

Working to Solve Homelessness:

Maple Ridge Community Outreach Workers



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The two Outreach Workers working with the Alouette Home Start Society in Maple Ridge know most of the people who are homeless in their community by name. These outreach workers seek out people who are homeless wherever they are – on the street or in the bush – and do their best to make a connection with each person they find.

They act as a bridge between people who are homeless and the broader community. This community includes bylaw officers, the RCMP, the local Salvation Army emergency shelter, the Iron Horse Youth Safe House, mental health services, addictions services, health services, the food bank and local employment services.

A special goal of the outreach workers is to link people who are recently homeless with the support services they need to get off the street before they become entrenched in street life. They also look for ways to prevent people from becoming homeless who are at risk of losing their homes because of special needs, addictions or mental illness.

Because of their close connection to people living on the street, these outreach workers are very effective helping to educate the broader public about what is happening on the street, and in dispelling myths and misinformation about homelessness.

The outreach worker program began in April 2005 with federal funds. These funds are continuing to December 31, 2007.

Source: <http://www.alouettehomestart.com/programs.html>

Homelessness, together we can solve it.

Visit: stophomelessness.ca

