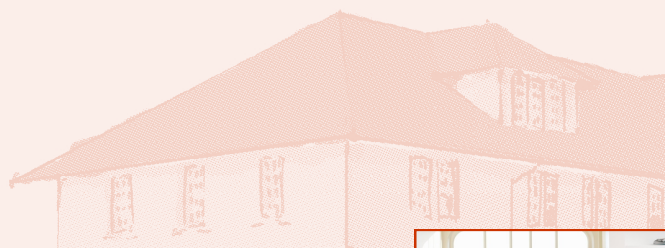


# Smithers Community Services Association

"A place where hope, opportunities and possibilities are realized"

## Newsletter



### **Local Seniors Need Your Help!**

Helping Hands Program is looking for volunteers to clear snow and ice for seniors this winter.

We are currently running a waitlist for seniors in need and don't have enough volunteers to help.

If you are able to regularly commit some time to helping when the snow falls please contact Sarah at (250) 847-9515 to start your volunteer application today.

Application forms and more information is also available on our website:

<http://www.scsa.ca/programs/other-services/helping-hands/>



Many seniors wish to remain in their homes as they age, but may have no family in town to turn to for help. Helping Hands program provides volunteers with the opportunity to help seniors stay in their homes for as long as comfortably possible by shovelling walkways and removing ice in the winter, and helping with yard cleanup and gardening tasks in the spring, summer, and fall.

This work will help reduce the risk of falls through the removal of hazards (snow, ice, leaves) and enable seniors to remain active in their yards and communities. It also provides both the senior and the volunteer an opportunity to make a personal connection that could last a lifetime.

### **The Northwest Hogs have done it again!**

Another successful toy run completed in September kick started our Christmas Hamper Program.



[www.scsa.ca](http://www.scsa.ca)



## Broadway Place Emergency Shelter Open House

All of us here at Broadway Place Emergency Shelter would like to thank everyone who came out to visit the shelter in recognition of World Homeless Day!

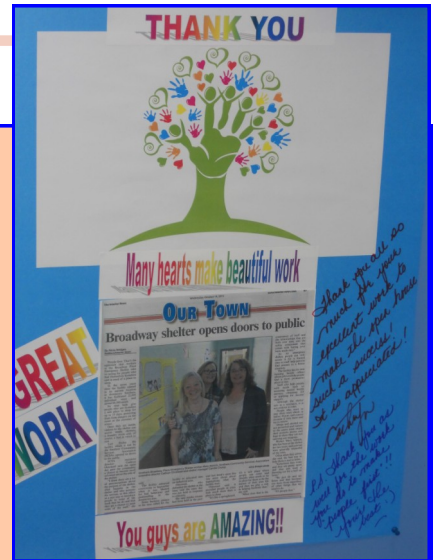
Over 35 community members toured the shelter to learn about the shelter operations and how supporting housing initiatives benefits the entire community through creative displays and staff knowledge.

The shelter has been in operation for seven years and has facilitated 22,995 individual stays and served 88,500 meals in that time. Nine beds provide those without a home or in crisis a safe place to sleep for up to 15 days. Clients have access to meals, showers and laundry as well as support in finding a more

permanent place to stay and accessing support services.

Drugs and alcohol are not permitted and clients must empty their pockets, purses and bags to show they are not carrying weapons.

The Broadway Place Emergency Shelter team is grateful of the generous support and donations we have received from our partners, churches, schools, businesses and individuals in the valley. Community support is appreciated and recognized by all of us, who are committed to ensuring that every person feels safe, accepted and welcome at our door.



## Fall Programs

**Ground 2 Griddle Re-opened:** Every Tuesday morning between 9:30 and noon the kitchen is open. Come join us in discovering new recipes, making delicious food and meeting new people. This activity is open to everyone and is free! Childcare is also provided.

**Adult Learner & Tutor Opportunities:** The Community Learning Services Program connects tutors and adult learner for one on one tutoring session.

**FASD 18-Hour training:** Two sessions are being held this fall, one in Houston and one in Smithers. The training takes place over two months in each of the communities.

