

### A Message from the Directors

"This is the day that the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

We are in the season of Thanksgiving and we are so grateful for the many blessings that we have received over the past year, and in fact, over the past 19 years. Our anniversary was on September 1.

As we look back over these many years we are astounded by the generosity that has been directed to our ministry at Freedom's Door. So many hundreds of men have come for and received healing from their traumas and addictions. Those with mental health issues have received proper diagnoses and direction for a better future. Many men have chosen to pursue a higher education and/or new and better employment opportunities. And family reconciliations are an abundant blessing and give reason to rejoice and be glad.

All of this occurs as a result of the ongoing generosity of so many individuals, businesses, churches and organizations. So many diverse people are focusing on this problem in our City, which is, of course, a problem across our whole Country. It has become a shining example of what we can accomplish for the benefit of those in need. So many people are giving, without a desire to be applauded, but rather simply to be a part of the solution.

One business man recently gave us a major gift towards the purchase of a new home to house the homeless. He simply stated that he had confidence that all of his money would be going to the designated purpose as it is volunteers and in-house staff who are raising the funds. There is no paid fundraiser who will get a percentage of the donations. That was so important to him and to us! We are so grateful to our staff, volunteers, and our donors.

As we advised you in previous newsletters, we made an application for a grant from B.C. Housing to build an affordable apartment building on Valley Road in Kelowna. Unfortunately, we were not approved for the grant, but this did not stop us in our efforts to provide more housing. Our goal has always been to meet the needs of those who come to us seeking healing and housing. We have a long waiting list at all times. We, therefore, continued our search for an appropriate multi-family housing opportunity that would fit our budget, and we succeeded.

We put in an offer on a four-plex which is located on Borden Avenue, just three blocks from our other seven homes. This building is in great shape and contains two 3-bedroom units and two 2-bedroom units. The price is acceptable and will allow us to achieve a mortgage that can be covered by the affordable payments received from our residents who will be graduates of our Freedom's Door program.

To achieve this affordability factor we are seeking donations towards the down payment. Directed donations, big or small, will be gratefully received and applied to this purchase, thereby reducing the size of the mortgage. If you wish to contribute to this endeavor mark your cheque "property purchase". You may also contact us to process an automatic debit or a credit card donation (250-717-0472) or go to our website and click the "donation" icon. All donations are tax deductible.

We have every reason to be thankful for the many blessings listed above, but our most abundant gratitude comes from witnessing, daily, the miracles of healing that occur at Freedom's Door.



Recovery from addictions, homelessness and mental health issues is absolutely possible and occurring through our programs. We have included the story of Adam in this newsletter, as just one example of many who are

helped by your generosity. Find more stories by purchasing our book entitled "Knocking On Freedom's Door". This book was published to give a voice to those who have suffered but who have bravely sought healing and opportunities for a new life, employment and reconciliation. Go to our website to find details.

So, to our hard working staff, our many volunteers and our generous "Friends of Freedom's Door" we say thank you for all that you do to change lives, bring healing and transform our communities. "Oh Canada, our home and native land" is a better place because of you.

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gifts."  
2 Corinthians 9:15

Blessings and thanksgiving to all of you,

The Directors

George Arambasich • Helmut Hubert  
Glen Jackson • Chris Matte • Mel Newth  
Sandy Shier • Tom Smithwick

### Addiction and Grace

A quote from *Addiction and Grace-Love and Spirituality in the Healing of Addiction*  
by Dr. Gerald G. May, Psychiatrist

Grace itself cannot be possessed; it is eternally free, and like the Spirit that gives it, it blows where it will. We can seek it and try to be open to it, but we cannot control it. Similarly, grace seeks us but will not control us. Saint Augustine once said that God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them. If our hands are too full, they are full of the things to which we are addicted. And not only our hands, but also our hearts, minds and attention are clogged with addiction. Our addictions fill up the spaces within us, the spaces where grace might flow

### A Graduate's Story

Adam is a 39-year-old man who has graduated from the Freedom's Door program and who regularly comes to our homes to be a part of something good and wholesome.

Adam's use of alcohol began at age 14, and by 16 he was a full time alcoholic. He then moved on to marijuana and then cocaine. He quit school at a young age and began working, mostly in the kitchens of bars, which suited his chosen lifestyle. His addiction brought about many job losses and housing moves.

At age 35, he had lost it all and was living on the streets, mostly doing drugs and alcohol...alone. His high anxiety prevented him from being with others, so isolation was his remedy.

While living in a tent in mid-winter, well below freezing, he woke to frostbitten hands and toes. He realized that he was going to die without a major change. He went to the Gospel Mission but could not go in due to the large number of people and activities on Leon Avenue. He chose to go back to the West Side and was standing at a bus stop. A lady came up to him and said, "Sir, you need help!" and directed him to the West Kelowna Shelter. When he got there, he realized that the shelter was at Emmanuel Church. The lady, his "Guardian Angel", whom he had met earlier, was there. She guided him to the help he needed. He stayed there on and off for a year. Then one day he woke up from an alcoholic coma, in the hospital. After Adam's detox program, the hospital staff referred him to Freedom's Door. This was in 2017.

He completed the "90-Day Program" and then moved into the "Next steps Program". Peter Lees became his mentor and guided him into acquiring a birth certificate and driver's license. He was led into completing his high school diploma. He then applied for and was granted access into the Electrical Engineering Technology Diploma program at Okanagan College. A volunteer at Freedom's Door anonymously donated \$1,000 to pay for Adam's tuition. Adam has since repaid this gift and these funds are now being used to benefit other Freedom's Door residents who seek a higher education.



Adam is now living independently with a sober friend, and Adam graduated with his diploma in the spring of 2021. He achieved academic honors and is on the Dean's List. He is now attending UBC Okanagan in the Electrical Engineering Department seeking a degree. He was given a scholarship and bursaries to continue his education. Adam will be working at a high-level engineering job in a few short years. He has been sober for almost four years and lives successfully, one day at a time. He is full of

gratitude to Freedom's Door and the Friends of Freedom's Door, as well as the Emmanuel Church. Whenever we see him at Freedom's Door, he has a smile on his face and he says, "Life is good!"

Many other residents of Freedom's Door have also completed their high school matriculation and have gone on to higher levels of education and employment. We applaud their hard work and perseverance!

### Congratulations!

The Freedom's Door softball team came up as the winner of its division in the Narcotics Anonymous Softball Tournament in August 2021. We are proud of their teamwork and athletic abilities.



Another winning event also took place in August. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Freedom's Door Car Wash. The major sponsors, Mission Super Wash and Matte & Associates, financial advisors, led the charge for a very successful event which exceeded all prior car wash fundraisers! Our thanks goes out all the sponsors and participants

### 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](http://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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