



Lotus Light Charity Society

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

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Press Release
August 17, 2021

2021 Lotus Light Community Caring Day Event for Vancouver DTES Community and Homeless

Lotus Light Charity Society (Vancouver) will host its fifth annual “**Lotus Light Community Caring Day**” on September 11th, 2021 at Lotus Light Activity Hall at 347 E Hastings St. The “**Lotus Light Charity Community Caring Day**” was officially proclaimed by the Deputy Mayor of Vancouver, City Councillor Tim Stevenson in 2017 in recognition of Lotus Light’s excellent community service. **Lotus Light Community Caring Day** aims to unite individuals, business, neighborhoods, and other charitable organizations to raise awareness, provide recourses, and support to the most vulnerable members of the Downtown Eastside community. Lotus Light Charity Society and its corporate sponsors and community partners will distribute food and personal care items at 1:00 PM to the area’s most vulnerable low-income families, seniors, women, children, youth and homeless. Over the past years, each Lotus Light Community Care day event has gathered over 1,000 people to participate the community care event.

PUBLIC DONATIONS WELCOME! The Lotus Light Charity Society (Vancouver) welcomes first and foremost your financial donations to strengthen our continued operations to deliver essential services and programs to our community’s neediest members. We are always grateful for in-kind donations in assisting the work we do.

Though learning and caring we help to build a better tomorrow. Lotus Light Charity Society is a registered charity: **Charitable Registration** BN 14110-4893-RR0001. Tax receipts are available for donations of \$20 or more. We gratefully accept cash donations by cheques payable to: **Lotus Light Charity Society** or by Visa or Mastercard, or by online donation through our website: www.vllcs.org/en/donation/.

For more information or to find out how you can contribute to the “2021 Lotus Light Community Caring Day” project, please contact us at:

LOTUS LIGHT CHARITY SOCIETY

#200-357 Hastings Street East

Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1P3

Tel: 604-685-5548 Fax: 604-685-5598

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Donations of any amount are welcomed!

Through caring and learning, We help to build a better tomorrow!
<http://vllcs.org/>



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Lotus Light Charity Society's Mission

The Lotus Light Charity Society 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).

Every summer, *Lotus Light Community Caring Day* brings together individuals, businesses, neighborhood groups, and community service volunteer groups to raise awareness and provide resources and support to the most vulnerable members of our local Downtown Eastside community. On July 8th, 2017 at Oppenheimer Park located in the heart of the Downtown Eastside's Strathcona Chinatown neighborhood, the first annual "*Lotus Light Community Caring Day*" was officially proclaimed by the Deputy Mayor of Vancouver, City Councillor Tim Stevenson to recognize Lotus Light Charity Society's excellent community service in the local community amongst a gathering crowd of over 1,000 people.

For the past 28 years, the Lotus Light Charity Society (LLCS) has proudly served Vancouver's most vulnerable residents, including low-income families, children, seniors, and the homeless. The LLCS *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. A total of 50,000 winter care items valued at over \$100,000 were distributed in the winter of 2020 to community partners. Since 2015, the LLCS's *Hot Meals for the Homeless Program* has distributed free hot lunches every month at Oppenheimer Park to serve over 300 homeless and impoverished residents of the Downtown Eastside; more than 10,000 low income residents have enjoyed free meals since the program started. The LLCS *Scholarship Program* has been providing scholarships annually to support over 250 financially disadvantaged students who have achieved both academic excellence and exceptional community service. The LLCS *Annual Rice Donation Program* has contributed over 340,000 pounds of rice to the Greater Vancouver Food Bank and other community service organizations, helping more than 100,000 beneficiary families over the last 25 years. Additionally, the LLCS has been holding *free ESL Classes* to help new immigrants assimilate into English-speaking society while also providing *free Tax Return Filing Services* for low-income families.

In the spring of 2020, as the Covid-19 pandemic hit the community hard, society was forced to put life on hold to prevent the spread of the virus, forcing government offices, community centers, restaurants, businesses, and schools to close. This left many citizens disproportionately affected, forcing many community members to live in fear of unemployment, compounded by food insecurity. Laid off workers, isolated seniors, new immigrants and refugees, the homeless, and low-income families were in greater need of aid than before. Keeping these communities in mind, the LLCS launched the *Covid-19 Community Caring Drive Program*. Since April 2020, our organization has been partnering with numerous community service organizations to deliver and distribute over 350,000 pounds of food to help those disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, helping over 10,000 families. Since then, numerous initiatives under the *LLCS Covid-19 Community Caring Drive* followed, some of which are highlighted below:

- *Sanitizer, Mask, and PPE Drive (July 2020-)*: In times where Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) was highly demanded, the LLCS worked with partner organizations to donate 50,000+ PPE items, 45,000+ masks, including 15,000+ masks hand-sewn by volunteers, and 250,000+ pounds of hand

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sanitizer to hospital workers, community policing centers, charities, and low-income and vulnerable residents in need.

- *Hamper Program for Inner-City Schools (July 2020-)*: Since July 2020, LLCS volunteers have donated 1400+ hampers filled with fresh produce, fruit, non-perishable food items, breakfast items, personal hygiene items, soaps, detergents, and stationary to help students from low income families.
- *Food Recovery Hamper Program (May 2020-)*: Since May 2020, the LLCS has collaborated with local food recovery networks, food producers, and distributors to deliver 10,000+ pounds of much needed food to inner-city children, various Indigenous groups, single mothers, community kitchens serving the homeless, and to low-income families and seniors living in social housing. The organization was also able to support the *Strathcona Emergency Food Hub* through this initiative, which helped provide some food security to all vulnerable people located in the V6A postal code, most of which encompasses Vancouver's Downtown East-Side (DTES) neighbourhood.
- *Emergency Food Hamper Drive (April-July 2020)*: Working alongside produce wholesalers and grocery sponsors in Vancouver, the LLCS directly distributed over 60,000 pounds of fresh produce and vegetables, in addition to 25,000 pounds of non-perishable food items to those directly impacted by the pandemic. The LLCS has also distributed enough food for 64,000 meals from six public distribution events through this program.
- *Covid-19 Emergency Soup Kitchen (July 2020-)*: From July 2020 to April 2021, the LLCS prepared 10,000+ free and hot meals for camped homeless, isolated seniors, and other vulnerable populations living in the DTES. On notable holidays such as Christmas and Chinese New Year, LLCS volunteers continued to prepare and deliver specially made feasts to families in need and to homeless populations across metro-Vancouver
- *Lotus Light Care for Single Parent Families and Students from Low-Income Families Program (Dec 2020-March 2021)*: Helped over 150 single parent and low-income families by distributing grocery gift cards valued at over \$7,600.

As society slowly overcomes the lingering effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Lotus Light Charity Society will continue to work diligently alongside generous corporate sponsors, partner community service organizations, and volunteers to help disadvantaged members of our community overcome adversity to help build a more equitable society for all.

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