



St. Andrew's United Church

2318 St Johns Street, Port Moody, B.C. V3H 2A9

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Minister: (Rev) Tim Lissimore

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For Immediate Release: Help Wanted!

Most people are aware by now that five local churches are hosting the Tri-Cities Cold, Wet Weather Mat Program that will offer a warm, dry place to stay and some nourishing meals during the most inclement months of the year for up to 30 homeless people in our community. The host churches, including St Andrew's United Church in Port Moody, are really hoping the public see this as an opportunity to come together as a community and that this is not just a church thing.

"St. Andrew's accepted this role as something of a leap of faith," says Rev. Tim Lissimore of the Port Moody church. "We do not have within our own congregation the volunteer resources to provide all the set up, clean up, and food preparation that will be required of us. But then again, we believe that it was never God's plan that we do this ministry alone. This is a human issue, not just a church issue. You don't have to go to church to care. Indeed, too often those of us going to church don't show our care enough outside these walls. This is an opportunity for all of us to care together."

"We have the warm, dry space that is otherwise vacant during the night," said Lissimore, "now the community has a place to offer their care to those who are too often not cared for."

The vision that has guided St. Andrew's is one of drawing the Port Moody community together in this caring work. To this end, they and the other churches remaining to open this season (Calvary Baptist Church and Eagle Ridge Bible Fellowship, both in Coquitlam), are appealing to the public for help.

St Andrew's must still have their re-zoning approved, with the next hurdle being a Public Hearing on January 22nd. "We want to encourage all Port Moody residents who support this interim program to come to the meeting or in another concrete way make their views known to the Council Members. Those who have concerns have more reason to make their voices heard and have done so," said Lissimore. "We have been blessed by a lot of support expressed to us but most who support it tend to just assume that it will go through. This is probably a safe assumption, but it matters very deeply as to how the Council members and the rest of the community will receive this if the support is silent in the political arena."

"Most of all," says Lissimore, "we are in need of volunteers." This is something that the two Coquitlam churches who are left to run this season are also looking for. "Every night we will need a set-up crew of 3-5 people from 9:30 pm to 11:00 pm to help set-up, register and feed

those who will use the shelter, and clean up the kitchen for the morning. In addition, we need people to help cook an evening meal, and others to prepare a quick breakfast and a sandwich or muffin for inclusion in lunch bags already provided. Donations to help cover the cost of food for up to 30 people a day would also be appreciated.”

He is hoping that enough meals and cash can be donated that local food bank resources, while pledged to the project, can remain for those who still have shelter but are in other need of help.

“Finally, we will need a clean-up crew of 5-7 people to serve breakfast and hand out lunch bags, thoroughly clean the kitchen, sanitize and stack the sleeping mats, clean and sanitize the bathrooms, and mop the bathroom, hall, and kitchen floors.”

“Each church is in charge of coordinating their own volunteer teams,” Lissimore explains. “Our vision here at St Andrew’s is to build teams for each day of the week, and that these individuals would commit to a shift each week that we are open.” It is also possible that several individuals would like to volunteer together. The churches will also need people who can be called on for backup in case someone is away or ill.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer or donate are encouraged to call the church or churches individually. The dates they will host the Cold, Wet Weather Mat Program and their contact information are in the table below.

Calvary Baptist Church 1160 Regan Ave., Coquitlam	Jan 24 - Feb 15		604-936-8242
St Andrew’s United Church 2318 St Johns St., Port Moody	Feb 15 - Mar 8	cwwmat@sauc.ca	604-939-5513
Eagle Ridge Bible Fellowship 1160 Landsdowne Dr., Coquitlam	Mar 8 - Mar 31	www.erbf.com (about us/ministry opportunities page)	604-464-2416

Any questions related to this press release may be directed to:

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