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Bissell Centre
Where hope finds help. celebrating
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YOUR INVOLVEMENT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Join us for Bissell Centre's 99th AGM!

Thursday, April 22, 2010
4:30 – 5:00 PM, Reception to Follow
Art Gallery of Alberta
2 Sir Winston Churchill Square

Space is limited. RSVP by Wednesday, April 14 to:
Sherry Schonbeck
sschonbeck@bissellcentre.org
780.423.2285 ext. 126

Bissellebration of the Century

A Fantastic Gala Dinner and Auction!

Saturday, May 8, 2010
6:00 PM Cocktail Reception, 7 PM Dinner
Grande Ballroom, Delta Edmonton South
4404 Gateway Boulevard

This is the event of the year! Celebrate our 100 years with us in one evening of fine food, exciting entertainment, fabulous auctions and an incredible mission. Individual event tickets are \$125.

For more event information, contact Nathan at nmison@bissellcentre.org or 423.2285 ext. 158.

For sponsorship information, contact Leigh at ltaggart@bissellcentre.org or 780.423.2285 ext. 123.

To volunteer, contact Linda at lyoussouf@bissellcentre.org or 780.423.2285 ext. 134.

Homeless Connect

Free onsite services and referrals for our neighbours experiencing homelessness

Sunday, May 9, 2010
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Shaw Conference Centre

With the assistance of many community organizations and volunteers, Homeless Connect offers free access to: full dental services, health services, library services, foot care, haircuts, immunizations, birth control, laundry, housing information, employment & training services, pre-natal services and more. For more information, visit www.homelessconnect.ca.

Community Block Party

A day-long party for our community!

Saturday, July 10, 2010
Stay tuned for additional details.

We welcome everyone of all ages to participate in Bissell Centre's 1st Community Block Party! Event will include games, food and entertainment.

BISSELL BITS

Bissell Elder Honoured with ROOPH Award

In February, our own Ed Lavallee was honored with a ROOPH Award for Outstanding Service for the Aboriginal Community. Ed is the Aboriginal Elder at Bissell, working with community members to reconnect with their culture. The annual ROOPH Awards, hosted by Homeward Trust, recognizes those individuals and organizations that work on affordable housing and homelessness issues in our city. Congratulations Ed!



Pictured above L - R: City Councillor Karen Leibovici, Bissell Centre Elder Ed Lavallee, Homeward Trust Executive Director Susan McGee

Something New for You!

In celebration of our Centennial Anniversary, we have launched a new website. Be sure to visit us at www.bissellcentre.org, and check out all the ways you can join us in celebrating 100 years of service.

Living Our Vision and Mission

With your help, Bissell Centre provides services to individuals and families living in poverty.

Vision

Neighbour helping neighbour to find wholeness in greater Edmonton.

Mission

People with the least access to resources will have increased power to better determine and achieve their goals.

Centennial Sponsors

Bissell Centre is privileged to have two wonderful organizations on board as Centennial Sponsors for our entire celebratory year. The Government of Canada through Canadian Heritage and CTV have stepped up to support the various events and campaigns for the year. Thanks to you both for your incredible generosity!



"No one can go it alone. Cooperation is what has enabled humans to survive and thrive. History is often simplified to winners and losers, missing the richness of the untold stories. It is these stories of relationships that remind us of the companionship that we all need being part of a community."

Shelley Williams, Bissell Centre CEO/Executive Director

Bissell News

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Bissell Centre

10527-96 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5H 2H6
P. 780.423.2285
F. 780.429.7908

Thrift Shoppe & Sorting Centre

8818-118 Avenue
Edmonton, Ab T5B 0T4
P. 780.471.6644

Store Hours

Mon-Sat 9am-6pm
Sun 10am-4pm

Drop-Off Hours

Mon-Sat until 4pm
Sun until 3:30pm

www.bissellcentre.org

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE IN EDMONTON Together Offering Hope & Help for a Century!



fellow human beings. Our work has always been grounded in relationships even as early as 1910 when Bissell was known as All People's Mission.

One thing that our history teaches us is that people are incredibly resilient. We have seen this over the last 100 years. We have experienced things that speak to the capacity of the human spirit. There are times when it seems that all is hopeless. But even in unbearable situations there is a seed of something. Some call it resilience; some call it fortitude, or courage, endurance, tenacity, or strength. At Bissell, we call it hope.

