

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 11, 2014



Donor comes Clean with Our Place

Supporter donates industrial washer and dryer after tip from son

VICTORIA, B.C. – Like most charities, Our Place has a “wish list” of items that would make serving the poor of Greater Victoria a little bit easier. And during tours of this purpose-built facility on Pandora Avenue, Executive Director Don Evans often makes a point of mentioning how supporters can make a wish or two come true.

On one recent tour for a group of interested supporters, however, two items on the wish list caught the attention of someone unexpected. Michael Neate, who comes to Our Place for meals, showers and occasional support during a difficult period in his life, overheard Don talking about the amount of time spent washing and drying towels for the hygiene area. Michael had an idea about someone who cares about Our Place, and would want to make a difference . . . his father, Frank Neate.

Within weeks of Frank hearing about the need, he wrote a cheque and told Our Place facilities manager Bob Frank to order a pair. Bob quickly began transforming the laundry area to accommodate the industrial-sized machines, and this week both machines were installed and instantly put to work.

“It makes a huge difference,” says Bob. “It used to take us a day and a half to wash all the towels, now we can do it in an hour. Plus, this gives us the capacity to wash and dry blankets for the family members rather than throwing them out. It will also use less water and less energy, too.”

Frank Neate isn’t one to crave the spotlight, and seemed rather embarrassed by the gushing of staff when he visited to see the machines at work. “You’re the ones who should be thanked,” he says. “I wrote a cheque, but it’s Our Place that makes the difference in people’s lives.”

As for Michael Neate, he’s already thinking about what he and his dad can help with next. “Your kitchen is looking tired,” he says, referring to Our Place’s 30-percent increase in demand for meals. “Maybe a new industrial dishwasher and bussing area?”

Our Place is an inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted and the homeless. Individuals and businesses provide the majority of financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides 45 transitional housing units, over 1,200 meals per day, hot showers, free clothing, counseling and outreach services. Most importantly, it provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

For further information, please contact:

Grant McKenzie

Director of Communications

T: 250-388-7112 ext. 225

Cell: 250-217-2406

Email: grantm@ourplacesociety.com