

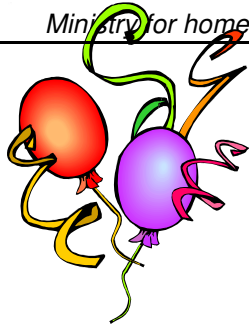


Ministry for homeless children and youths.

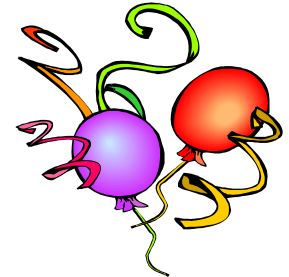


The Shoebox Place always needs food for homeless teens. Check StreetHope.org for info or call 885-3178.

StreetHope.org
is a faith ministry of the
Church Army in Canada.
All tax deductible donations
should be sent to:
The Church Army
105 Mountain View Rd.
Saint John, NB E2J 5B5



Thank God for 20 years on the street!



**StreetHope.org invites you
to join us in thanking God
for our ministry to homeless children and youth.**

Church Army Capt. Rick Sandberg will talk about how God has touched young lives during two decades of street ministry.

And **National Director Capt. Bruce Smith** will briefly highlight other unique ways Church Army is ministering across Canada.

**Please join us for
Tea, Treats, Talk and Thanksgiving
Sunday, Oct. 23, 3:00 to 5:00 PM
@ St. Philip's Anglican Church
2928 Eastdowne Rd, Victoria.**

Every person is too precious to be left behind!

I was startled when I heard someone rummaging under the back step of the Shoebox Place. The door was open so when I turned I quickly saw an older homeless person stooping under our small porch to stash some belongings.

"Is it okay to leave this here for a few hours because I don't want to take it all over town," the man anxiously explained. He looked worn out by his hard life, I couldn't say no.

He seemed to know the Shoebox Place is for homeless teenagers because he began to talk about trying to help them too. **"I just want to protect them because there was nobody to help me when I was 14."**

Like so many of our homeless, he started young and couldn't find any alternative that worked for him. He reminded me of a few of the youngsters who depend on us for a little bit of help and a little bit of love. In particular, I thought of a 14-year-old I like to call "The Menace."

"The Menace" is a sweet young girl who says her family is drug involved and unsafe. Her social workers are offering her foster care closer to home, but she doesn't want to be anywhere near that area. "It's too messed up there," she says.

So with her quiet, 17-year-old boyfriend,

(Continued on page 2)

Precious...

(Continued from page 1)

she adopted Victoria as her home for a while.

Sleeping in a doorway one night, she awoke to discover a passerby attempting to touch her.

He ran off when he was discovered, but just as easily could have violently attacked her and her boyfriend. "It's scary sometimes," she says.

The Menace and her friend came everyday to the Shoebox Place where they got a good lunch and computer access to keep in touch with others. They also received love, understanding and the offer of help finding their way to better circumstances.

The thing that most warms my heart about The Menace (and most of the kids who visit us,) is that she quickly learned that we are eager to love her. **And we learned she (like most other scary looking kids) is eager to be loved.**

Standing on the back step, images flashed through my mind of so many of the teens who have adopted us over the last year. They would come almost daily, enjoy a break from the intensity of the street, and share some quiet moments with us.

They often comment about how important our shoebox hampers are. The boxes really help them get through the day. "They were a big help," a former streetkid recently noted when calling from Ontario.

She's staying at home with her child while her husband is holding down a good-paying job. There was a time she was much like The Menace -- homeless, innocent and pretty much lost in space. **Over time we helped her, her boyfriend and their baby -- always gently encouraging them to put their lives into Jesus' hands.** Both of them talked about praying for help, but only God knows where they stand with Him. For our part, we have done all that we can for them and all the others he has given us to love.

Now looking at the weary fellow in our backyard, **I saw a child who didn't have anyone "to help me when I was 14."** StreetHope wasn't around then, and I don't even know what town he lived in



Once on the street, these two are working and going to school. "We owe everything to you," she once said about StreetHope.

back then, but I offered him one of our very few Shoeboxes to help make up for something he missed out on -- a gift, anonymously prepared, filled with love and given in friendship.

The many people we meet through StreetHope have tremendous difficulties to overcome. Usually, these kids have already had access to the best help our communities offer, without apparent success. StreetHope offers to love and to help them find the things they need to achieve their personal goals. We provide counseling, practical assistance (depending upon financial resources), advocacy and referrals. **But the thing that matters most, is that we try to see them as God sees them -- too precious to lose even one.**

If you would like to learn more about us, we can be found on the web at StreetHope.org, or by calling Capt. Rick Sandberg at 885-3178.

StreetHope.org is a ministry of The Church Army in Canada, and is solely funded by donations.



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Just send an email with your address to newsletter@streethope.org and your next newsletter will be digital!