

Highlights of Lotus Light Charity Society Winter Charity Drive 2023

Through Caring and Learning We Help to Build a Better Tomorrow

Lotus Light Charity Society annual *Winter Charity Drive 2023* celebrated its 28th anniversary of serving the local community with a distribution of winter care packages, emergency backpacks and various food items to help the impoverished families and homeless in our community.

With the financial supports from the City of Vancouver 2023 Homelessness Service Grant, generous corporate sponsors: NOVAGOLD, Donald's Market, LEON JUDAH BLACKMORE FOUNDATION, the in-kind donation supports of many corporate sponsors, and volunteers from community services and supports organizations, Lotus Light Charity Society has completed the following:

- **Annual Winter Charity Drive Distribution:** Lotus Light has donated 50,000 gift items to the following partner organizations: Homeless Outreach of Vancouver Police Department, BC Ambulance Services, City of Vancouver Temporary Emergency Shelters, Richmond Outreach Team of Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction BC, and to the students assistance program of two inner-city schools. The financial support received enabled us to acquire emergency backpacks and care packages, each filled with winter apparel, a fleece blanket, personal hygiene products, toiletries, facemasks, and a simple rain poncho; these were distributed to partner organizations and to the local homeless during our emergency weather response street-side distribution in the weeks of Arctic outflow in December 2023 – February 2024. A total of 1,075 winter care packages and 276 emergency backpacks with winter apparel, fleece blankets, rain ponchos, personal hygiene products, and toiletries were distributed to partner organizations and to the homeless during the front door distribution on event day. More than 500 street homeless and low income seniors in the Vancouver Downtown Eastside community came to the front door distribution event and received winter apparel, food items like banana bread loaves, canned foods, rice, carrots, potatoes, instant noodles, etc., and were served free lunch sandwiches, hot Starbucks coffee, fruit juice drink, and snacks.
- **LLCS Extreme Weather Response:** From December 2023 to February 2024, Lotus Light EWR team has made multiple emergency distributions of care packages, backpacks, hot coffee, sandwiches, pastries, snacks, and fruits to the local unhoused during the weeks of extreme weather and Arctic outflow. The program has benefitted more than 300 people experiencing homelessness in the DTES community.
- **Homelessness Awareness:** Lotus Light has created and posted Winter Charity Drive/Homelessness Awareness posts on the Lotus Light web site <http://vllcs.org>, and shared to social media to raise public awareness to the homeless issue. Lotus Light hosted their Winter Charity Drive presentation with many community leaders in attendance to strengthen the importance of the homelessness issue in our city.
- **Rice Donation to Community Food Bank:** In the *Winter Charity Drive 2023* presentation, Lotus Light's annual rice donation program has donated 5,000 pounds of rice to City Reach Care Society to help the low-income families in the community.
- **Donation to Inner-city Schools:** In the *Winter Charity Drive 2023* presentation, Lotus Light's Children Assistance Plan has also donated \$2,000 gift cards, over 2,000 pounds of dry foods, toys and household items to two inner-city schools.

The Lotus Light charity programs rely on financial and in-kind donations from generous individuals and corporate supporters. This year's Winter Charity Drive campaign continues our annual distribution of emergency care packages in partnership with local shelters and family service agencies throughout the Lower Mainland. We sincerely appreciate the financial supports from City of Vancouver 2023 Homelessness Service Grant, NOVAGOLD, Donald's Market, and Leon Judah Blackmore, the in-kind donations from corporate sponsors: Real Canadian Superstore (Grandview Hwy, Metro Town, North Vancouver), Big K Clothing, Discovery Organic, Produce Row, Trumps Foods, St. Germain Bakery, Western Rice Mills, Save-On-Foods (Main Street, Cambie Street), Terra Breads Bakery, Canada Six Fortune, Starbucks (Montreux-2nd & Yukon, Terminal & Begg), Ba Le Bakery, Golden Seafood Restaurant, Pink Pearl Restaurant, Phnom Penh Restaurant, Prince Seafood Restaurant, and thanks to all volunteers and community partner organizations, Collingwood Community Policing Centre and youth volunteer group Project Hastings for their supports. To learn more about the charitable activities of Lotus Light Charity Society, please visit our web site, <http://www.vllcs.org>.



Winter Charity Drive 2023 Presentation



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Winter Charity Drive 2023 Distribution



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Winter Charity Drive 2023 Distribution



Winter Charity Drive 2023 Distribution



Winter Charity Drive 2023 Distribution Preparation



Winter Charity Drive 2023 Volunteer Group



Winter Charity Drive 2023 Volunteer Group



Deliver Winter Charity Drive 2023 Care Packages



Deliver Winter Charity Drive 2023 Care Packages to City Shelter Program



Deliver Winter Charity Drive 2023 Care Packages to City Shelter Program: Warm Centre



Deliver Winter Charity Drive 2023 Care Packages to City Shelter Program: Warm Centre



Winter Charity Drive Extreme Weather Response



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