

Outreach Ministry Team 2021 Annual Report

The Outreach Committee of Cordova Bay United Church has a budget of \$5,000 per year. In 2021 many opportunities to make donations to worthy causes presented themselves. We selected the following:

1. In April, we heard that Grace United Church in Lax Kw'alaams burned to the ground. We donated \$500 to assist with the re-building of the church.
2. In May, we donated \$1,000 to Our Place, to help purchase food for the meals which are served to the street people.
3. In October, we donated \$600 towards the Le,Nonet Undergraduate Bursary, to go to an Indigenous student at the University of Victoria
4. Also in October, we donated \$500 to Our Place to help cover the cost of their Thanksgiving meals.
5. In December, we made the following donations:
 - \$250 to CFXS Santas Anonymous
 - \$250 to the Times Colonist Christmas Fund
 - \$1,400 to the Canadian Red Cross, to go towards helping alleviate the disastrous effects of the flooding in the Fraser Valley. This sum was matched by the BC government and the federal government.

These donations total \$4,500. A further \$500 has been donated to our Syrian family, as described below. Thus, we have used our full budget of \$5,000 this year.

Our Syrian refugee family have now been in Canada for nearly four years, and they continue to rent the same house on Lily Avenue that we found for them. Ayman, the father, works at food delivery, mostly for DoorDash but occasionally for Skip the Dishes as well. He is studying Level 3 English at the Intercultural Association. Unfortunately, Ayman was in an automobile accident several months ago, where another driver went through a red light and smashed into the passenger doors of Ayman's car. Our church carried out a special fundraiser to help the family through this difficult time, raising \$2900, and along with the final \$500 of the Outreach Committee budget, we were able to contribute \$3400 to provide needed assistance.

Nour, Ayman's wife, continues her studies of English at Camosun College, and she has now passed Level 7. This month, she will start Professional Technology Level 9 at Camosun, which is the last level for the English program there. Ghaeth, the eldest boy, is 15 years old, and is in Grade 9 at Reynolds High School. He is enrolled in the Reynolds soccer academy. Karam, the younger boy, is 10 years old and is in Grade 5 at Rogers Elementary. He was on the soccer team in the Lakehill league. Lauren, the youngest, is 9 years old, and is in Grade 4 at Rogers Elementary. She is making good progress in her subjects, and her language skills and accent are very good - she sometimes corrects her mother's English! Lauren continues to enjoy her Karate lessons.

On behalf of the family, Nour sends warm regards to all the members of our church!

The Outreach Committee is jointly chaired by Tom Pringle and John MacLeod, Members include Valerie Armstrong, Jennifer Hastings, Les and Edith Hudgins, Pat MacLeod, along with Bill Cantelon

and Nancy Walker. The Syrian Family Committee includes Tom Pringle, John and Pat MacLeod, Fay Melling, Carla Green, Julia Norman, Joe Bradley, and Moustafa Jammal, along with our two ministers.

Bill and Francelyn Bey, under the auspices of the Outreach Committee, coordinated the Our Place Angel Gift program once again. CBUC contributed 73 wrapped gifts, plus a few donations of money for purchasing gifts. We would like to thank Bill and Francelyn for the great job they do on this program!

Many thanks to all the committee members and others who have carried out the work of the Outreach Committee and the Syrian Family Committee this past year.

Respectfully submitted

John MacLeod and Tom Pringle