

## ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

Research conducted for the Provincial Ten Year Plan found that 50 per cent of homeless individuals have a history of substance abuse. The CDC continues to run alcohol and drug-free homes and offers a certified and proven addiction recovery program to all residents that require them. The CDC is about life change and moving men to self-reliance and develops plans in all areas of a resident's life.

The CDC continues to provide an alternative to homelessness or shelter living by providing a home for residents to work on their life goals and overcome any barriers to success.

## INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

For over five years the Calgary Dream Centre (CDC) has played a leadership role in addressing root causes of homelessness. The CDC continually customizes the services it provides and partners with outside agencies to ensure that its residents have access to everything they need to become leaders in the community.

To ensure residents succeed beyond their dreams, the intensive case management process begins with every client going through a workshop where they look at their life possibilities. Then clients meet one-on-one with a case manager who helps them articulate these goals and makes sure each goal is measurable and achievable. This occurs by breaking up their goals into small measurable pieces with target achievement dates and on-going follow up.

When a client comes to the CDC, they also select a discharge date. Case managers and counsellors help clients gain freedom from addictions and other issues negatively impacting their lives. They also facilitate financial stability by helping each client create a budget, become enrolled in further education if desired, update resumés, and contact previous employers or disability funding if applicable.

Before a client leaves the CDC, the case management team makes sure he has everything he needs to succeed. Addictions are dealt with. Finances are in place with clients in a secure job or receiving government support. Clients have a place to live and three months of money banked in case of emergency. Referrals with agencies, churches and peer support in the client's community are secured. Family connections and social connections are made.

## FOLLOW-UP

Case managers follow up each client for the first 90 days. Clients are encouraged to continue to connect to services and workshops at the CDC. Former residents often grow to volunteer and stay connected to the CDC.

### FOR GENERAL INFORMATION

Jim Moore, Executive Director, Tel: (403) 243-5598, Ext. 224; Cell: (403) 312-9923  
jmoore@calgarydreamcentre.com

### FOR MEDIA INFORMATION

Robyn Braley, Tel: (403) 280-1093; Cell: (403) 829-3340  
robyn@unimarkcreative.com

Radiothon info at [www.radiothonlive.com](http://www.radiothonlive.com)