

Baby it's Cold Outside

Giving a hand up to those in need

"A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal."

~ Steve Maraboli



Essential Drive ~ May 2017

Our first-ever essential drive not only offered up 100 essential bags to vulnerable citizens in the Calgary area, it was an incredible evening of fellowship in building the bags.

We are honoured to have Chatters Salon Okotoks as our business partner in this event.

Our essential drive has now become part of our core event programs that will take place every May. The essentials consist of toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, and shampoo to name a few, and are gender specific.

As we are sure you can imagine, these bags are vital to individuals that are in-between places or simply do not have the luxury of everyday hygiene practices.

This May, we will be expanding on our drive and have exciting news to share about this event, so please follow us on Facebook to stay connected. In the meantime, if you have any items you would like to donate for this drive, please reach out to us at bcohelp@hotmail.com.

2018

May	Essential Drive
June	Clothing Drive
July	Towel & Bedding Drive
November	Clothing Drive
December	Christmas Feast



"We Rise in Lifting Others."
~ Robert Ingersoll

Clothing Those in Need

We conduct two formal clothing drives annually, which include Calgary, Okotoks, Foothills, and Lethbridge. In these drives, we had an incredible outpouring of support from the community and local businesses. Without the continuous support of our business partners, these drives simply would not offer the level of success they do.

2017 offered the opportunity for us to maintain a curbside pick-up option, which allowed for us to get those clothes to our partners and on the backs of those in need with greater speed and efficiency. This is the privilege we have as a non-profit charity: your donations go directly to those you intended to help out.

Let's also take a moment to talk about the folks on the front line, the true soldiers for the greater good in helping others! We are so humbled by and grateful to give a shout out to The Mustard Seed, The Drop-In Centre, The Lethbridge Shelter, The Pregnancy Care Centre and Streets Alive Mission. These organizations go above and beyond in the role of humanitarianism.

Final count for 2017...7600 pounds of clothing!



Our Business Partners

Ashcroft Master Builders Lethbridge
Kloth Bar Calgary
Chatters Okotoks
Fountain Tire Okotoks
Staples Okotoks
Motion Fitness Okotoks
Okotoks Decorating
Cha-Cha Johns Okotoks
Bone & Biscuit Okotoks
Image Hair Design Okotoks
Eagle Radio Okotoks
Pet Valu Okotoks
Lake View Inn Okotoks



Soap Making Event

It helps to have friends in kind-hearted places. Windy Point Soap opened their doors to us in November, and did we ever have fun!

With our BCO team and a wonderful group of volunteers not only did Michele of WPS teach us how to make soap, we made 508 bars of soap somewhere amidst all the laughter.

After four weeks of curing, we got together again to wrap them all with our personalized message before delivering them to our partners.

Spoiler Alert for 2018...we are repeating this and you'll want to be part of it!

Christmas Feast ~ 2017

Coming from humble beginnings, our first Christmas Feast event in 2016 served Christmas dinner to five families in the Foothills community. This year spiraled into a season of giving from our gracious donors.

This allowed for us to serve fourteen families, which breaks down to 85 people—26 of them being children under the age of twelve.

This event is so incredibly touching and humbling. When you have the opportunity to bring some magic to others at Christmas, it will—well, double your heart in size!

We are fortunate to have Eagle Radio be our voice in the community and they supported us greatly in this event in particular. We had the privilege of delivering Christmas dinners, the menus for which were created with each family, right down to Christmas traditions. We were humbled by their stories, and by their strength and perseverance.

The saying “everyone has a story” rang true here along with countless Christmas carols as we drove to homes and were met with faces of appreciation, smiles that welcomed us, and giddiness from children as they grabbed the bags anticipating there just might be something a little extra in those bags for them—they were right, there was. This event is quickly becoming one of our largest community events and we anticipate that in 2018 we will be able to offer a hand up to those in need in greater volumes.

We welcome you to join us next December and spread some joy to others!



Ready to spread some Christmas Magic.

September ~ 2017 The Month of Gratitude

September, without doubt, was a month of gratitude. We started our month with being awarded \$6,000.00 from the Norwex Group! We were so overwhelmed by this unexpected gift that will allow for BCO to fulfill many initiatives moving forward. Thank you, Norwex!



Each one of us can
make a difference.
Together we make
change.

Barbara Mikulski

meetville.com

We believe it is so important to thank those who support us along the way. September offered the opportunity to bring all of those folks together under one roof and applaud them for all they do in a Partner Appreciation Event. The event offered the talented John on guitar, an awards presentation to our partners, and the opportunity to bring all our partners together.

We are excited to take on 2018 and, as always, our hope is to go out of business! Until that thankful day, we hope our competition is strong and plentiful, as there are many who need a hand up.

We invite you to follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on our events and the events of our partners.

We are currently reviewing the need to issue quarterly newsletters and welcome your input. Please reach out to us at bcohelp@hotmail.com or message us on Facebook with your

feedback.

From all of us at BCO, thank you for your continual support!



A Note from the President

It takes many moving parts to allow us to do what we do at BCO in offering a hand up to those in need, from the initial steps and the desire to do what is right.

I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the gracious souls that support us in those steps. Whether you are a partner, donor, volunteer, or a BCO team member, none of this is possible without you. Thank you!

The constant burn in one's soul to care for our fellow man, to be genuine in one's heart to help see others through and understand the story behind the face...that, my friends, is what it is all about!

With love and gratitude,

Pamela Morgan