

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Busiest Month Ever for Meals at Our Place

40,000 meals served in December, compared to 28,000 in 2012

VICTORIA, B.C. – This past December proved especially busy for Our Place as it served over 40,000 meals to the region’s most vulnerable citizens. In 2012, it served 28,000 meals during the same period.

“It was the busiest month we’ve ever had,” said Brian Cox, manager of food services. “We had to pull out all the stops to feed everyone.”

The reasons for the increase in demand are as varied as the people who access programs, meals and services at Our Place.

“We’re seeing more seniors and working poor due to the economy,” said Executive Director Don Evans. “But we also became an active partner in the province’s Extreme Weather Response program, and we managed to expand the hours for some of our services to better meet the needs of the community.”

Local businesses and individuals also made a huge difference by partnering with Our Place for a series of special holiday meals for those who would otherwise go without.

“We’ve been blessed by the generosity of local businesses and individuals that recognize how important it is to help all of our neighbours regardless of economic, social or health barriers,” said Evans.

Our Place is also continually working to increase the number of programs it offers, which is allowing more people to access the help they need.

“More than ever, Our Place is a lifeline of hope and belonging that is so essential to everyone who needs a place to call home,” added Evans.

Our Place is an inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mental health and physical challenges, 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.

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