

The logo for NightShift Street Ministries, featuring the word "NIGHTSHIFT" in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a black rectangular background.

NIGHTSHIFT

Love. Hope. Purpose.



NightShift Street Ministries  
Annual Report: 2018

*'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'* - Matthew 25: 34-40





Hi there,

*Almost 15 years ago, in the middle of a blinding snowstorm, NightShift was born. As the storm raged, I was overcome with concern for people living on the streets of Surrey. I felt an unshakeable call to respond and began providing refuge and handing out sandwiches in a church basement.*

*Today, thousands of people have joined me. People like you who also feel that unshakable call to respond with compassion, community and care to those struggling with homelessness, addiction and poverty here in Surrey. Because of generous people like you, the NightShift team is here, 365 nights a year serving a hot meal and sharing unconditional love, hope and purpose.*

*As you read our very first Annual Report, I hope you catch a glimpse of what you've made possible by walking this journey with us. Whether you've been here since day one or are new to our community, your compassion and generosity are changing lives.*

*Thank you for being a part of this life-changing community.*

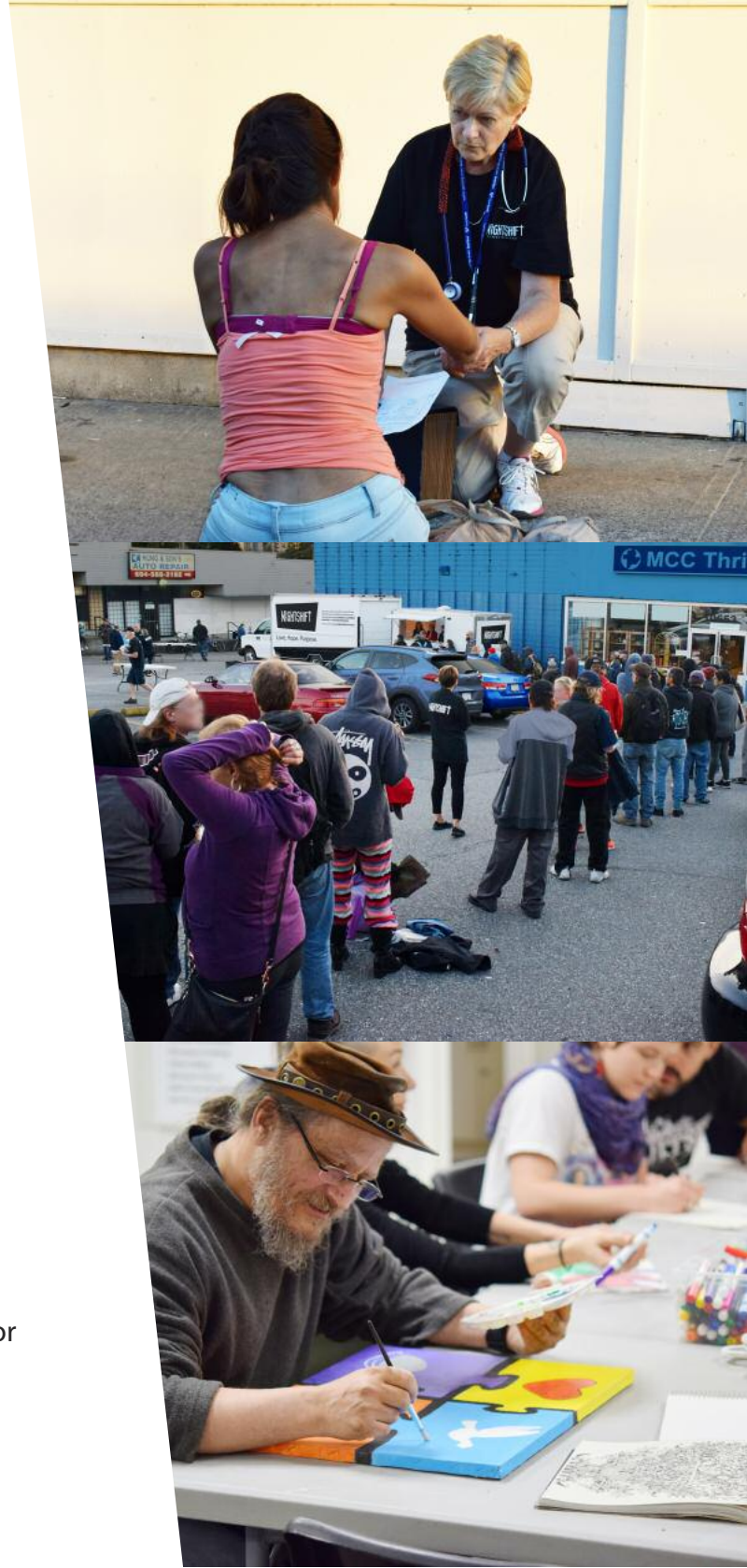
*With gratitude,*

*MA Connor*

MaryAnne Connor  
Founder and President

**NightShift Board  
of Directors**

Jeff Bontkes  
Petra Bontkes  
MaryAnne Connor  
Brad Hughes  
John Tilstra



# The Need

**There are many factors that contribute to homelessness.**

Barriers to affordable housing, lack of appropriate health care, discrimination and insufficient supports within the community are only part of the story. When people experience income and food insecurity, they are often also the victims of abuse or trauma, and typically struggle to manage a mental illness.

**Lack of compassionate and non-judgemental support in addressing these factors often leads to self-medication through addiction.**

Addiction has become particularly deadly in recent years. In 2018, the City of Surrey was in the top three townships experiencing the highest number of illicit drug overdoses, of which 80% were associated with fentanyl.

**Men and women who are caught in the cycle of poverty, homelessness and addiction in our community are extremely vulnerable.**

Their pain often goes unnoticed and their humanity rendered worthless. Research shows that social inclusion and social

**In Surrey,  
homelessness  
increased  
50% from  
2014-2017**

connectedness are integral to the work of ending homelessness. We know that offering comfort through community, and creating opportunities for connection and support, can help restore dignity and encourage someone in need on their journey to love, hope and purpose.

