

Christ Church Cathedral – Outreach Committee

CATHEDRAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE - 2008

Our purpose is to fight poverty in Fredericton.

A difficult task, you say? Most definitely.

An IMPOSSIBLE task? Well, perhaps.

But with God's help, we are determined to try.

In our mission statement, we refer to them as "people-in-need."

Who ARE these people?

Go anywhere in Fredericton – especially the downtown area – and you will see them on the streets every day.

Most of them are poor and unemployed.

Many are homeless – and spend their nights at the city's two homeless shelters.

Others live in dingy one-room apartments.

Most are discouraged and disheartened. Some are victims of abuse or neglect.

Others face serious health problems, including mental illness. Many are addicted to alcohol, drugs, or gambling – further complicating their daily struggle with poverty.

We realize we cannot SOLVE their problems. But, as Christians, it is our responsibility to do what we can to help – offering them kindness, understanding, and respect – to try to make their lives just a little brighter.

Here is a summary of our Outreach activities in 2008:

** MONDAY MORNINGS (Voucher Program) – Throughout the year, an average of 33 people came to Cathedral Hall on Monday mornings for coffee, muffins, conversation and fellowship. As part of these weekly gatherings, we gave our visitors a choice of free food vouchers or city-transit tickets.

To celebrate Christmas, we also gave each person a pewter-cross necklace (made by the Cathedral Pewtersmiths.) For some of them, it was their first Christmas present in years. Many of them are now wearing (and proudly showing their friends) their new crosses – a symbol of God's love and a reminder that people at the Cathedral do care.

** FOOD BANK – During 2008, we delivered to the Fredericton Food Bank 50 tote boxes, filled with non-perishable groceries. These items were donated by members of the congregation – placed in a basket at the back of the Cathedral each Sunday. Many people also made generous cash donations through their weekly offerings. This money is deeply appreciated by operators of the Food Bank because it allows them to purchase additional food items in bulk, at discount rates.

**CHRISTMAS ANGELS – Every December, the Cathedral participates in the Christmas Angel-Tree program, run by the Food Bank. This allows needy families, registered at the Food Bank, to request specific Christmas gifts for their children. This year, members of the Cathedral congregation purchased 94 gifts through this program. They also donated \$1,285 in cash. As in past years, we divided this money equally and delivered cheques to five organizations -- the Community Kitchen, the Food Bank, the Salvation Army, Transition House, and the two homeless shelters.

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN – Every Saturday night, volunteers from the Cathedral help people-in-need by working at the Fredericton Community Kitchen. These volunteers help prepare and serve the evening meal, and handle the kitchen clean-up afterwards. We now have 35 people taking part. They are divided into four teams -- with each team taking a turn at the kitchen, once a month.

Members of the Cathedral Outreach Committee are Mark Carr, Penny Ericson, Julie Haynes, Don MacPherson, Wayne Phillips, Vanda Rideout and Doug Milander.

We thank the Dean for his guidance, and members of the congregation for your prayers and support. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

** Report submitted by Doug Milander, Outreach chair.