To mark 100 years, we have launched a fresh new logo and tagline. Our new logo has the seed of hope in the centre. It represents a connected path; a journey where one can start anywhere and end anywhere. The tagline **Where Hope Finds Help** acknowledges that everyone has a seed of hope within, which is sometimes buried by homelessness, hunger, addictions, mental illness, or poverty. Bissell helps uncover that seed so people can reconnect with their hopes and dreams.

It is a momentous, significant achievement for a social service agency to "survive and thrive" for 100 years. Over the 100 years the need has not diminished. Looking forward, our hope is one of prosperity for all. And, we need community to help create a world of prosperity.

Imagine arriving in Edmonton in 1910 from Eastern Poland or Southern Russia, unable to speak English, penniless, and alone. Or as a Japanese Canadian during World War II, uprooted from your home in BC, and looking for a safe haven. Or gathering as a member of the Indian Association of Alberta, when it was illegal for Aboriginal people to meet and organize.

All of these stories make up Bissell Centre's 100 year history! Since our beginning Bissell Centre has stood as a symbol of loving concern for our



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HISTORY IN THE MAKING WHAT A KICK-OFF!



Bissell Centre kicked-off its 100th Anniversary with a celebration at City Hall on February 10th. Over 250 of our friends and supporters heard Asani, an Aboriginal women's trio sing a memorable version of "O Canada" in French, Cree and English. We were honoured to have greetings brought from the three levels of government and the United Church of Canada. Speakers included Federal MP Peter Goldring; the Honourable Yvonne Fritz, Minister of Children and Youth Services; Mayor Mandel; and Lynn Maki of the United Church. Bissell's Board of Governors Chair, Michele Markham, spoke to the incredible history of Bissell Centre, and Shelley Williams discussed how Bissell works to be a place where hope finds help. Mayor Mandel generously declared February 10th "Bissell Day"!

The highlight of the event was a large and beautiful cake with 10 smaller cakes each with a picture of Bissell history. All throughout the celebration and great fellowship, we were serenaded by the talent of pianist Mitch Spratt. This was truly a festive celebration, and we are grateful to have shared this day with so many supporters!

Pictured above: Large celebration cake from Kick-Off
Pictured at right: Michele Markham and Shelley Williams accepting Mayor Mandel's Proclamation for Bissell Centre

History Timeline

1910	Reverend Pike started a Methodist mission in Edmonton
1920	Fresh Air camps began operation at Moonlight Bay
1935	T.E. Bissell left a bequest to United Church Outreach Ministries in Western Canada
1936	T.E. Bissell Memorial Institute opened
1941	Bissell Centre became a founding member of Community Chest, the predecessor of United Way
1946	Aboriginal leaders met at Bissell to plan their march on Parliament Hill
1959	Bissell Economy Store opened
1962	Transient men's shelter opened at the Bissell annex
1972	Operation Friendship established; child care opened
1977	Bissell became a society with the Society's Act of Alberta
1989	Bissell moved to its current location in the East building
1991	Casual Labour program began
2005	Building started on Bissell West
2007	New dining and recreation halls completed at Moonlight Bay Centre
2009	Bissell was honoured with an Aboriginal Eagle Staff
2010	Bissell Centre's 100th year of service in Edmonton

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A WELCOME HOME



Throughout their lives, Andy and Ernestine have never lived on the streets, but they have been close to it and they have lived in dire environments. Growing up in a rural Métis colony, Ernestine and her family had a house, but little else. Food was always scarce; plumbing and heat were non-existent; abuse was rampant. As young kids, Ernestine and her siblings made their own bread, carried in water and chopped wood. For Andy, his upbringing was not as rural, but he did endure poverty, abuse and multiple foster homes.

Andy and Ernestine began their relationship 12 years ago here in Edmonton. The pair suffered through their poverty and past abuses together, and they found the use of drugs as their coping mechanism. Any leftover money they had was spent on nursing their addictions.

Eight years ago, Ernestine and Andy welcomed Angel, their daughter, into the world. While continuing to suffer through their drug abuses, they were always able to feed and clothe Angel and also keep her in school. However, their drug use became so rampant that nearly two years ago, Ernestine sent Angel back to the community where she is from to be cared for by her sister. Ernestine and Andy used this time to get sober. It took a few tries and a lot of hard work, but they succeeded. Andy has been sober for nearly two years, and Ernestine for almost one and a half.

