

THE LANGLEY DISTRICT
HELP NETWORK
Neighbours helping Neighbours
OPERATING LANGLEY FOOD BANK & FREE STORE & ALDERGROVE FOOD BANK

**ABOUT THE LANGLEY
DISTRICT HELP
NETWORK**



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Langley Help Network

Mission Statement & Philosophy of Ministry

- To establish, maintain and conduct a practical helping ministry to the needy in Langley.
- To facilitate the effective preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the poor through the good works of its volunteers.

The Langley District Help Network is an incorporated society, registered with Revenue Canada as a non-profit organization and is entirely funded through the support of local churches, organizations and individuals. It does not receive any support from any government bodies.

We Believe

God has a special concern for those who cannot care for their own needs. He clearly call His people to share His concern and express His compassion to the poor and needy.

God's heart towards the poor is not one of harshness or judgment, but rather one of mercy, compassion, forgiveness and help.

Scripture tells us to aggressively work to rescue the poor from the oppression of poverty through our good works and to administer true justice on their behalf, which includes showing mercy and compassion.

The Langley District Help Network is a very effective voice in preaching the gospel to the poor through the good works of its volunteers because actions speak louder than words. Actions will often create the 'pathway' for the words to be heard.

God's call to the church is to identify with the poor, the weak and the vulnerable and to invest our time, energy and money in serving them.

The Langley District Help Network's slogan "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" is drawn from the story of the good Samaritan. (Luke 10)

The long term objective in all that we do is to effect lasting transformation in the lives of our clients—to bring them from a life of poverty to a life of productivity and hope. We recognize the absolute need for the intervention and work of the Holy Spirit as crucial to this process as well as the vital necessity for a new and ongoing relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ His son.

The Langley Food Bank 604-533-0671



There are currently about 400 client families registered at the Langley Food Bank. Including dependents, we are helping over 700 people with their food requirements each week. In 2007, over 11,000 hampers were provided.

Objectives of the Langley Food Bank:

- To provide a minimum of 2 day's worth of nutritious food (breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks) for our clients and their families each week.
- To develop relational bridges with clients in order to discover other needs they may have.
- To find a way to meet these needs whether they are physical, social, or spiritual in nature.

In order to help us meet these objectives, the Langley Food Bank has been set up in a mini-mart style. Groceries are stocked in various categories on store shelves so that clients can make their own selection from each category. Quantity limits are set depending on the size of the family. Langley Food Bank volunteers assist each client in making their selections and bagging their groceries.

Registered clients may come for groceries once each week, but may come on any other distribution day for additional bread.

The Langley Free Store (604-533-0671)

The Free Store is a clothing boutique that gives away clothing, accessories, towels and bedding to people in need who live in Langley and are registered clients of the Langley Food Bank.

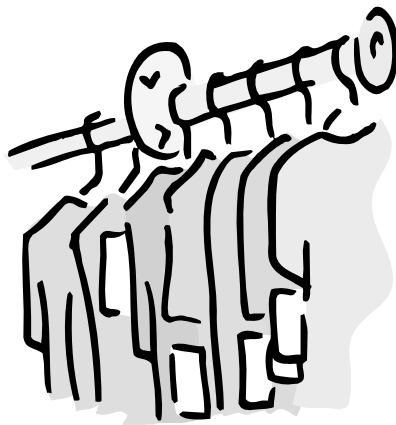
All of the clothing donations come from concerned citizens who wish to have their donation given away to the needy rather than resold for profit.

The Free Store is open for distribution every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am-1:45 pm. The Free Store has been in operation since the fall of 1987 and is staffed entirely by volunteers. Clothing distribution, sorting, assisting clients with selections and store layout are tasks that our volunteers are involved in.

There are currently about 400 clients registered at the Free Store and during a one year period over 25,000 items of clothing are distributed.

Objectives of the Free Store

- To provide help with client's clothing needs, not to provide an entire wardrobe.
- To develop relational bridges to the clients so we can discover other needs they may have.
- To find ways to meet these needs whether they are physical, social or spiritual in nature.



In order to help meet these objectives, the Free Store has been set up to reflect the image of a boutique rather than a thrift store. In doing so, we show respect to our clients and they maintain their dignity while using our store.

