What is being done to help?

Most of us pass by someone in need every day. Someone who needs food, shelter, or clothing. The number of people who need assistance can be quite overwhelming, but ADRA Canada is assisting community centres across Canada to help deal with this widespread problem.

As Canadians, many of us are proud of our large and prosperous cities like Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. These cities have become cultural epicentres for numerous groups of people and sources of great wealth for those who have been able to capitalize off of the business opportunities these large urban centres provide.

However, amongst these prospering economies and flourishing cultural arenas there often exists staggering amounts of poverty. Many people are left behind while other parts of the population accumulate vast amounts of wealth. As recent studies show, Canada’s urban areas are facing a rise in challenges such as homelessness, drug abuse, unaffordable rent, single parent families and similar social challenges. ADRA Canada’s Inner City Program aims to address some of the root causes of poverty in urban settings across Canada, as well as meeting real day-to-day needs of those caught in the cycle of poverty within our own urban areas.

WHAT’S INSIDE:
- Helping those plagued by poverty in Canada: ADRA funded community service projects
- Malawi: Dramatic increase in food production decreases incidence of malnutrition
- UPDATE from Cambodia: First steps towards a tobacco control law
- World AIDS Day December 1st! (see back of insert)
In accordance with the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), Cambodia has drafted a tobacco control law which will be passed through the national assembly. On August 27, ADRA Cambodia, the World Health Organization, and the National Center for Health Promotion met with other partners for a Dissemination Workshop of the Research Results on Policy Support of Tobacco Control by Religious Leaders in Phnom Penh. The two chief Buddhist monks in Cambodia presided over the workshop to show their support of the government in moving forward the national tobacco control law as was expressed through the research finding for the vast majority of religious leaders.

Deputy Prime Minister Sok An assigned his representative, His Excellency Seng Limneou, to open the workshop confirming the government’s support. He expressed his concerns about both alcohol and tobacco ruining lives. He added that cigarettes are legal commercial products, which is why much care is needed in establishing the tobacco control law. He stated that the government has requested the Ministry of Health to double check the law to make sure when the law is passed there will be no legal problems from the tobacco industry.

“Today, through TV, radio, advertising and concert the cigarette companies are using media to convince the people to smoke more and more,” stated Limneou. “Even though the cigarette companies themselves know every clear that the cigarettes will negatively affect health, they still keep sending the wrong message to our people... The FCTC was established to address the many diseases caused by cigarette smoke [and] was ratified in Cambodia to promote and protect public health for all people. At the moment, the draft of tobacco control law is within the Health ministry... Therefore, to contribute to building our country, to strengthen economics, to reduce poverty and to protect public health, today, on behalf of the Council of Ministers I do promise that I will push this law and will submit the tobacco control law to the national assembly as soon as we can. Once again I wish to express my appreciation to ADRA Cambodia, the non-governmental organization who has been and is working very hard to help the Cambodian people to stop smoking cigarettes.”

To demonstrate this support, the two chief monks in Cambodia joined the workshop. To close the workshop, a supreme monk, Tep Vong, urged the government to work with ADRA and all the Tobacco Control partners to curb importation and use of tobacco products due to their harmfulness.

“This workshop was sponsored by International Development Research Center funded through the South-East Asia Tobacco Control Alliance.
Over the past year we have provided support for relief and development services in over a hundred community centres across Canada!

Relief services involve food, furniture and clothing banks, while development services involve activities like skills training and tutoring. Here are some examples of these projects:

The Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank provides services to the Halifax Regional Municipality.

With the motto of “Reaching into the Community in Service and Love” a team of committed volunteers serves those in need.

Volunteers work towards helping the families have a more positive attitude by demonstrating to them acts of sharing and caring. Parker Street’s services include the distribution of essentials, such as food, furniture and household items, and educational classes, on job preparedness, job assistance, emergency funding, and mentoring. The objective is to assist individuals dependent upon the food bank by helping to provide them with the necessary skills to confidently enter the workforce.

Another one of our flourishing programs is the Central Alberta Community Services program, which provides for the basic needs of the homeless in the city of Red Deer, Alberta.

Learn more and see footage of these and other projects in our INNER CITY DVD! A copy is being sent to every SDA Church, but if you would like your own contact us for a FREE copy (within Canada).

British Columbia: Soup kitchen volunteers demonstrate true kindness and generosity

Getting something for nothing is a difficult concept for many people in today’s society to grasp. Many are suspicious when they receive things for free; wondering if there is a catch or what the providers of these gifts expect in return.

Peggy Corbett, who helps to run the Quesnel Soup Kitchen and Community Cooking School in British Columbia, encounters many doubtful beneficiaries in her work.

Each week she helps to provide 40-60 people with a bowl of thick, hearty soup, a sandwich with a protein filling, 100% fruit juice to children and water or coffee to adults. This soup kitchen has been running successfully for over 10 years and a grant from ADRA Canada this year was an added boost to help the project continue.

Peggy recently wrote to us and said “Several times a year we have the chance to reply to questions about why we do this work. We reply that we require and expect nothing in return... it is the right thing to do. Most of the people we help are suspicious of our motives...”

By continuing to serve those in need, Peggy and her fellow volunteers are showing these beneficiaries the true meaning of generosity and self-less giving: Lending a helping hand with no strings attached and no expectations.

Peggy is just one example of many self-less and kind volunteers who donate their time and energy to improving the health and quality of life of Canadians disadvantaged by poverty.
Malawi: Dramatic increase in food production decreases incidence of malnutrition in Kalumba

“...in order to buy maize and save my family from death due to hunger...”
Alikanjelo Manyika, of Chalendera Village in Kalumba area, recalls.

Alikanjelo Manyika is a happy man in Kalumba area after having a healthy and bountiful maize crop this growing season, enabling him to support his six children. At the age of 40, he has never experienced this amount of ‘green’ before in his maize garden. He received 10 kgs of maize seed and other farm inputs from ADRA Malawi, and he was also included in the agriculture training that ADRA Malawi organized at the beginning of the farming season. The knowledge from this training improved his farming practices and, in turn, the maize crop grew taller, thicker and greener, each stalk proudly dangling three big and healthy cobs.

This year, Manyika has harvested 12 bags of maize seed, each weighing 90kgs. The average harvest in the previous years was 6 bags of 90 kgs each. He has increased the yield by 100%! His children are no longer going to school on an empty stomach as was the case in the previous years and, consequently, their performance at school has improved tremendously.

Wilfred’s Story: Wilfred Butawo. At the age of 37, thanks to training programs funded by ADRA Canada, he has changed the way he approaches farming. Consequently, his quality of life has drastically improved. “I owe it all to ADRA. The physical and emotional support that was rendered to me by ADRA Malawi staff has made me a better person and fully independent!”

Wilfred is one of the Kalumba community members who participated in agriculture training and has benefited greatly from the knowledge he gained. “Before this training by ADRA, I used to harvest not more than 8 bags of maize, each weighing 50 kgs. But now with the knowledge of new techniques of agriculture, I have for the first time managed to yield three times as much maize than before from the same size of land. This year I used a better variety of maize, applied composite manure as a base dressing for fertilizers, and used sasakawa planting method, the results: 23 bags of maize yielded!” Boasts Butawo.

Cambodia:
Buddhist monks and religious leaders are an influential social group in Cambodia.

93% to 97% of religious leaders surveyed support the government to take action on increasing the size of health warnings on cigarettes including pictorial warnings, increasing taxes and banning all forms of tobacco advertising.

100% support a government law to ban the use of tobacco in pagodas.