



NOT A SHELTER

The Calgary Dream Centre (CDC) is not a shelter, but provides select programs that assist homeless men take that last step from street life to productive living. The focus is on hope, recovery, and transformation.

PRIMARY FOCUS

The CDC's focus is on helping men change harmful patterns, make positive lifestyle choices, acquire relevant daily living and employment skills, to dream big dreams, and to develop a life plan that will help them realize those dreams. Men are equipped with the physical, emotional, and spiritual skills needed for success.

Our Mission

The mission of the Calgary Dream Centre is to help people to find hope, recovery, and transformation. This is accomplished by engaging people in life management, career development, spiritual care, and reintegration into society as productive citizens.

REFERRALS

Men are referred to the Dream Centre by social service agencies, addictions centres, medical professionals, churches, the police, the judicial community, companies, friends, and family members.

QUALIFIERS

Residents must qualify. They must be clean and sober, pass a police check, and have no violent or sexual offences on their records. They must be willing to share accommodations and be serious about making a serious life change. A strict curfew is enforced between 11:00 pm and 6:00 am.

ZERO TOLERANCE

Residents are safe, clean, and loved. There is zero tolerance for booze, dope, gambling, pornography, and weapons. There are random room, pocket, and bag searches. There are high security cameras and secured access to all doors and elevators. The CDC is a tough love family, but a family atmosphere residents need.

STREAMING

Two streams include programs built around the needs of clients. For those who need intensive intervention and support, that is provided. A second stream accommodates those who need more basic levels of support are.

Mentoring by staff, volunteers, and residents who are being successful or have completely graduated is fundamental in CDC programs. A buddy system teams residents who hold each other accountable. Relationships are strengthened through recreational outings like attending concerts, professional sports events, and other community programs. .



- Key Program Elements. Based on client needs, non-coercive
- Balanced program model. Modular design and delivery.
- Safe, clean, shared accommodation
- Zero tolerance (See above)
- Multiple entry points
- Focus on transitioning, making change, moving in new directions.

RESIDENTIAL STREAM

The residential program stream has an emphasis on, Personal Life Management, Spiritual Foundations, Career Skills and Personal Life Development, and a mentored work place practicum. The program has a modular format and usually operates for a three month period with an option to move into the transitional stream on graduation.

TRANSITIONAL STREAM

The transitional housing stream is specifically designed for the “working poor.” Three meals per day, shared accommodation and access to DC programs are provided.

PAY IT FORWARD

Organized projects help residents acquire a sense of responsibility for the community. Projects range from helping single moms with home maintenance to helping seniors with odd jobs or cleaning up trash from neighborhoods or removing graffiti.

FACILITY DUTIES

Clients share kitchen and facility cleanup duties.

RESIDENT COSTS

Rates vary from no-cost to a minimal monthly charge based on the clients' ability to pay. The latter would include those in the transition stream who have a job. Some companies, churches, families, or other concerned sponsors underwrite these costs.

FAITH BASED

The CDC is a faith based organization. It accepts residents of different faiths including those with or no faith. Residents are encouraged to attend daily chapel and spiritual formation classes, but attendance is entirely voluntary. Residents are also encouraged to connect with a local church. The DC was founded by First Assembly Church and receives support from a wide variety of denominations, community groups, businesses, foundations, three levels of government, and private individuals.