

A Message from the Directors

In these uncertain times we can be left wondering who or what we can trust. However, this should not overtake us if we have a strong faith, maintain our patience, move forward with courage, and seek grace. With these attributes we will overcome the confusion that swirls around us. Do we have every reason to be hopeful? Yes, we do. And why? Because we live in an awesome place, with competent caregivers, at an amazingly advanced time in history and with every opportunity to overcome adversity as we work together in solving our challenges. We won't always agree with the proposed solutions, but we must remain open to finding the proper solutions.

The disciple Paul gave us these encouraging words: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." And the prophet Jeremiah also filled us with peace as he stated: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." We are reminded to focus on these messages more so now than in recent memory. In truth, we should always focus on



these positive messages of trust and hope. We must keep our minds centered on how truly blessed we are rather than

listening to the doom and gloom that may come from the outside world through the phones that we carry or the televisions in our homes.

By making a gratitude list on a regular basis, we might realize that there is far more goodness in our lives than we may have appreciated and that we really have little to fear if we remain on the path of goodness. "Good things happen to people who are doing good things." This message is regularly shared with the residents of Freedom's Door. "Make a gratitude list" is another frequent reminder. "Do not constantly focus on the bad things of your past or your uncertain future, but rather look at what can be accomplished today."

All of you, the Friends of Freedom's Door, are at the top of our gratitude list. We have been restricted in so many ways such as coming together for our biannual fundraising dinners, or visits at our home with volunteers and mentors, or weekly connections at church or other gathering places. Yet we have found other ways to connect. We have found ways to reach out and be a part of one another's lives as best we can. Certainly, all of you, our donors and volunteers, have been extremely generous to us over this past year. You have contributed by sending in regular donations, by contributing to our "Gold for Good" and "Coffee Club" programs (check them out on our web page) by dropping off clothing, linens and gifts of many kinds, by attending our annual carwash

fundraiser, by donating food and items from your place of business and by offering volunteer services in abundance. The list goes on and on; and without you and all these loving gifts of generosity, we could not survive.

Each week we receive more phone calls from men who are living on the streets or suffering in their addiction and mental health issues and they need help. They are living in fear and without hope. They have hit rock bottom, but with trepidation and courage they reach out seeking someone who may offer a helping hand and a new start. Currently we have over 30 men on our wait list who are seeking our assistance (and yes, seeking your assistance). We also have 64 men who have been living with us and participating in a very extensive and professional recovery program during this past year.

Each person who comes to us is treated as an individual. Our talented staff contribute their best to determine the specific needs and challenges of each person. We also connect our residents to professionals in the community who can help them find solutions to their individual health issues. We offer a holistic approach to finding solutions in the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual areas of the life of each and every one. There are no quick fix solutions, and we, therefore, offer long-term residency with varied and abundant programs of healing and life skills training to enable each person to have an opportunity to be the best that he can be.

We, the volunteer Directors of Freedom's Door, feel honoured to be a part of this work. We are given the privilege of witnessing the miracle of lives being transformed each day at our homes as men are healed. We witness each person move out of lives that were filled with chaos and into a place of calm, peace and hope. It is in this place where the traumas of their earlier life are reconciled, and the pain is reduced. A new realization comes into focus for our men, now aware that they can move forward to a life filled with many positive possibilities.

It is your generous offerings that make all of this come to fruition. We are so grateful to you, the Friends of Freedom's Door. You offer hope, healing and wholeness to those suffering from addictions and mental health issues.

Finally, brothers and sisters, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honor, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all of these things... (Philippians 4:8)

Sincerely and in service,

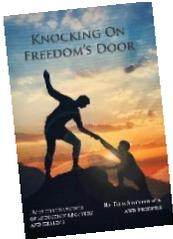
The Directors

Bob Adams • George Arambasich
Helmut Hubert • Glen Jackson
Mel Newth • Tom Smithwick

Knocking On Freedom's Door

We have published a new book: *Knocking On Freedom's Door*. This is not your typical book about addictions. It is filled with revealing truths and a path to new hope and healing! *Knocking On Freedom's Door* is the story of one family affected by addiction and then it moves on to stories written by those who know addictions well including residents, staff and volunteers who work at Freedom's Door. It also tells the history of Freedom's Door.

