

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

Volunteering
with 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 over 700 client families registered at the Langley Food Bank. Including dependents, we are helping over 1,000 people with their food requirements each week. In 2010, over 17,000 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.

The Langley Free Store

The Langley Free Store is located at the LFB and is open for distribution Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am until 1:40 pm. The Free Store has been in operation since fall of 1987 and currently has a registration of about 700 clients. With about 180 visits each week, the free store, in 2010, distributed over 34,000 articles of clothing! Volunteers sort through clothes and assist clients with their selections.

Lighthouse Café 604-533-0671

The Lighthouse Café was a full-service restaurant offering meals to registered and drop-in clients free of charge during normal distribution hours. The Lighthouse Café is no longer in operation and meal service has been discontinued.

Clients were allowed to have one meal per week.

Meals included an entrée, beverage and dessert.

In 2010 over 6,000 meals were provided.

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.

Aldergrove Food Bank 604-857-1671

The Aldergrove Food Bank is also operated by the Langley District Help Network, and is located at 27309 Fraser Hwy. in Aldergrove

Distribution days are the first four Tuesdays of the month from 11:30 am until 2:00 pm. Donations may be dropped off on Tuesdays 8:30 am to 3 pm.

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 2010, we distributed well over \$1,750,000.00 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.



Volunteer Guidelines & Expectations

The Langley District Help Network is a distinctively Christian mission organization focused primarily towards the local community, particularly to the poor. The term 'Christian' is used in the historical sense, and our statement of belief can best be expressed by the Apostles' Creed.

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the father,
and He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of the saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen*

Volunteer Guidelines & Expectations con't

All volunteers involved with the Langley Help Network should have a maturing Christian faith based on a growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ and able to profess wholehearted agreement with the Apostles' Creed. ** In addition, each volunteer should be actively involved with a local Christian church where he or she has healthy and accountable relationships.

Another important quality is a heart for the poor which grows out of an understanding of God's heart for the poor. Without the active working of God's spirit softening our hearts, our best efforts to be joyful, compassionate, merciful, patient, generous and loving will not be enough. Our God given mandate is to express His heart to the poor, not in just what we do, but even more importantly in how we do it.

- Volunteers are not to materially benefit from their involvement with the Langley District Help Network. They are not permitted to take or receive any inventory unless registered as clients and checked through in the usual manner. The only exception will be for surplus perishable food, and then, only with the supervisor's permission.
- **Promptness and reliability are important values to us. It is important that all workers view their commitment here at least as seriously as if it was a job for pay. Accountability to the LFB is expected from you no less than it would be expected from a regular employer. Likewise, you are expected to be at work at the scheduled time (usually 9 am unless other arrangements have been made) and stay until the scheduled quitting time (2:00-2:30pm), or until the work is finished. It is not fair to the rest of the team to leave early or arrive late for no valid reason. Always check with a supervisor if your shift schedule conflicts with your personal schedule.**
- Volunteers should try to attend devotional and prayer meetings. Due to the nature of our work, and because we are an expression of the church at work in our community, it is vital that we develop unity, relationship and a strong sense of teamwork. A high value is also placed on ongoing training and equipping, both spiritually and practically. All of this can best be facilitated through our workers meetings.
- Under no circumstances should you provide financial or material help without the approval of the supervisor (often times we have information which allows safeguarding against manipulation or abuse).

** Exceptions can sometimes be made for short-term volunteers wishing to serve court appointed community hours, school related work experience or field placements, or one time group work projects

Guidelines for Volunteer— Client Interaction

Many of our clients live under stressful circumstances and tensions can easily erupt. Always try to be a calming influence, to present a positive outlook, and to be an encourager. Because of the reality that broken relationships are a major cause of poverty, giving relationship to our clients is a high value. Therefore, serving meals, assisting with grocery selection, bagging groceries and assisting in clothing selections for the clients are all intended to be relational activities that allow for interaction. It is not so much what we do, but rather, how it is done that is important. Communicating respect, value and consideration are all important. We are not called to judge people based on appearance, but to express God's mercy and compassion in a way that shows them that God values them as individuals.

In addition, resolving conflicts, whether with co-workers or clients, quickly and positively is imperative. Philippians 2:1-4 says; "in humility consider others as better than ourselves" and 1 Corinthians 13:4 says that "love is not rude, self seeking, easily angered, and keeps no record of wrongs". These are examples of scriptural attitudes that need to be constantly practiced. If no resolution seems possible, please come to the supervisor for help. It is never appropriate to discuss a conflict with others.



Often there are subtleties that are part of a job which are not easily explained in a manual. These things are better 'caught' than 'taught'. The best way by which learning takes place is through relational interaction. Therefore, even though good understanding of this manual is important, it is not comprehensive. In fact your primary training will take place as you are teamed up with more experience workers.

Thanks for your interest in volunteering with the Langley District Help Network. If you are comfortable with these guidelines and expectations, please fill out the enclosed application form, drop or mail it to our office. We will then be in touch with you to arrange the details of your volunteer activities

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