

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014



Victoria Police to serve dinner to homeless

Uniformed officers show support for Our Place

VICTORIA, B.C. – The presence of the Victoria Police Department isn't always a reason to celebrate at Our Place, but this Wednesday, Feb. 19 is decidedly different as uniformed officers will be serving dinner to the community's most vulnerable citizens.

“The partnership between Our Place and VicPD is essential to maintaining a safe and caring community,” says Executive Director Don Evans. “Having the new recruits serve a meal is an opportunity for them to see our family members in a different light and build a bridge to greater understanding and better relationships.”

Demand for meals at Our Place has experienced a sharp increase over the last two months with more than 40,000 meals served each month in December and January. Compared to the previous year, that's a surprising 30-per-cent increase.

“To meet demand, we need the help of our community and corporate supporters more than ever,” says Evans. “When a group steps forward to donate a meal, it benefits everyone, not just our budget. The servers are always emotionally moved by the gratitude they receive, and our family members are delighted to have a special meal.”

“Our Place offers hope and a sense of belonging to countless people every year,” says Chief Constable Frank J. Elsner. “Day in and day out, the Victoria Police Department works in partnership with the staff of Our Place so that these vital services can be delivered.”

Event: VicPD Dinner at Our Place

When: Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

Where: Our Place Society, 919 Pandora Ave, Victoria

Website: www.ourplacesociety.com

Our Place is an inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria's most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mental and physically challenged, and the homeless. Individuals and businesses provide the majority of financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides 45 transitional housing units, over 1,200 meals per day, hot showers, free clothing, counseling and outreach services. Most importantly, it provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

Grant McKenzie
Director of Communications
T: 250-388-7112 ext. 225
Cell: 250-217-2406
Email: grantm@ourplacesociety.com

Don Evans, Executive Director
Our Place Society
T: 250-388-7112 ext. 239
Cell: 778-977-4921
Email: don@ourplacesociety.com