**At NightShift Street Ministries, we care for those who struggle in our community by building relationships and restoring lives through outreach, counselling, education and transitional housing.**

You are a critical part of this approach to offering love and compassion through a Christ-centered community. When you give your time, talent and treasure to serve others, you facilitate a breadth of NightShift programs that address the holistic needs of our friends in need.







*"Sometimes I feel like I don't belong anywhere. When you come to NightShift, you finally feel like there is a place to be, and you feel welcome. Every night someone walks around and asks if there are prayer requests, and they will pray over everybody. The volunteers are very helpful and always have a smile on their faces. It's really nice."*

*- Corrina, NightShift guest*

**We care for the holistic needs** of those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, 365 nights a year. The majority of our programs are volunteer-driven. We build relationships and restore lives through the following programs and services.



### **Nightly Outreach**

We reach out to the community every night of the year in Surrey, serving about 36,500 hot meals annually. In Langley, we serve a hot meal twice a week. After every meal, we gather for Prayer Circle, to lift up prayer requests from our volunteers and guests.



### **Clothing + Blankets**

We hand out clothing like jackets, shoes, socks, underwear, jeans and t-shirts as well as warm blankets on request. Last year we gave out 3,500 blankets to people living outside or in extreme poverty.



### **Care Bus**

Our Care Bus provides emergency nursing and crisis counselling twice a week. Professional nurses and counsellors volunteer their time to help those needing urgent care for their basic physical and mental health, as well as addiction challenges. We hosted 104 evenings of Care Bus last year.



### **Selah Extreme Weather Response Shelter for Women**

The shelter sleeps 15 women inside NightShift and is open on days when the weather drops below freezing or when there is extreme rainfall. We were open for 89 nights of safe shelter in the 2018/19 winter season.



### **Education Programs**

We offer opportunities for creative expression, learning, and growth to our street community in a welcoming environment through regular art classes, Bible studies and movie nights.



### **Health + Wellness Programs**

Care of physical well-being is essential to survival on the street. Our health programs focus on urgent, accessible care through monthly foot clinics and quarterly vision screenings.



