

Highlights of Lotus Light Charity Society Winter Charity Drive 2024

Through Caring and Learning We Help to Build a Better Tomorrow

Lotus Light Charity Society annual *Winter Charity Drive 2024* celebrated its 29th anniversary of serving the local community with a distribution of winter care packages and various food items to help the impoverished families and homeless in our community.

With the support from the **City of Vancouver 2024 Homelessness Service Grant**, generous corporate sponsors **NOVAGOLD**, **Ecclesiastical Insurance**, **LEON JUDAH BLACKMORE FOUNDATION**, 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 from NOVAGOLD enabled the acquirement of 160 coats and 168 emergency backpacks, 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 2024 – February 2025. A total of 1,050 winter care packages with winter apparel, 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, Starbucks hot coffee, fruit juice drink, and snacks. Lotus Light also donated 10,000 lbs of rice to the Greater Vancouver Food Bank and \$2,000 worth of gift cards to two inner-city schools to help low-income families in the community.
- **LLCS Extreme Weather Response** From December 2024 to February 2025, Lotus Light EWR team has made multiple emergency distributions of care packages, winter coats, emergency backpacks, hot tea, pop drinks, 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.

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 2024 Homelessness Service Grant**, **NOVAGOLD**,

Ecclesiastical Insurance, and Leon Judah Blackmore Foundation, and the in-kind donations from corporate sponsors Canda Six Fortune, Real Canadian Superstore (Grandview Hwy, Marine Drive & Surrey), Trumps Foods, Ocean Brands, Western Rice Mills, Save-On-Foods (Cambie Street, Main Street, Kingsgate), Saint Germain Bakery, Van-Whole Produce, Discovery Organics, Safeway (King Edward, Davie Street), Buy-Low Foods Fraser St., Nesters Market (Woodwards, Yaletown), COSTCO Downtown, Fresh Street Market Vancouver House, Rexall Tinseltown, Wholesale Club, Terra Breads Bakery, Starbucks (2nd & Yukon Street, Terminal & Begg), Ba Le Bakery, Golden Seafood Restaurant, Pink Pearl Restaurant, Prince Seafood Restaurant and New Town Bakery, 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 2024 Care Packages



Winter Charity Drive 2024 Presentation



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Donate Care Items to Homeless Outreach Team



Donation Rice to Greater Vancouver Food Bank



VIPs joined Winter Charity Drive distribution



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Winter Charity Drive 2024 Volunteer Group



Young Volunteers in Winter Charity Drive 2024



Donation from Corporate Partner



Care Items Delivered to a City Temporary Shelter



Winter Charity Drive Extreme Weather Response



Winter Charity Drive Extreme Weather Response



Winter Charity Drive Extreme Weather Response



Winter Charity Drive Extreme Weather Response