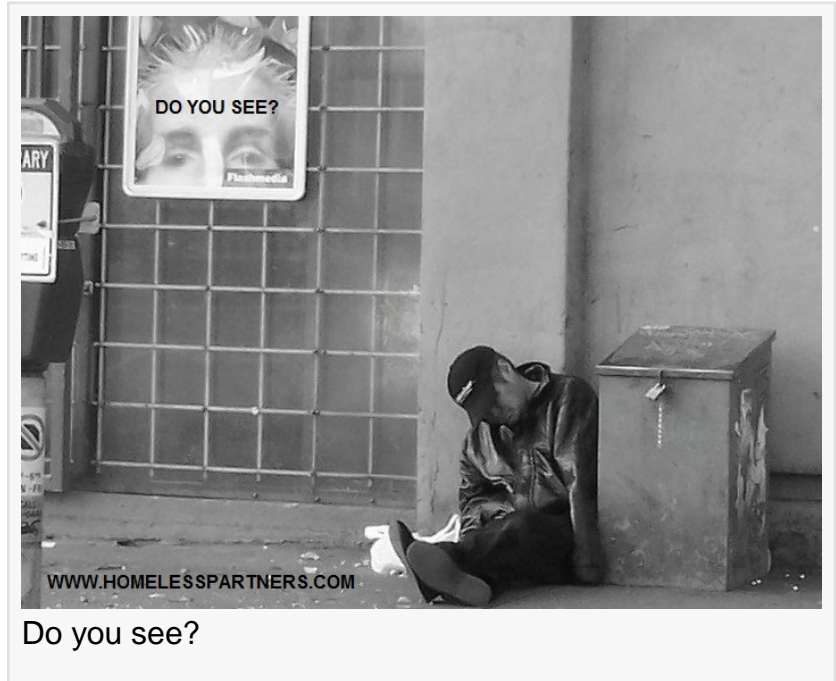


Stories and Wishlists from Homeless and Refugees

Mobilizing Victoria As A Resource

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, December 10, 2016 /EINPresswire.com/ -- This holiday season, people of [Victoria](#) can connect in a safe, meaningful way through two websites containing the personal stories and wishlists of the [homeless](#) and [refugees](#). This registered Canadian charity provides a structure available to residents of greater Victoria.

In Victoria, BC, the homeless staying in four shelters operated by the Cool Aid Society, are interviewed by volunteers. Then those stories and wishlists are posted on the website. Then community members read the stories, pledge gifts and deliver or mail them to the shelter or designated location.



The homeless are looking for items such as boots, coats, clothing, and bus tickets. The purposes of www.homelesspartners.com are to foster empathy and help the homeless feel encouraged when they receive a requested gift, or a caring message.

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*Co-founder, Daniel Keeran,
MSW*

Refugees are looking for employment leads, assistance to bring relatives to Canada from difficult conditions, also clothing and common household items, and a welcome to Victoria. Some of the stories shared include horrors of war such as a bomb falling on the breakfast table and a five-year old being shielded between the legs of his father running from bullets. The purpose of www.refugeepartners.com is to help refugees feel welcomed and included when they are able to connect and receive a personal gift from a member of the

Victoria community.

Homelesspartners.com was founded in 2005, and is now in ten cities: Regina, Salmon Arm, Vernon, Victoria, Winnipeg and five cities in the Lower Mainland Vancouver. This is the first year refugee stories and gifts have been posted.

This approach enables a unique personal connection, based on the value of empathy that helps fulfill

the meaning of being human. It mobilizes the community as a resource to touch the lives of those who feel ignored or separate from their neighbours. Co-founder Daniel Keeran says: "I think the best ways to integrate refugees are a warm welcome and to show kindness, caring, and generosity toward them."

Read the personal story of a homeless person at www.homelesspartners.com or a refugee at www.refugeepartners.com and pledge a gift, then deliver or mail your gift before December 22 from anywhere online (e.g. www.amazon.ca), using the story ID number as the person's name and the shelter or drop-off as the shipping address.

These are "everybody wins" programs practicing empathy and encouraging the homeless, the refugees, and the interviewers who collected their stories, as well as the donors who give a gift.

Keeran says: "Our approach is to harness the internet to create a structure that facilitates a safe and empathic connection with those in any trouble, such as the homeless and refugees, and in this way to mobilize the community of Victoria as a resource."

The founder organizers reside in Victoria and derive their values and beliefs and practices on the teachings of the best known refugee who fled from violence in the little town of Bethlehem where his family went to give him birth long ago.

Homelesspartners.com is a registered Canadian charity: 843548777RR0001

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