### **The Care Centre**

The Care Centre provides affordable, and in many cases free, confidential counselling for people of all ages, backgrounds, financial statuses and spiritual beliefs.



### **Celebration Events**

Celebration is important to community building. We host special holiday meals at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter for our community in Surrey. We also treat the women in our community, many of whom face heart-breaking challenges, to Mother's Day and special Spa Day celebrations.



### **Taste of Heaven**

Taste of Heaven, our social enterprise, is a professional food truck that serves gourmet sausages in a bun, with all natural potato chips, and a hand-brewed soda at catered events and festivals. Every meal purchased supports NightShift's programs and services.

Because of people like you, we are here sharing unconditional love, hope and purpose to those in our community who are caught in the cycle of poverty, homelessness and addiction -- 365 nights a year.



# Heather's Story

**Heather has lived in Surrey most of her life.** Riding her bike through Whalley, there aren't many people she doesn't know.

Heather became a mother at a young age. When Heather's partner, the father of her children, left, she didn't know how to cope. "I was doing crystal meth," Heather says. "One day I phoned asking for help, they sent a social worker to my home. That day they took my kids, saying I was unfit."

Heather made the brave and gut-wrenching decision to adopt her children out. "I wanted them to have as normal a life as possible," she says. "I haven't seen them since 2001, when they were 1, 2 and 3 years old."

After losing her children, Heather's life took a devastating turn into addiction, instability and despair. To quell her loneliness, Heather began regularly attending the evening meal outreach at NightShift Street Ministries. Spending two years homeless on the streets of Surrey, the nutrition and safe community, as well as receiving warm clothes and blankets, were vital to her survival.

Heather now shares a small basement suite apartment in the Whalley neighbourhood, but she's still very much involved in the NightShift community. "I come to see the friends I made when I was homeless here," she explains.

Heather also attends NightShift's Tuesday night Art Class, where she can come inside, drink tea and paint the pictures of her dreams – mostly flowing rivers and majestic mountains. "When I quit school, I lost art. I didn't know I could paint, until I started Art Class," she says. "I love art."

While the roof over her head, her newfound friendships, and her art, help with the pain of missing her children, Heather's greatest hope is to be reunited with her children one day.

"I expect a possible rejection," she admits. "But even if I could know that they are well, then I would know it wasn't for nothing."

In the meantime, Heather continues to find unconditional love, hope and purpose at NightShift Street Ministries. She looks forward to the nightly prayer circle. "I like it when they ask me if I have any prayer requests," she says. "Volunteers pray for me all the time."

**Because of the generosity of people like you, NightShift continues to reach out to people like Heather, bringing love, friendship and community every night of the year.**





*"When I started serving and volunteering, I started hearing the stories about why people are down here. The physical, emotional, mental, sexual abuse they have endured, or their experience losing a loved one and the downward spiral from there... It really opened my eyes that these men and women are just like you and me. They want a friend: someone to look them in the eye, smile, and ask them how their day is going. They want to be loved."*

- Susan, Volunteer at NightShift for 15 Years





# Denis' Story

**"I met Denis the very first night that I came to Whalley 15 years ago,"** reflects Mac, NightShift's Founder and President. "He stayed at the shelter that night and remained an enduring presence for our community. He was a friend, a brother, and very much a community builder for the men and women we serve."

Week in and week out, Mac and the entire NightShift team got to know Denis, learning about his upbringing in Quebec, the loss of his wife, his struggles with alcohol and drug addiction, the loss of his son to the foster care system, and his transient move out west.

For years, Denis slept in a lean-to beside a dumpster behind NightShift. Every night he would show up in the parking lot to eat dinner, to pray, and to connect with the community.

"NightShift became Denis' West Coast family. It was a relationship built on mutual respect and love."

Over time, Denis took ownership and pride in his community at NightShift. He would regularly sweep the sidewalk, help with maintenance of the building, serve sandwiches, and join prayer circles. He would sit with volunteer groups and share a bit of his story and the realities of living on the street.

While Denis had an ever-present sense of joy, he also continued to struggle with mental health and addiction challenges. Earlier this year, Denis overdosed on fentanyl and ended up on life-support at Surrey Memorial Hospital. He passed away shortly thereafter.