Registered clients may shop in the Free Store once per week. Quantity limits are set for all clients according to season. For instance clients are able to take more sweaters for the winter months than for the summer months for each member of the family.

The Free Store does not conduct any direct fundraising activities or clothing distribution drives of any kind. We depend entirely on God to move in the hearts of people in the community to give clothing to the Free Store. Clothing may be dropped off during our office hours; 8:30-4:30 Monday to Friday.

Lighthouse Cafe

The Lighthouse Café is a full-service restaurant offering meals to registered and drop-in clients free of charge during normal distribution hours. (Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am to 1:45 pm). Clients may have 2 meals per week. Meals include an entrée, beverage and dessert.

In 2007, over 8,000 meals were provided.

FRIDAY NIGHT IS DINNER TIME.....A program operating in the Lighthouse Café on Friday evenings directed specifically to the homeless population in Langley.

This program is designed to reach out to the homeless, including those struggling with addiction issues by providing a safe place for them to come and receive practical help as well as friendship and positive conversation along with hope and encouragement for the possibility of change.

We serve a full course meal; provide a weekly grocery hamper and a change of clothing including a blanket as needed, to a maximum of once every two weeks. A shower is also available for their use.

In 2007, we served over 1500 meals to the homeless in the Lighthouse Café. We also distributed over 1200 food hampers and over 1500 articles of clothing as well as many blankets and sleeping bags

The Birthday Closet

Significant help and resources are usually available for those in the community who need assistance at Christmas time, which are a tremendous blessing. The Langley Christmas Bureau, for example, ensures that no family with young children are in need at Christmas time. However, for the rest of the year there is little or no help for any 'extras' like a new toy for a child's birthday.

The Langley District Help Network addresses that issue with the Birthday Closet, where parents of children 12 years and younger are able to pick a new gift, and also receive a birthday cake.

In 2007, over 150 gifts and cakes were given away.

Aldergrove Food Bank 604-857-1671

The Aldergrove Food Bank is also operated by the Langley District Help Network, and is located at 2623 272nd St in Aldergrove (the back entrance of the Aldergrove United Church).

Distribution days are the first four Tuesdays of the month from 11:30am until 2pm. However, donations can be dropped off during church hours (Monday to Friday, 9 am until noon). Other times can be arranged.

Objectives and operating policies are the same as for the Langley Food Bank



Where Does Our Support Come From?

The Langley District Help Network does not conduct any direct fundraising activities of any kind. The Help Network depends entirely on God to move in the hearts of people in the community to give. A foundational desire is to see God demonstrate His love towards the poor, through Him providing the supplies needed from week to week. In this way, all will need to acknowledge God's provisions and all the glory will be to Him. (Isaiah 41:17-20)

Our primary responsibility as co-workers together with God is to facilitate the collection/receiving and distribution of goods in a service of faith, obedience, compassion and humility. In 2007, we distributed well over \$1,500,000.00 worth of groceries, clothing, toys, and meals, all free of charge. All of this was donated by caring individuals, businesses, churches, schools and civic groups in our community.

Our service is an expression of our love for God and reflection of God's love towards the poor. It is not a religious duty or obligation, but a privilege to serve that naturally flows out of our relationship with God. Our service needs to be in a constant atmosphere and attitude of prayer, so intercession forms a vital part of our serving and indeed of the entire operation of the Langley District Help Network.

Client Eligibility Requirements

In order to register as a client of the Langley Food Bank, potential clients must be a resident of Langley and make an appointment for an intake interview. For the interview, they are asked to bring documentation of their residency in Langley, all the members of the household, as well as all household income and expenses.

Homeless clients are not required to go through a registration process. We have a dedicated program for the homeless on Friday evenings.

All potential clients (except one time visits) must book an appointment and go through the registration process. In order to remain a client, clients must also have their registration reviewed every six months to ensure that all information on file is accurate and up to date.

Almost all who apply for help are accepted and registered if they complete the process. However, if someone does not meet the eligibility requirements, other forms of help (e.g. budgeting or other life skills) that may be more appropriate are suggested with referrals offered to other agencies or programs. Our objective is to discover the best way to help. We want to do our best to provide a helping hand, not free handouts that reinforce long term dependency.

Thanks for your interest in learning about the Langley District Help Network. If you are interested in volunteering please pick up our volunteering booklet which will have more detailed information as well as an application form.

2008
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