

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015



Our Place opens more shelter beds

Additional 10 mats added to overnight shelter at First Met

VICTORIA, B.C. – To help meet the increasing need for shelter space in Victoria, Our Place is adding an additional 10 sleeping mats to the 40 beds available in its winter shelter at First Met.

Our Place will now host 50 people at nearby First Metropolitan United Church. The winter shelter will run until March 31, 2016. Doors open each night at 7:30 p.m. with breakfast served at Our Place every morning at 7 a.m. The drop-in centre also extended its hours to open at 6:30 a.m. every day.

“The province saw the visible need for more beds and asked how we could help,” says Don Evans, executive director of Our Place. “With its support, and the blessing of First Met, we are able to expand our shelter to accommodate up to 50 vulnerable people.”

Along with individuals and their belongings, the overnight shelter is open to couples and people with pets, two groups that have an especially difficult time securing a dry, safe place to sleep.

“We want to remove as many barriers to shelter as we can,” adds Evans. “People don’t want to be separated from their partners or pets. They simply want to be indoors and out of the cold.”

Our Place is a unique 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 over 1,600 meals per day, hot showers, education, job skills, free clothing, counseling and outreach services, plus 45 transitional housing units. Most importantly, it provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

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