Today, there is a Denis-shaped void at NightShift as the community mourns the loss of their beloved friend.

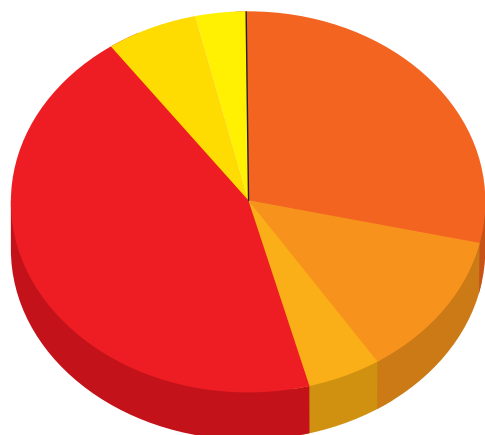
"Denis was here at NightShift because he was loved. And in turn, he loved us," Mac shares. "That's why NightShift exists -- we are here to love people unconditionally and unlock hope and healing for them by helping them feel seen, heard and valued. We are people caring for people."

# Financials

Thank you for your generous support of NightShift in 2018. Because of you, we were there for people struggling with homelessness, poverty, addiction and mental illness -- every night of the year.

## Revenue

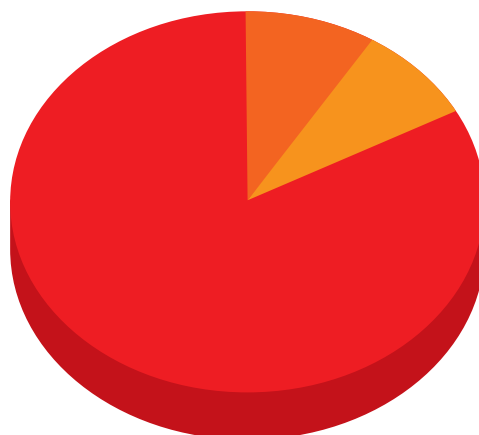
\$1,303,243



- Individual Gifts: \$373,570
- Schools: \$2,027
- Foundations: \$158,017
- Churches + Ministries: \$66,343
- Home Builders Care: \$574,670
- Other Corporate Gifts: \$83,902
- Taste of Heaven Food Truck: \$44,712

## Expenses

\$1,049,883



- Program Costs: \$870,017
- Administrative Costs: \$97,145
- Fundraising Costs: \$82,721



**With the help of our home-building friends** in Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley, in 2013 we started our Home Builders Care program to reach more hurting and homeless people with love, hope and purpose. The Home Builders Care community has been one of NightShift's most enduring allies and supporters over the years and 2018 was no exception. From golf tournaments to our Builders' Breakfast Forums, volunteering to creating internal fundraising campaigns, the Home Builders Care community is one of our most important fundraising and support groups. We are truly honoured to have the generous support of big-hearted builders in our community.

*Learn more about how your company can get involved with NightShift at:*

**[nightshiftministries.org/hbc/](https://nightshiftministries.org/hbc/)**

*\* For audited financial statements, please contact our office at [info@nightshiftministries.org](mailto:info@nightshiftministries.org).*





*"If I tell people I'm in a shelter, I get stereotyped, but the people here, they're accepting. I've got a good rapport with the staff and volunteers. I see love in them. I come every night for the meal. The meals are nourishing even the following day and my outlook is better."*

- Richard, community member

**LOVE365**

Love365, NightShift's family of monthly donors, is a group of caring neighbours who know that offering comfort through Christ-centred community and support, can help restore dignity and encourage someone in need.

By Giving to NightShift every month as a member of Love365, you can provide vulnerable men and women with a hot meal 365 nights a year, plus clothing, crisis counselling, and emergency nursing.

Join our monthly giving community today at  
**[nightshiftministries.org/love365/](https://nightshiftministries.org/love365/)**

## **Join us and help share**

unconditional love, hope and purpose to those in our community  
who are struggling with homelessness, poverty,  
addiction and mental illness.

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