



What is Networks Ministries?

Networks Ministries (NWM) is a community outreach of Bethel Pentecostal Church that aims to assist those individuals and families that are living in poverty and have limited or no ability to improve their situation. We began in November 2013 and have been going strong ever since.

Those we serve on our program come to us via referrals from outside agencies that have been involved with the clients. Using referrals as a screening tool allows us to identify those individuals and families who's need is genuine as well as which of our supports would be the most helpful.



Our Services include....

The Free Store (referral required)

We accept donations of gently used clothing, furniture and house hold items that are clean, damage and stain free.

Those on our program are allowed 10 items each month of their choosing. In situations where some one is starting over with nothing (i.e.



leaving and abusive relationship) we will give them everything that they will need to live in their home comfortably. Items could include sheets, towels, dishes, pots and pans and furniture.

The Healthy Pantry (food bank)

Those referred to our program have access to healthy food options. We stock eggs, milk, fresh vegetables as well as healthy soups and other foods. We also stock specialized food for those who have diet restrictions.



The Good Food Box Program

Through our partnership with the Dawson Creek Co-op we offer the Good Food Box program to our community. Any one can purchase a GFB.



The aim of this program is to assist those in the community that face some challenges in putting healthy food on their table. Boxes can be purchased for \$10 or \$20 and are made available on the first and third Thursday of each month. Boxes must be pre-ordered the week before.



Sponsored Good Food Boxes are given to some families referred to our program that

YOU CAN SPONSOR A FAMILY!!

You can sponsor a family for a year to receive the Good Food Box for a year for a donation of \$240. Your family will receive a box of fresh fruit and veggies twice each month. This is also an excellent class project for schools to consider doing.

face bigger challenges and cannot afford at all to purchase fresh produce. The sponsored boxes are given to these homes for free twice each month. For those who have difficulty being able to pick up their produce we deliver it to their front door. Each month we give out around 180 free boxes of produce.

The Living Room

We have a living room at Networks where friends always are. Many of those on our program drop in to be around other positive people who care and have their social needs met in a safe environment. They have the opportunity to make new friends and share their similar experiences.

Life Skill Building

We want to see everyone reaching their full potential. Programs like the Good Food Box and the Free Store as well as other projects provide good opportunities for people with special needs to volunteer and build their life skills in a safe and supportive environment. In some cases, there are government programs that will compensate them for their time increasing their financial independence.

Support Groups

Tuesdays at 7pm we offer a time to share about situations that you may be going through that are difficult. We offer a structured group setting that is safe and comfortable and of course is confidential. There is tremendous value in having an outlet to talk through issues and seek solutions. At the end of the evening we offer an opportunity to be prayed for (with your permission).

The Baby Kit Program

Several times a year a mom will come into the maternity ward to give birth but does not have the basic items needed for the even the first few days with her new little one. Usually this is do to financial restrictions and often no family support.

With funding made available through the South Peace Oilman's Association and the commitment of Dawson Creek Shoppers Drug Mart to offer us discounted products off the shelf, we are able to put together "Baby Kits".



The baby kits are important for a few reasons. First, it will immediately decrease the stress of "what is she going to do?", then it will give us an opportunity to tell her about our services so she will be able to continue to get the things that she needs for baby at no cost as well as healthy food. The clothes she receives will be appropriate for the time of year.

She can drop in for a free coffee and a visit with us and socialize with people who are excited to see her and her little one as well as get the support she needs.

Prescription Program

On occasion patients will need a few days of prescriptions to be covered while they are getting their funding in place. Hospital Social Workers work hard at assisting patients to work through the process of getting their funding set up.

Northern Health will cover 3 days however this is often not enough. Because we look to fill gaps in service, some times we are asked to help.

If the health condition is serious enough that the patient would be adversely affected we will step up. We work closely with the Northern Health social workers to determine the situations that would be appropriate for this program. We will only cover prescriptions that have been considered by the NH social workers first and as funds available.

Education

We believe in education! Through out the year we will be offering opportunities for education to the entire community! No referral needed.

We are partnering with Lake View Credit Union to offer courses on financial issues.

Everything from basic banking skills to managing credit.



As well we will be working with Karen Boos at Royal Lepage Realty to provide education for first time home buyers.



Other educational opportunities will developed over time and will be posted on the Networks Web Site. and can be viewed at _____

Education for groups.

We have put together a presentation for groups to teach about poverty in in our area and it causes. As well we tackle the realities of living on social assistance and disability and what barriers come with that.

The goal of this program is to build an understanding in our community that promotes empathy and understanding.

We encourage those who attend to consider doing some thing in response to what they have learned. Suggested projects are a food drive for either our food pantry or one of the other two food banks in the community, raise funds to sponsor a family (\$240/yr) for the Good Food Box for the year or to brainstorm a list of things I wouldn't want to be with out... and collect those items.. i.e. socks, underwear, shampoo or deodorant and then gather these items and donate them.

This all helps us to deliver those necessary items to our clients but also will remind people that it is better to give than to receive.

How are we funded?

We rely on financial donations from businesses, individuals and grants.

Charitable donation receipts are sent out in January.

Currently we support around 200 homes in the Dawson Creek area offering all of the above Programs.

Weekly we grocery shop to be sure that we have the what is needed in our pantry that has not been donated. We only have food available that is fresh and not over its expiry date.

A safe place.

No one wants to be in a position that they need to depend on food banks, free stores or hand outs. As we get to know each person who comes in we also learn their story. Every story includes a time of brokenness and every story includes the journey to find their way back. Each person is in a different place on that journey.

Often there is a lack of family support or there is no family at all in the picture leaving people to feel lonely and uncared for.

“when I was a child my parents struggled with my behaviours, when I was a young adult I was diagnosed me with a mental illness.

Join us on February 20,2016 for our annual community fund raising event, Coldest Night of the Year! You will get to experience what it is like to out on a be out on a cold Canadian evening. We encourage families, businesses, sports teams and groups to form teams, fundraise and walk with us. Show your support for the hungry, hurting and homeless in the community by joining us in February 20 2016 to form teams, walk and fundraise. We use this money to stock the pantry, cover the needs of the people and buy Good Food Boxes. This really is the community caring for the community.

