

FORGOTTEN PIONEERS

Operation Friendship Seniors Society – Serving Inner City Seniors



HEARTS OF BLUE

Alberta Blue Cross is a not-for-profit organization; offering subsidized health care is one way they invest in the community, the employee operated charity, **Hearts of Blue**, is another. This group is constantly reinvesting back into the community. Started as a one time event to commemorate their 50th anniversary, the project was so well received by the employees that 10 years later and many volunteer hours later **Hearts of Blue** has become one of the most recognized names on the charity circuit. We at OFSS have been lucky to be on the receiving end of their generosity and huge hearts. The first meal served was October of 1998 not long after their charity began. When **Hearts of Blue** walk through our Drop In doors, often 20 volunteers strong, all wearing their **Hearts of Blue** T-shirts, you can see smiling faces in response.



After having funded and served a fantastic meal, you can find them cleaning up with a smile. “Please let us know if there are any specific needs you have,” Nirmal Singh often reminds us. **Hearts of Blue** have come through with donations of small kitchen appliances, pool cues for our Drop-In; many items have been donated. After 10 years of service to the Edmonton community and dedication to OFSS we would all like to take this opportunity to say Thank You and acknowledge the difference they all make at this agency!

Your compassion and selfless dedication is truly valued!
Thank You!!!

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HELPING HANDS

A hand up is not a hand out. We all know this to be true. There are times in every person's life when all that is needed is a hand up in order to keep going. Helping Hands is one of our services that do just that. What many of us would do for our aging parents, our Helping Hand drivers do for inner city seniors who often lack family support. Picking seniors up, getting them to the grocery store, doctor's appointments, visiting in the hospital, advocating on their behalf - that's what they do, everyday.



A Special Thank You to the following Meal Sponsors and Volunteer Groups for helping us out!

- Γ Alberta Blue Cross - Hearts of Blue
- Γ Alberta Sustainable Resources
- Γ Allison Jiminez Family & Friends
- Γ Ansgar Lutheran Church
- Γ Association of Edmonton Conference Hotels
- Γ ATB Financial
- Γ Avinash and Mohinder Family and Friends
- Γ Benjamin Cairo Family & Friends
- Γ Bridge Brand a GFS Company
- Γ Centinnial Christian School – Terrace B.C.
- Γ Chester Montana Youth
- Γ Enbridge Pipelines
- Γ Felix Sorgiovanni Family and Friends
- Γ First Presbyterian Church - Evening Group - Womens Missionary
- Γ Friends of Operation Friendship
- Γ G.E Money Canada
- Γ Grace United Church
- Γ Grey Nuns & Associates
- Γ Hawthorne Homes
- Γ Highlands United Church

The Helping Hands program was given a huge boost last year with the generous support of the Edmonton Community Foundation to buy one of two brand new vans for the program.

For Regina Schmolinski, Helping Hands breaks her isolation. “I’m in a wheelchair, and if it wasn’t for them I’d be home all the time. I need assistance to get to the doctor and dentist.”

Independence is a very important part of a senior’s life; often it is when a senior is unable to manage their basic needs that they become unable to remain in their own homes. “What many people don’t realize is that this service is offered free,” says Karen, a Helping Hands driver, “there is no charge to the seniors.”

Help us keep gas in our vans. Donate to the Helping Hands program!

THANK YOU FOR 25 YEARS OF DEDICATION!!

Sue Walsh has dedicated her time and efforts on the Board of Directors for OFSS for more than 25 years. "This is such a dynamic agency, I've just had the pleasure of being along for the ride... the best part is having the seniors allow us to be a part of their lives, you get to know them and they just end up being a part of your heart."

Thank You Sue!



A FOND FAREWELL TO SANDIE SORGIOVANNI



Sandie Sorgiovanni has been a valued employee at OFSS for the past 9 years as the Community Relations Supervisor. It is through Sandie's efforts that we have had such success with our fundraisers and events. She has a huge heart and a warm smile and she will be missed by all the seniors and staff here at OFSS. We want to wish Sandie all the best in her future endeavors!

Thank you Sponsors, con't.

- Γ Imperial Oil
- Γ Ismail Council for Edmonton
- Γ Kathy Tarrabian Professional Corporation
- Γ Kinsmen Club of Edmonton
- Γ Mary Butterworth School
- Γ Nait – EMT Paramedic Program
- Γ Northgate Lions Seniors
- Γ OFSS Board of Directors
- Γ Riverview Rotary Club
- Γ Robertson Wesley United Church
- Γ Southminster Steinhauer United Church
- Γ Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Edmonton
- Γ St. Paul's United Church
- Γ Strathern United Church
- Γ Suzanne Lalonde Family & Friends
- Γ Taoist Tai Chi Society
- Γ United Way of Alberta Capital Region
- Γ WCB
- Γ Westin Hotel

Summer Needs:

Doing Spring cleaning?? How about sending your donations to us?! Our seniors could use the following:

- I Men's and women's socks
- I Men's and women's white clothing
- I White hats

Donations can be dropped off at:
9526 – 106 Ave.

Summertime in the city

Although warmer temperatures make spending the majority of time outside much more welcome, there are a few items that would keep our seniors safer and healthier.

White hats and white t-shirts, for both men and women, would be a great asset when in the hot sun. Sunscreen is also a need. Unopened water bottles are a very welcome donation as well. As you are pulling out your summer clothing please take a look and consider dropping your gently used items off for our seniors.

**Operation Friendship
Seniors Society**

9526 – 106 Ave
Edmonton, AB
T5H 0N2

PHONE:
780-429-2626

FAX:
780-429-2629

E-Mail:
info@ofss.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ofss.org

**New Community
Relations Supervisor**

**Brandy
Rollins
408-2958**

Friendship in Action – What Can You Do?

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

- I Friendly Visiting
- I Serve meals in the Drop-In Centre
- I Sponsor a meal
- I Drive seniors to appointments
- I Recreation support

Call Brandy @ 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:

- I \$20 will buy 10 bus tickets.
- I \$50 will buy laundry soap for the Drop In.
- I \$75 will fill a tank of gas for the Helping Hands van.
- I \$150 will serve lunch to 90 seniors.
- I \$250 will serve supper to 125 seniors.

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 would like information on Memorial Giving.

Or donate on-line through Canada Helps on our website
www.ofss.org and follow the links.

