

E4C Needs Your Help

Imagine not having a safe, clean, warm bed to sleep in.

For hundreds of Edmonton women this is a reality, but the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC) changes that.

With your support we can ensure a healthy, safe and warm place for homeless women to lay their heads.

WEAC supports women from all social backgrounds and provides them with a safe refuge from homelessness. Women at WEAC receive assistance in basic needs, life skills and help finding a job.

Your support of the women at WEAC will provide safety and comfort as they begin to take charge of their lives.

One area of need is the replacement of 75 mattresses which are old and worn out. Each mattress and vinyl cover costs \$188.24. It comes with a 10 year warranty and is hypo-allergenic, fire, stain and tear resistant.

If you can help, call E4C at 424-7543 ext:229 or email: rpearson@e4calberta.org

The Safeway We Care Program continues to be one of the most unique and successful grassroots employee and community fundraising programs in Canada. In 2006 over \$14,000 was raised to support E4C's Kids in the Hall and ArtStart Programs.



This year Abbotsfield Safeway has chosen E4C as its designated charity of choice. We are excited to be working again with Canada Safeway and the employees who strongly believe in community participation.

E4C will be hosting many events throughout the 2006-2007 campaign at Abbotsfield Safeway. If you would like to volunteer or support E4C and its programs, stop by Abbotsfield Safeway on the following dates and let us know that you care too.

- March 10: E4C-Safeway We Care Day
- March 31: ArtStart and E4C
- April 14: School Lunch/Nutrition Snack
- April 28: Crossroads/Elizabeth House/Women's Reintegration
- May 26: Year-End National Fundraising Event

Goal for
2006/2007
\$7,000

Visit or join the E4C volunteers and staff at Abbotsfield Safeway, 3210 - 118 Ave.

To volunteer please call 424-7543 ext:229.

Feed Hungry Children

In many of Edmonton's communities children come to school hungry. As a result of poverty, unemployment and family breakdown, not all parents are able to provide the care that young children need. Hunger and poor nutrition can interfere with learning, behaviour and the ability to concentrate on schoolwork.

This is why the Nutrition Snack Program is so important, and why your continued support of the program is so vital. Please complete the enclosed Snack donation form and help a hungry child today.

Items Needed

- 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 - paint (acrylic and watercolour), brushes, glue, clay.
- Artist canvas (any size)
- Picture frames
- Dance shoes and uniforms (new or used)
- Musical instruments (keyboards, guitars, violins, etc.)

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



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ArtStart All-Star Project



ArtStart student, Solange, with one of her projects.

ArtStart is excited to reveal its new annual fundraising campaign, the ArtStart All-Star Project. This innovative campaign links corporate and private donors directly to the talented children participating in the program through the creation of new works of art.

E4C pioneered ArtStart in 2003 as a response to the lack of affordable and accessible arts education for elementary school aged children.

Through a weekly after-school program held at Alex Taylor School, ArtStart provides 30 children with lessons in Visual Art, Dance, Drama and Music.

Professional and student artist volunteers provide instruction while funding comes entirely from community donations.

The All-Star project reaches out to private donors who contribute \$100 or more for a gift of an original framed painting or drawing from one of the kids in the program. Your donation of \$100 will pay for a dance uniform for an aspiring ballerina, or a semester's worth of supplies for a beginning painter or sculptor.

The heart of the All-Star project is the interaction of the children with the community. Corporate donors of \$1000 or more are eligible to commission a new work of art. Under the direction of professional artists, the children in the program will make an original piece according to your needs and interests. Works can range from large paintings for your reception area to table centres for your annual general meeting, from an exhibit of photography to Christmas decorations. Anything that involves art can involve ArtStart.

By joining the ArtStart All-Star Project, you are giving a child the thrill of knowing that their



Just two examples of the wonderful artwork by ArtStart students.

work is in the private collection of the generous people who are making their lessons possible. Your donation to ArtStart provides the chance of a lifetime: the chance to engage with and transcend a student's life circumstances through creative self-expression.



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Words from the Executive Director

Places to Call Home

This article is a “work in progress”. I have had the privilege of being appointed to the provincial Affordable Housing Task Force and, as I write this, the Task Force is in the midst of several consultations happening in a number of Alberta communities. Within 45 days the Task Force has the challenge of assembling the information presented and completing a report and recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. This report is due in mid-March.

As readers of the Envoy know, affordable housing is a primary focus of the work of E4C, as is our work with other forms of shelter – emergency shelter, transitional housing, housing for youth, housing for people with a chronic mental health diagnosis and housing for other people with special needs and circumstances. E4C has long been both a strong advocate and provider of affordable housing.

The submissions being received by the Task Force elaborate the regional and local variations of the themes that we see in our every day dealings with our service users. What is relatively new to the picture is the super-heated Alberta economy. Over the past two years we have seen an erosion of the rental market with the conversion of apartments to condos and with builders shifting almost exclusively to single-family housing development. The builders are doing a phenomenal business and can maximize returns through single-family construction.

Rental increases are now commonplace—including stories of increases of 25, 35 and even 45 per cent in a single year. What is the single parent student to do when rents are increased by 50% in a year – particularly in a rental market that has a vacancy rate of .6% or less?

We see increasing numbers of working poor, people whose income does not

keep pace with the hot economy. These are proud people; people who work hard and who want to be independent and responsible for their own affairs. These are people who work important jobs – they are daycare staff, care workers, office staff, transportation workers - they care, train and educate; they make business possible; they stock the stores and help the customers, they are our neighbours on fixed income. Now they are increasingly faced with challenges of deciding which bill to pay, how to make ends meet.