**ELMS Classes restarted:** Every week our English Language and Multicultural Services program offers English Language classes to people new to the area.

**Family Support Upcoming parenting groups:** The current parenting group hosted by the Family Support Program is "Alpha Children". The group runs on Wednesdays from 11am-2pm, Oct.21st, 28th, and Nov.4th and 18th. Together we watch Dr. Gordon Neufeld's DVD course, "Alpha Children", and discuss how the material relates to group members' situations. Feedback from past groups has been so positive, we are looking forward to more rich discussion, learning, and mutual support!

For more information or to register for any of these programs check our website at [www.scsa.ca](http://www.scsa.ca)



# Summer Programs see Success

## **STEP Up 2015 At a Glance**

557 hours of tutoring provided to 56 students in the Bulkley Valley

\$2170 worth of student bursaries given

34 hours of tutoring provided to 2 First Nations students

18 hours of tutoring provided to 2 ESL students

Students ranged from Kindergarten to grade 10.

4 local students were hired as summer tutors

For the 2015 Step Up program, SCSA was successful in securing funding for two student tutors through Service Canada, program funding from the RBC Foundation, School District #54, Bulkley Valley Credit Union, as well as donated classroom space from Northwest Community College. The strong community support is sincerely appreciated.



## **ELMS—Citizenship Preparation Classes**

The English Language and Multicultural Services program ran a 6-week citizenship study session to help clients prepare for their citizenship application and knowledge test.

7 clients attended the session and learned about the new requirements (as of June 11, 2015) and some history and geography of Canada

## **Farmers Market Coupon Program**

As the Farmers Market comes to a close we asked participants in the coupon program to provide feed back on their experiences.

50% went every week, 40% every two weeks and the other 10% was once a month

47% went with their families, 32% went alone, 21% went with friends

Everyone said they enjoyed the program and most said they learned more about where food comes from and how it affects their local community to buy local products. Other important impacts mentioned was how they got to connect with other people in the community and felt healthier.



## **Family Support: Roots of Connection Park Days**

The Family Support Program combined fun, food and the outdoors during our “Roots of Connection Park Days”, which took place on July 29<sup>th</sup>, August 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> this summer;

Several families attended.

Water and sand play, painting rocks, blowing bubbles, and “food skill-building” were among the fun activities shared. Also discussions, brainstorming and mutual support for parenting challenges. Families and staff were delighted to take part in supportive services in a more relaxed and playful way!



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## Staff Update



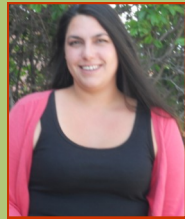
After 12 years with Smithers Community Services, Christine Tessier decided to focus on other endeavors. In 2001 Christine joined the SCSA team as the Youth Volunteer Corps coordinator. She then took on the Medi-Alert coordinator position a year later. In 2005 Medi-Alert became Lifeline and in addition to helping the transition run smoothly, Christine recommended and implemented changes to the program that catapulted it into the limelight, going from renting 5 units a month to 55 units.

Christine was a valued and important member of the SCSA team; the absence of her positive attitude and joyous demeanor will be noticed.

### Introducing New Staff



Dave Goble,  
Property Caretaker



Aisha Gardezy,  
Family Support Worker



Sarah Overstall,  
Reception, Lifeline,  
Helping Hands  
Volunteer Programs



Teresa Mager,  
Housing Outreach  
Coordinator



Shkendie Booth,  
Informal Educator,  
Community Literacy

### SCSA Programs

- Alpine Court Family Housing
- Broadway House Apartments
- Broadway Place Emergency Shelter
- Christmas Hampers
- Community Learning & Literacy Outreach
- CORR Homes
- Cottonwood Manor
- English Language and Multicultural Services
- Family Support
- FASD Services
- Ground 2 Griddle Neighborhood Kitchen
- Helping Hands
- Housing Outreach
- Lifeline
- The Meadows Assisted Living
- Second Avenue Housing Community
- Smithers & District Transit
- Summer Step Up Tutoring
- Youth Support