This past winter, Ernestine rejoined her daughter,

and they moved with Andy into a trailer in Paddle Prairie. Again, they were without adequate heat and living in a condemned space. Andy and Ernestine needed to get up every hour throughout the night to check the make-shift heat source in the trailer. The family stayed strong, knowing that they could get through this situation. In late February, Andy travelled to Edmonton searching for a job and a better place to live. Andy has health problems, which prevented him from finding stable employment and thus money for a home.

Andy made his way to Bissell to get help. His family's situation fit the criteria for the Homeless to Homes program, and they moved into their 2-bedroom west end apartment the first week of March. Angel has begun her new school in Grade 2. She went for a free shopping spree at the Bissell Community Closet before her first day so she would have some newer fitting clothes, which was a fun experience for her. Andy is now seeing a doctor and improving his health, hoping to work again once he is better. And of course, this beautiful family is enjoying lots of time together and nesting in their new home.

About Homeless to Homes (H2H)

H2H is the newest program of Bissell Centre, working with individuals and families struggling with homelessness to find safe and permanent housing. Each new H2H client works with Housing Outreach to obtain anything needed for renting an apartment, such as identification and income supports. Then the hunt for an apartment begins. Support is provided with moving into and furnishing the new home, as well as security deposits, utilities setup, groceries and more. After move in, the client receives Follow-Up Supports for a minimum of one year, ensuring that the H2H client is successfully connecting to community leagues and neighborhood resources, and that the client is not struggling with issues of isolation and loneliness. We are proud to welcome this program to Bissell Centre!

Homeless to Homes is funded by Homeward Trust.

Pictured above: Ernestine and Angel

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SO MANY WAYS FOR YOU TO SUPPORT PEOPLE IN NEED IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Your Life Made Easier



Employment Services, you are providing valuable work to men and women who have very few employment options.

Fundraising Has Never Been So Fun

Often individuals, companies, church and school groups contact us to let us know they're throwing a fundraiser to benefit Bissell Centre. We refer to this as a "3rd Party Event." Events that have been held for Bissell Centre in the past include car-washes, book sales, and golf tournaments. These 3rd Party Events - no matter how small or large - help to support Bissell Centre programs, and the funds raised go a long way. Here are a couple of bigger 3rd Party Events coming our way this summer:

Over the Top Fashion Swap

May 29th at The Winspear Centre
www.Overthetopswap.com

Joffrey Lupul & Friends Charity Golf Classic

August 26th at The Blackhawk Golf Club
www.jofflupulcharitygolf.com/

If you'd like more information about planning and hosting a 3rd Party Event, please contact Nathan at nmison@bissellcentre.org or 780.423.2285 ext. 158.

Remember Us in Your Spring Cleaning!

If you are moving, downsizing, or just in the mood to clean out your closet and cupboards, remember Bissell Centre.

We are in need of gently used household items (cups, glasses, plates, bowls, cutlery, pots, etc.) from the kitchen; towels and bedding from the cupboards; women's, men's and children's clothes from the closets. Bissell Centre Thrift Shoppe houses the Sorting Centre, where staff sort and disperse all donations. We ask that donors contributing new and gently used goods take their items to this location: 8818 - 118 Avenue.

Please call 780.471.6644 or visit our website for store hours. The Thrift Shoppe is an integral program with all net revenues going directly to the many programs of Bissell Centre. Thank you!

Prospero's* Circle

Join us - become a Second Century Champion of Bissell Centre's Prospero's Circle!

**Prospero: v. derived from the Latin word prospere, meaning to bring success, prosperity, happiness*

First Century Champions, current planned giving donors, have provided essential philanthropic support that has enabled Bissell Centre to ensure a better life for individuals, children and families in the Edmonton community living in poverty. Prospero's Circle was established to recognize and thank these visionary individuals. Second Century Champions will ensure necessary funds are available to continue the support of vital programs and services we offer.

Planned gifts include bequests in wills or living trusts; life income plans such as gift annuities and charitable trusts; and beneficiary designations of retirement plans, brokerage accounts, and life insurance policies.

If you are considering making a planned gift to Bissell Centre please contact Leigh at ltaggart@bissellcentre.org or 780.423.5722 ext. 123.