The hot Alberta economy isn't “hot” for everyone. The challenge of finding and keeping safe, affordable housing is growing in leaps and bounds. The implications of this and of how we try to meet the challenge are enormous for our society and our community.

- Michael Farris

Volunteer Profile

Paul Pedersen

Making a Difference



It seems like a match made in volunteer heaven...Paul Pedersen and E4C. With coffee in hand, Paul, 29, is usually seen transporting various donated items in his wheelchair to the donation room at E4C. If you run into Paul in the hallway or the elevator, expect a smile and do not be surprised if you receive some good-natured teasing.

When Paul began volunteering at E4C, he initially performed light janitorial duties such as mopping, vacuuming and sweeping floors. In the early days of volunteering it could take Paul the entire day to vacuum a 500 square foot area due to his developmental and physical challenges. Two years later, Paul's ability to complete tasks has improved to the point where he now vacuums the same area in 45 minutes.

Goodwill Industries referred Paul to E4C. As one of the world's largest providers of education, training, and career services for people with disabilities and disadvantages, Goodwill Industries was looking for a role that provided challenges as well as new experiences and opportunities for Paul.

Rob Brunel, one of the Goodwill Industries care workers onsite noted that, “Paul is proud of his accomplishments and his increasing

ability to do jobs that were difficult for him to tackle before his activity at E4C.”

Paul is one of the more regular volunteers at E4C, donating over 700 hours in 2006. In the autumn of last year, Paul was asked to consider if he would like to begin a new task. Rob Pearson, who co-ordinates incoming donations to E4C stated, “With 14 programs serving 10,000 people a day, you can imagine that we receive a large volume of donated items.” He further added, “When I first asked Paul if he wanted to try to sort out the unstructured collection of donated items a large grin and twinkling eyes provided the answer.” Since that day, Paul has diligently and efficiently sorted and stored the entire backlog of thousands of donated items.

Paul's ongoing commitment, enthusiasm and unflinching reliability have made a huge impact on us at E4C, its programs and especially on Paul, himself.

It's That Time of Year

The Gift of Giving

Gifting Securities to E4C

The gifting of securities can be one of your most important charitable donation choices. Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) allows for reduced capital gains rates when making charitable gifts of publicly listed securities that have appreciated in value. The recent market conditions could make the tax savings significant for some people.

A gift of securities may include shares, bonds and warrants that are publicly traded on Canadian and major foreign exchanges such as New York, London, Hong Kong and Tokyo, as well as mutual and segregated funds.

Reduced Capital Gains Tax

When you sell appreciated publicly listed securities, 50% of the capital gain is taxable. However, if you transfer ownership directly to a charity, like E4C, none of the capital gain is taxable.

Example: Tax Savings of Gifting Securities Versus Gifting of Cash

		Option A: Donate Securities Directly	Option B: Sell Securities then Donate After-Tax Cash Proceeds
A	Value of Securities	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
B	Tax cost base of securities	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
C	Capital gain (A-B)	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
D	Taxable capital gain	\$ 0	\$ 4,000
E	Tax owing (Assumes 39% tax rate)	\$ 0	\$ 1,560
F	Value of donation	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
G	Value of donation tax credit (assumes 39% tax credit)	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,900
H	Net tax savings (G-E)	\$ 3,900	\$ 2,340

Receive a Tax Receipt

By transferring ownership directly to E4C you will receive a donation receipt for the full market value based on the closing price of the security on the date of the gift. The tax credit from the donation receipt will usually exceed the reduced tax on the capital gain and can be used to offset tax payable on other income.

Due to the tax incentive, it is to your advantage to gift securities rather than sell them and make a cash gift of the same amount.

How to give

As each individual's tax situation may vary, you are advised to seek independent counsel from your financial and legal advisors. Your certificate of securities may be delivered in negotiable form or simply have your broker transfer the securities to E4C. **Please contact E4C to ensure we are aware of such a gift and to ensure you have the proper transfer instructions.**

For more information or to make a gift contact Kelvin Chan, Finance Manager, E4C, at 424-7543 or email: kelvinchan@e4calberta.org.

Neither the author nor this organization is engaged in rendering legal or tax advice. Rather, this publication is intended to provide only information of a general character. Both provincial and federal laws may apply in certain situations, and may change periodically. For advice in specific cases, the services of an attorney or other professional advisor should be obtained.

Michael Farris joins Gov't Task Force on Affordable Housing

The Alberta Government has assembled a task force to find innovative and practical ways to make affordable housing more accessible and available to Albertans. The focus of the task force will be to consider solutions for homelessness and affordable housing, including subsidized rental and home ownership.

“The Alberta Affordable Housing Task Force was established at the request of the Premier and reflects the priority this government places on affordable housing,” said Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “The task force is responsible for identifying short and long-term housing solutions that will have a positive impact on Alberta's competitiveness and enhance Albertans' quality of life.”

E4C Executive Director, Michael Farris, has been asked to serve as a member of the Task Force and he will be working to ensure that the need for affordable housing in its various forms—emergency shelter, transitional and supportive housing, low rent housing and other options—receive full attention.

“I was extremely honoured to be asked to sit on this committee and I see this as an opportunity to make some impact on the current housing issue and to have E4C front and centre before government, our sister agencies throughout the province and the public.

The Task Force brings together representatives from municipalities, business, community leaders, industry associations, political parties, and the non-profit sector to provide a broad base of expertise and knowledge in housing matters.

Chaired by Len Webber, MLA for Calgary Foothills, the task force will travel to nine Alberta communities in February to meet with key stakeholder organizations and individual Albertans. A final report outlining specific cost-effective solutions will be presented to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in March.

You can get more information on the task force and its activities on the Municipal Affairs and Housing website at www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca.