



Volunteer

HOMELESSNESS AND STUDENTS

SFU Student Vigil

Dozens of Simon Fraser University students learned one of life's tough lessons the hard way on an evening in March as rain washed down on their 24-hour vigil to highlight youth homelessness.

The students raised more than \$6,000 for the benefit of Covenant House, the Vancouver charity that has housed, fed and counselled more than 14,000 homeless young people over the past 13 years.

Students at Yale

The stories of Connecticut's disadvantaged are being told through the Elm City Echo, which recently released its first edition. With the help of Yale University student volunteers, the newspaper is written by the homeless for their local community.

Business students

For a 7th year, business students from universities across Canada are spending five days living on the street. Their self-imposed homelessness is part of a nationwide campaign to raise awareness and funds for homeless youth.

Carleton University Students

Four Carleton University students hope to raise \$10,000 for youth homelessness as they spend the week sleeping on the street. The business students aren't allowed to shower and are panhandling for food and money for five days and five nights, ending Friday.

The group has sleeping bags and a bright orange tarp overhead, on a sidewalk outside the Carleton University Centre.

A fourth-year student, said Monday said he's surprised by how many passersby have ignored them.

In Australia

The Rudd Government is facing pressure to boost income support for tertiary students, as Victoria's most distinguished institution - Melbourne University - reveals that hundreds of its students are homeless due to rising living costs.

The head of the Government's higher education review, Denise Bradley, has signalled she will urge an overhaul of schemes such as Youth Allowance and Austudy, amid complaints that they are either too hard to qualify for, or insufficient to live on.

She revealed the push as the vice-chancellor of Melbourne University, Glyn Davis, said 440 students were in effect homeless, "hot-bedding" with relatives or friends because they could not afford their own residence.

Spring break not Miami Beach, but....

Each year the Tucker Foundation at Dartmouth University provides the opportunity for students to spend their Spring Break as part of a service-learning trip, known as Alternative Spring Break trips. Trips are student organized and run, and most of the funding for each trip comes from a campus-wide fundraising effort that occurs during the winter term.

This group of 12 Dartmouth students:

- Will travel to Washington, D.C. to help combat hunger and homelessness.
- Work in a food bank.
- Volunteer time at a local homeless shelter.
- Explore issues of poverty first-hand.
- Meet with others who work full-time on the issues that surround hunger and homelessness.

Volunteer Absences

A friendly reminder that Antoinette appreciates knowing when you are going to be away, particularly for an extended period of time. And if you haven't already let her know, please take a moment to do so. Much appreciated!

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Volunteer Appreciation

Our Place staff took some time during National Volunteer Week (April 11 to 15) to say a thank-you to all of our volunteers for the service you provide to our family. We each wore buttons with a simple but heartfelt message: "Our Place Volunteers: Where would we be without you?"

Plans are underway for a more formal appreciation event. Last year's dessert and coffee night — which was catered by Cook's Day Off and supported by our guest speaker, Ruth Simkin — is proving to be a tough act to follow. This year we are looking at doing something a little bit different. A summer picnic in one of our local parks perhaps...? Invitations will be sent to all current volunteers in the days ahead. So please keep your eyes on your mailboxes, eh?

Easter Dinner

Our Place hosted an Easter Dinner for our family on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 19. Turkey with all of the trimmings was served, along with apple pie. There was also hot chocolate and Easter eggs aplenty.

Our Tuesday dining room volunteers were joined by a diverse and enthusiastic group of community volunteers. All pitched in & contributed to what was without question a seamless & smooth event. A huge thank-you to you all!