



Friendship in Action - What Can You Do?

Volunteers are needed to work in friendship with Edmonton's inner city seniors. Opportunities include;

- ◆ Friendly Visiting
- ◆ Serve meals in the Drop-In Centre
- ◆ Sponsor a meal
- ◆ Drive seniors to appointments
- ◆ Donation pick-ups
- ◆ Clerical support
- ◆ Recreation support
- ◆ Collect pledges and run in the Great Human Race

Call Sandie @ 408-2958

A Little Goes a Long Way

A small donation does a lot in the inner city. Here's what a small amount can do;

- ✓ \$20 will buy 20 bus tickets for 20 seniors
- ✓ \$50 will buy coffee for the Drop-In for a month
- ✓ \$75 will serve breakfast to 75 seniors
- ✓ \$100 will serve lunch to 90 seniors
- ✓ \$150 will serve supper to 125 seniors
- ✓ \$250 will pay for 4 seniors to attend a 3 day camp



Thank You Sponsors!
A special thank you to the following groups for sponsoring and serving meals in the Drop-In!

- ☛ Kinsmen & Kinettes
- ☛ Southminster Steinhauer United Church
- ☛ Sri Sathya Sai Baba Association
- ☛ Alberta Seniors
- ☛ Canada Customs & Revenue Agency
- ☛ St. Paul's United Church
- ☛ Grace United Church
- ☛ Ansgar Lutheran Church
- ☛ Highlands United Church
- ☛ Ismaili Community Group

Yes! I would like to be a friend to inner city seniors.

Name:

Address:City/Town:

Postal Code:Phone#:

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation for:

\$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 \$250.00 Other

I have made provision for Operation Friendship in my will.

I would like information on Memorial Giving.

Charitable Registration #0436592-09-25



Operation Friendship
 9526 - 106 Avenue
 Edmonton, AB T5H 0N2

Phone (780) 429-2626
Fax: (780) 429-2629



forgotten pioneers

Operation Friendship - Serving Inner City Seniors

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McCauley Seniors Drop-In Has Never Been So Busy

At Operation Friendship we strive to offer friendship in a supportive environment to inner-city seniors. Initial contact is often in McCauley Seniors Drop In.

Rising house prices and the concurrent rising rents in Edmonton are good for the Alberta economy but also causes hardship for people trying to live on a fixed income. All the transient shelters are turning away people every day even though the provincial government has found additional funding for more emergency floor sleeping mats.

Apart from the obvious hardship and danger of being homeless in Edmonton in the winter, there is a "trickle down" effect happening at Operation Friendship.

Although we do not provide any transient housing, McCauley Seniors Drop-In and the recreation and meal programs that operate from there have never been so busy. The numbers increased dramatically beginning in August and September, with much higher meal counts at the first of the month. For instance where we used to have



about 55 people for a meal right after the cheques came in, we are now seeing our counts reach 100 or more all the time. I have no concrete research to substantiate the reasons for this but I believe they are two-fold. Firstly, the shelters are always full and the men's shelter send people out in the morning and let them back in the evening. People over age 55 are then spending their day- time hours in our drop-in.

Secondly, rents have risen sharply so people are spending a larger portion of their fixed incomes on shelter leaving less for other needs such as medication, clothing, transportation, and for some, their addictions such as cigarettes and alcohol.

We have had a lot of help from the Food Bank and people are

incredibly generous during the Holiday season so we have managed to continue serving these additional numbers. We also were lucky to have a whole cow donated by a ranch (which our cook had to kill, and all the other stuff) but it was all ground into hamburger to make it stretch as far as possible.

These higher numbers are very hard on the cook and the drop-in staff but they are coping admirably. Our drop-in kitchen was designed to serve about forty people soup and sandwiches once a day, and now we are putting out three meals a day, seven days a week.

We continue to extend the hand of friendship to seniors in Edmonton's inner city in the Drop-In and through all our other programs.

Goal of Friendship: To seek out inner city seniors in need and establish a supportive friendship with them.

