE)

CARD NUMBER _____

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CARD HOLDER'S NAME _____

(Signature) _____

By Cheque:

Make out your cheque to:

Hope Mission

P.O. Box 953 Edmonton, AB T5J 2L8

Donate Online at:

www.hopemission.com/donate

Hope Mission plans to raise \$7M this year through fund-raising campaigns. This will cost us approximately \$1M. All money raised will be used to care for people in need. For further information please contact at 780-453-3877. A receipt for income tax purposes will be sent to you. Costs are average and include the expense of preparing and providing meals. If gifts exceed expenses, extra funds will be used to care for people in need throughout the year. Hope Mission is a Registered Canadian Charity #11896 2851 RR0001

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

John 13:34

As the weather grows colder and the daylight shorter, I'm reminded of the warmth that Christmas can evoke. And celebrating Christ's birth prompts me to remember the importance of love—after all, God sent his son to us because of his love.

It is only through you, our community of supporters, that we are able to share the warmth of love and compassion. I want to thank each one of you for your faithful support!

As another year comes to an end, we are pressing forward with our mission to fulfill the needs of those who are broken and vulnerable. For many of them, the only warmth they'll experience during this season is one of our hot meals or a night in our shelter. Your open hands and hearts directly sustain them. Without you, we could not share the warmth of Christ's love.

God bless you and have a joyful Christmas!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Reith".

Bruce Reith | Executive Director

MORE WAYS TO GIVE

GIVE \$2.70 This small amount makes a big impact: it gives more than a hot meal to a hungry person, it gives hope.

GIVE MONTHLY Your continued support helps us respond effectively just as the need arises.

VOLUNTEER We are always seeking passionate, dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers to join us. Email volunteer.services@hopemission.com to get started.

LEAVE A LEGACY Remember Hope Mission in your will. Call (780) 453-3877 to find out how a planned gift will uplift people in need for years to come.



DONATE GOODS As winter cold sets in, we are in need of warm clothing, especially jackets, ski gloves, underwear and socks, toques, boots, hoodies and jeans.

HOPE BARGAIN SHOPPE Our thrift store is full of great finds, just in time for Christmas. All proceeds go directly to Hope Mission programs and services. Visit the southside store at 2403 Ellwood Drive.

BE AN ADVOCATE Hope Mission relies on word of mouth to extend our reach. Share the mission of Hope with friends, family and co-workers.

CONTACT HOPE MISSION

Edmonton
780.422.2018
we.care@hopemission.com
P.O. BOX 953 Edmonton, AB
T5J 2L8

Calgary
403.474.3237
we.care@hopemission.com
P.O. BOX 85082 Calgary, AB
T2A 7R7

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