



Experiencing God's faithfulness on the streets of Victoria

streethope
CONNECT, INSPIRE & SUPPORT

A recent evening outside the Street Hope RV

December 2018

Dear Street Hope Supporters,

The past year we have seen God at work in many ways through Street Hope Victoria. Even though we have faced challenges, there have been reminders of God's faithfulness and care. Here are some of those highlights.

God's faithfulness in the life of Erick Hinton



Last year we let you know that Erick, one of our longest serving volunteers (since 2000), was sick. Unfortunately, he passed away in October. You might wonder how this is a reminder of God's faithfulness. Well, Erick was a reflection of God's faithfulness and care to all of us, both to the Street Hope volunteers and to the visitors. Erick had a ministry of filling in the gaps. When the gap was filled, he moved on. However, he liked Street Hope so much, he stayed for a long time! He used to say "Our purpose in this ministry is not to feed hungry people, but to show the love of God to people... and how do you show love to hungry people? You feed them!"

Rick Sandberg (who started Street Hope) remembers meeting Erick: *The first time I saw Erick was at a Street Hope meeting in the basement of St. Philips Church – big, bearded and super friendly. "I think maybe the Lord wants us to work together," is what I concluded after we first met – at least that's what Erick told me. In any case, it was the beginning of a long friendship and for Erick another chapter of a life of humble service to others. Erick was a man of faith who wanted to serve God and help his neighbours. Erick helped and touched many people – he was always more than willing to help anyone anyway he could. I actually did see him give the shirt off his back on the 600 block of Yates Street to someone who asked him – he never held back from anyone who asked anything of him.*

What I remember, and countless people will remember about Erick are two things: you could ask Erick for anything and if he could do it, he would; and Erick lived trusting his Creator for everything. Everyone who knows Erick knows they met a true servant of God and man. I know I did, and I am grateful for Erick's example of faith, love and humility.

We will miss Erick, and his gentle way of responding to people, and his inspiring trust in God. Erick could even see God's faithfulness when he was sick with cancer. He commented that it was God-ordained that another volunteer, Peter Waterman, recently came on to help out. Peter is part of the team of drivers that bring the Street Hope RV downtown on Thursday evenings and has been taking care of things like ensuring the gas tank is full, arranging maintenance or changing the lightbulbs – filling in the "gaps" that Erick could no longer fill.



Roger, a volunteer, gets to hear one of Norm's poems

God's faithfulness in volunteers

This year we have been blessed with a number of new volunteers coming on board to help out in the evenings. This was an answer to our prayers after a couple of regular volunteers were no longer able to come. It is encouraging to have these people join us and to see them inspired to share God's love in their own particular ways with our visitors.

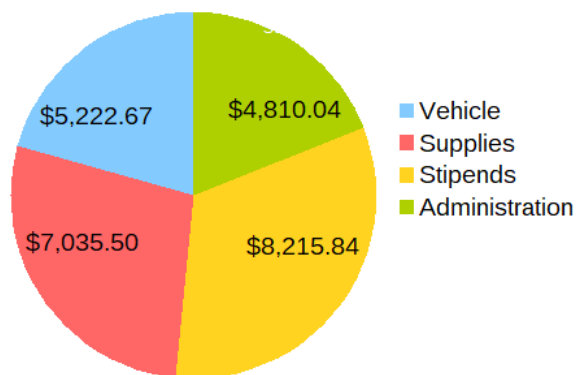
God's faithfulness seen by our visitors

Just the other evening we had a few guys come into the RV who had never been in before. They were very curious about Street Hope and why we volunteered. We often see this in our visitors, and many make the connection between God and why we are out on the street with the RV. Even as we fumble for the words to express God's goodness and care, and sometimes lose patience and respond in ways that do not reflect his boundless mercy, our visitors acknowledge him and his goodness, and how he is our motivation for what we do. We see that as a sign that God is at work in their lives, and that he is making himself known to them.



Quality control inspection of new volunteer Kody's sandwich-making

Street Hope expenses 2018



God's faithfulness in provision

God has also been faithful in providing for our financial needs. Regular giving from supporters like you was enough to cover our operating expenses. This year we took the RV into to have the roof re-sealed (recommended every few years). When it was inspected, it turned out to need a more extensive (and more expensive) refurbishment. Thankfully, we were awarded a grant from the Anglican Diocese to cover the cost. The grant also helped pay for a new backup camera to assist our drivers.

God's faithfulness shown through you

We are so thankful for your ongoing support for Street Hope. We appreciate your prayers as we share Christ's love. We are thankful for your gifts of tangible items like shoe boxes, clothing and food, as well as your faithful financial commitment. It is because of God's generosity through you that we are able to be generous with those in need. As a reminder, online donations can be made through CanadaHelps and PayPal. There is a link on our website (<http://www.thresholdministries.ca/on-the-street/street-hope-victoria>) which allows you to make a donation. **OR** Send a cheque/money order to Threshold Ministries with a note saying it is for "Street Hope Victoria." Thank you for your continued involvement in caring for people in need in Victoria.

God's faithfulness for 90 years

Threshold Ministries, our parent organization, is celebrating 90 years of ministry in Canada! Check out the website for more information on the history of Threshold and their anniversary events.

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