Every family is affected by addictions and mental health challenges, either through family members or friends. In this book you may find new information, new answers and real hope for your loved ones and your community.



This book was written by Tom Smithwick and friends. You may purchase this book from the office at Freedom's Door, Loaves & Fishes Book & Church Supply, Mosaic Books, and Kennedy's Parable. Proceeds go to Freedom's Door \$20 ea.

Grandma's Gratitude

I am so grateful that my grandson found Freedom's Door. He was in heavy addiction and I was so afraid that he would die on the streets. Our family did an intervention and he agreed to seek help. But where could he go that was affordable? We found Freedom's Door online and he entered the program where everything was provided: safe housing, good food, and a full recovery program to meet all his needs.

He found friends and support. He got back his self worth and got an education. When times got rough, he could go back for more support which has been ongoing for years now. Freedom's Door is not like an institution. It is like a family that is there for each person with love and concern for the needs of the individual. I am so thankful, and I really don't know how to fully express my gratitude. My grandson would be dead if it were not for Freedom's Door! Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

♥ Blessings, Margaret

Why I Support Freedom's Door

When I was asked why I have supported Freedom's Door for so many years, my first thought was, "Why doesn't everyone support Freedom's Door? Don't they know what an amazing place it is?"

It's funny how those of us who have known Freedom's Door from the beginning have come to simply expect the persistence of so many little miracles happening in the day-to-day life of the men who benefit from attending "The Door". Men suffering through addictions often feel like they are caught in a revolving door of hurt which leads them to the very same place they have been before. Such painful and damaging experiences, over time, lead to despair, destruction and often death, not only for the men who suffer such addictions but also people in their immediate circles. The stories of the many hundreds of men who have overcome the demons in their lives are too great to recount here. Hope lives!

In my own personal experience, I have hired men from "The Door" for various work projects and have come to see how each one of them has the desire to feel loved, appreciated, and healed of their past experiences. While every man's story is different, every story produces the same result: a broken man who yearns to escape his pain. As men progress through the program, they rediscover the value and purpose in their manhood, in their core, once the heavy weight of trauma they have been carrying on their shoulders is shed.

Today, there is a graduate of the program who runs a successful company for me as its general manager and lead technician. This is a testament to how much these men can achieve when given the tools and the unconditional love to back it up! If you want a real opportunity to change many lives for the better, support Freedom's Door. I guarantee, you will make a difference.

With much admiration,
Maurice Matte of Matte and Associates

Join Our Coffee Club

Why not start this spring season off by joining our new Coffee Club monthly giving fundraiser? "How?" you ask. It's easy! Just give up one store bought coffee per week

and put that money toward our Freedom's Door Coffee Club fundraiser (\$5 per week = \$260 per year). Call us at 250-717-0472 to connect with the administration office for details. And here is a bonus: A free copy of our new book *Knocking On Freedom's Door* will be given to the first 10 people who come to Freedom's Door with this newsletter and sign up for our Coffee Club. When the covid restrictions are lifted, feel free to drop in for a coffee on us.



You Can Help Make Miracles Happen

Please consider offering an automatic monthly donation

Donation: \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____
 \$ _____ per month

Giving Options:

- Cheque or Post-dated Cheques
- Cash
- Debit or Credit: Please call 250.717.0472
- Online: www.freedomsdoorkelowna.com
- Estate Planning: Consider including a charitable donation to Freedom's Door in your will
- Property: A gift of appreciated property is highly valuable and generous, and includes contributions such as shares and stock, mutual funds and real estate. Special tax considerations can be available for these types of gifts. Contact us for more details.



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All donations are tax-deductible

Resurrection Recovery Resource Society
Charitable BN/Registration # 86503 7758 RR 0001