



# Lotus Light Charity Society

# 200, 357 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6A 1P3

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## Lotus Light Serves Hope in the Face of Poverty

Lotus Light's food recovery program volunteers helped deliver **7,000 lbs** of fresh yoghurt, cheese, pasta, baked goods and other grocery items to serve low-income families, inner city students and the homeless in Metro Vancouver over the past 2 weeks.

**"This is not all about just providing food – we do this to shine a light of hope and caring.** Metro Vancouver is seeing more individuals and families struggling to feed and house themselves on marginal incomes and finding even jam and peanut butter to be expensive," said Master Lian Tzi, President of Lotus Light Charity Society.



*Photo 1: Chef Kevin & Volunteer Eddie from Belkin House's shelter kitchen receiving 2 pallets of yoghurt.*

*Photo 2: - Alvin Wong, Belkin House's Director of Community Development, with their award-winning humanitarian patron, Mrs. Gia Tran who has been donating bottle refunds to the Belkin House on a daily basis for over 15 years.*

Nearly 2,000 lbs representing nearly 5,000 servings of fresh assorted yoghurt with toppings were delivered to **Belkin House (Salvation Army)** in downtown Vancouver. Belkin is the largest supportive housing project in BC for the homeless, and those at risk of homelessness and low-income families. The shelter facility serves 3 meals per day.

The other 2,000 lbs of yoghurt was well received by 844 low-income families in **Richmond**, where 1 in 4 children in the community live in poverty according to the *BC Child Poverty Report Card*.



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Over 500 students received blueberry yoghurt at **Thunderbird Elementary**, a Tier 1 inner city eastside school in Vancouver. The school is located across the street from the largest social housing project in BC, where many of the students live. A lot of students are from working poor families, single parent households, immigrant and refugee families. Some students arrive at school disadvantaged because of poverty.

Nearly 300 students participating in **Strathcona Community Centre's Backpack Program** also enjoyed the blueberry yoghurt. The backpack program provides snacks and meals to fill the hunger gap of the weekend when children are not supported by the school's food programs they depend on during the week.



Over 2,600 lbs of pasta, baked goods and grocery items were also distributed amongst various charities benefiting low-income families in Richmond, Burnaby, and the vulnerable community members of Downtown Eastside.

Thanks to the generosity of Lotus Light's donors, this large food donation of over \$66,000 was made possible to benefit a large spectrum of our Metro Vancouver community.



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## OUR MISSION

For over 25 years, Lotus Light Charity Society (Vancouver) has been providing courage and dignity to those in need in our local community. Lotus Light Charity aims to promote a stronger community from its motto “through caring and learning, we help to build a better tomorrow” and relies on financial and in-kind donations from individuals and corporate sponsors to support the charity’s multi-faceted services and programs (social assistance, education, medical assistance, and cultural awareness).

Lotus Light Charity Society’s **Annual Winter Charity Drive** has provided sleeping bags, emergency food and winter care packages to various homeless shelters and non-profit groups in our local community. For the 2018-19 winter season, a total of 1,500 emergency care packages (toques, scarves, gloves, food, hygiene care items and socks) and new sleeping bags were distributed through our various community partners. Lotus Light Charity Society’s year-round *Hot Meal for Homeless Program* also distributes free hot lunches at Oppenheimer Park to serve the 200+ homeless and impoverished residents of the Downtown Eastside Vancouver community every month. Every July, *Lotus Light Community Caring Day* is a free community festival event held at Oppenheimer Park to bring together individuals, businesses, neighborhood groups and vital community service volunteer groups to raise awareness, provide resources and support to the poorest members of our local Downtown Eastside community (low-income families, men, women, children, seniors and homeless).

We welcome your generous support and donations throughout the year to bring hope to those struggling for a brighter future in our local community.

*Lotus Light Charity Society charitable registration # (BN 14110-4893-RR0001)*