

Fall 2020



Dear Friends,

As summer has ended and Fall is officially here, all I can say is WOW! What a journey we have all been on during this pandemic; After being postponed in April, my wife Kirstin had her hip replacement surgery successfully performed on June 25th. By all accounts she has been the model patient following through on all her exercises. She has now returned to work on a modified schedule after 12 weeks of recovery. We also had the ability to see our son Justin, his wife Tammi, and our grandchildren in summer when rules were relaxed.

**COVID update:** We have been allowing youth indoors to enjoy meals and participate in programs with social distancing rules. We have also put enhanced sanitizing and cleaning protocols in place. We continue to provide meals in to go containers as our outreach workers have been busy connecting with youth in the Fraser Valley. All of our staff, volunteers and youth have remained COVID-19 free; Praise God! Our transportation for those who are homeless and A-symptomatic or symptomatic for COVID-19 has continued into recent months, and looks to continue through the winter. In addition, our temporary shelter that typically runs in the winter has been extended to run straight through the spring, summer and fall. This has allowed for more consistency and healthy individuals as well as securing appropriate housing as well.

**Fundraisers:** By now, we would have had fundraisers, and our winter banquet planning would be in full force. Unfortunately, all of our events have had to be cancelled, but that doesn't mean people haven't been doing their own fundraising. This summer, two nine year old girls had a COVID-19 safe lemonade stand to raise money for Cyrus Centre. Two individuals decided to match their efforts, which was appreciated and welcomed. Hopefully next year we will be able to gather in larger numbers.

**Exciting New News:** Cyrus Centre is about to expand its programming with a new low barrier supportive housing program in Chilliwack that will serve up to 22 youth. This new program, aptly named "The Switchback", signifies a road or trail leading up a mountain. These switchback trails often have 180\* turns, just like one's life journey. As the name suggests, we hope to provide support for youth to realize their goals and reach the top. We have been provided with a beautiful new building purchased by the City of Chilliwack and BC Housing. In addition, we have received the funding to hire staff for 24 hour coverage, as well as a full time case manager and a life-skills facilitator. Our goal is to welcome our first residents any day now.

Sadly, this year we have also experienced loss with the passing of 9 different youth, and most recently, 4 in one week. These tragedies have been difficult for the families, youth, and staff alike. Many in the Fraser Valley have reached out to support the families, youth and staff at Cyrus Centre and we are so very grateful for this support and the prayers.



**Christmas Announcements:** Christmas this year will now include four locations when you include Babich House and Switchback (two in Abbotsford and two in Chilliwack) . For many of the youth, this will be their first time experiencing traditional dinners, gifts, and other holiday festivities. I love it! We will see how COVID-19 impacts how we deliver Christmas services to the youth.

**Current Needs:** If you're looking for ways to help; we are in need of: masks, disposable gloves, toilet paper, warm gloves, gift cards for McDonalds, Tim Hortons, Costco, Staples, Save-on etc.

Please pray for continued health for the staff, volunteers, youth and families during these unprecedented times, and for our new housing program as it gets off the ground.

Let me know if you would like a personal update over a socially distanced coffee and I would be happy to meet.

Kindly,  
Les Talvio



Executive  
Director Cyrus  
Centre



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I would like to assist youth in  Abbotsford or  Chilliwack, with  Monthly Support or a  One-Time Gift

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Credit Card #                      Expiry Date      
MM / YY

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First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address and City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



2616 Ware Street, Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 3E5

Charitable Donation Receipts, for donations received from Jan 1 to Dec 31, will be issued in February of the following year



Dear Friends,

I realized how close to Christmas my newsletter is, so I wanted to add this note;

First off, let me say how grateful we are for your prayers and support. Without you, it would not be possible. This year for Christmas with the most recent changes to the pandemic response, we have decided that we will be taking Christmas on the road and go mobile. As we did for Easter, we will be delivering a traditional turkey dinner and all the fixings to youth wherever they are in Abbotsford & Chilliwack. In addition, we will be providing gifts and some cheer (In the form of friendly faces and maybe a carol thrown in for good measure!) Youth residing in our shelters and housing will be provided a sit-down dinner at their location.

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Blessings,

Les Talbot

*[Handwritten signature]*



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