

OPERATION FRIENDSHIP SENIORS SOCIETY

Official Newsletter Volume 20 Issue 1



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DROP-IN NEEDS

- Hot food containers
- Lunch bags
- Individually wrapped non-perishable food items (granola bars, cookies, crackers, fruit snacks, etc.)
- Bottled Water
- Juice boxes, Bottled drinks
- Hoodies, Sweaters (Medium - Extra Large)
- Sweatpants (Large - Extra Large)
- New Underwear
- Winter Boots
- Scarfs
- Mittens/ Gloves

UPDATE ON OFSS OPERATIONS & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Although it has been nearly a year since Operation Friendship Seniors Society (OFSS) has had to close our drop-in doors to community members and volunteers, we continue to serve inner city seniors in our community.

This year has had many challenges for everyone. OFSS saw that our annual fundraisers such as the May Gala and summer carnival cancelled as a result of the pandemic. OFSS has continued to find unique and new ways to continue our mission of supporting inner city seniors and raising funds to help support operations. This includes the introduction of a Bottle Drive project, and adapting our annual #Socktober and Stocking Stuffers for Seniors campaigns for post-COVID times.

In the past year OFSS has worked to update our drop-in centre, including painting the interiors with Edmonton sports team colours and a beautiful mural, and ensuring the centre is ready for whenever our doors can safely re-open. OFSS is continuing to provide volunteer and community engagement opportunities that prioritize the health and safety of volunteers, staff and clients. We have been fortunate to see community groups continue to sponsor meals for our Rooming House and provide non-perishable food items and containers to support our take-away meal programs.

We hope everyone is taking care and staying safe during this challenging time and are eager to welcome back our volunteers and clients in-person when it is safe to do so!

BOTTLE DRIVE BONANZA



By Caitlin McLeod, Volunteer

The COVID-19 pandemic last spring resulted in the cancellation of the annual summer fundraisers, Jimmy Morrison, the Community Relations Supervisor knew he needed to think outside the box to help make up for the loss of donations that helps OFSS serve Edmonton inner city seniors.

With restrictions last year limiting in-person gatherings, the Spring Gala and Summer Carnival were off the table. We began exploring safe ways that the community could come together to help support OFSS operations.

What started as a small bottle drive, has now raised over \$17,000 for the organization. "We asked our community to come together to support our seniors and the response has been overwhelming" Jimmy says. The bottle drive began in the summer and has continued to gain momentum over the holidays and into 2021.

Donating your bottles is a safe way to give back to your community. Volunteers can facilitate a contactless pick-up to help ensure the safety of everyone involved.

OFSS is continuing to accept bottle donations. To donate your bottles or schedule regular bottle pick-up please contact Jimmy Morrison at jimmym@ofss.org



OFFS Highlight Reel

- Drop-in hours have changed, OFSS staff are handing out take-away meals, hygiene items and clothing based on the need of each individual senior.
- In October, OFSS ran its annual #Socktober campaign, collecting socks for seniors. Over 15,000 pairs of socks were collected this past fall.
- OFSS partnered with London Drugs for a 6th year to bring the Stocking Stuffers for Seniors program to seniors in our community. We thank London Drugs for their continued support of OFSS year round and in the community. We were able to help 1200 seniors who use OFSS receive a gift this holiday season with the support of London Drugs and their customers.



WAYS TO HELP DURING THE PANDEMIC



COVID-19 may have changed the landscape of volunteering, but there are still plenty of ways you can continue to support organizations in your community, such as OFSS.

- **Follow us on social media**

- Stay up to date with all OFSS news and calls for volunteers by following us on Twitter or Facebook at Operation Friendship Seniors Society. (Follow us on Twitter: @OFSS1969 or Facebook)

- **Participate in our Bottle Drive**

- Our bottle drive continues to help support the operations at OFSS. Consider collecting bottles for your family and friends and arranging one of our volunteers to pick them up for you. Or consider becoming a volunteer bottle drive driver yourself!

- **Donate Clothing**

- As the weather continues to change, this is a great time to clean out your closets at home and donate gently used clothing to OFSS. Your clothing goes directly to seniors in need. Mens sizes large and extra large are most in need.
- If your organization is looking for ways to help, organizing a clothing drive is a great way to engage members of your community in supporting OFSS and our seniors.

- **Spread the Word**

- Help by continuing to share the word about OFSS, our mission and how others may help us continue to serve Edmonton seniors. Share photos and posts on social media, tell your family and friends and help draw awareness to OFSS and our mission

- **Use your Networks**

- If you know of someone or an organization that could help support OFSS' mission, consider reaching out and exploring how those in your community may be able to help

There are many ways to help. For more information, please contact Jimmy Morrison at 780-408-2958 or email at jimmym@ofss.org.



TINY HOPPERS DAYCARE

A few years ago OFSS found Tiny Hoppers Daycare on social media and started a conversation about how Tiny Hoppers can help support inner city seniors and OFSS. Although due to the current pandemic, Tiny Hoppers have been unable to volunteer in-person, the children and staff of Tiny Hoppers daycare have found ways to continue to give back to the community. Currently, children are creating cards for seniors which are included in our take-away meals. This project connects children to seniors in our community and educates children about OFSS' mission.

A THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO PROVIDED MEALS FOR OFSS JANUARY- MARCH 2021

- Kinsmen Club of Edmonton
- Kinettec Club of Edmonton
- Knights of Columbus
- Sai Baba
- Riverview Rotary Club
- Craig Pilgram & Kelly Dann
- Silks
- Evolve Church
- Oodle Noodle
- Sai Samarapan Centre

OFSS continues to serve daily take-away meals to our seniors. If you or your community are interested in sponsoring a meal please email Jimmy at jimmym@ofss.org

The work we do at Operation Friendship Seniors Society would not be possible without the help and support of our many wonderful volunteers and community members.





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Friendship in Action- What Can You Do?

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

Opportunities include:

- Friendly Visiting
- Sponsoring a meal
- Serve meals in the Drop-in Centre
- Gardening and yard work
- Recreation support
- Arts and Crafts
- Sewing and Knitting
- Light labor and maintenance
- Musical performances

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic volunteer opportunities may need to be adapted or look differently in order to ensure the health and safety for all OFSS volunteers, staff and clients. We are always looking for new ways to engage volunteers. If you would like more information regarding volunteering with OFSS or have an idea as to how you would like to volunteer, please contact Jimmy Morrison at 780-408-2958 or by email at jimmy@ofss.org



A Little Goes a Long Way

Donations go a long way in the inner city. Here's what your donations can do:

- \$27 will buy 10 bus tickets
- \$70 will fill a tank of gas for the Helping Hands van
- \$125 will serve breakfast to 75 seniors
- \$250 will serve lunch to 90 seniors
- \$500 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 online through Canada Helps on our website www.ofss.org

Charitable Registration No. 11906-8989 RROOO

