



2025 Fall Newsletter
bissellcentre.org



Patrice, Hope Terrace Resident

Your impact on the community.

Finding Hope One Word at a Time

Stitching Hope

From Junk Drawer to Community Impact

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FINDING HOPE ONE WORD AT A TIME

Every morning, Patrice carefully selects a positive word for the day, decorates a card with it, and displays it in her room at Bissell Centre's Hope Terrace. This simple ritual has become her anchor—a way to stay grounded when life feels overwhelming.

"I'm really attempting to turn my life around, to be calm and peaceful, and not get into tornadoes," she explains.

At 68, Patrice has overcome extraordinary challenges. Born to a 14-year-old mother and affected by FASD, she endured years of abuse in foster care. Later struggles with addiction, homelessness, and devastating personal losses—including the murder of her daughter in 2020—might have broken someone with less resilience.

But at Hope Terrace, Patrice has found something she's never had before: genuine stability and respect.

"This is the best place I've ever lived," she

shares. "The support is so good. I've never had help like this—I'm respected, and I've never had that before."

As Canada's first dedicated housing for adults with FASD, Hope Terrace provides Patrice with specialized support that helps her manage her disability and maintain her recovery. After 15 months at Hope Terrace—the longest she's ever stayed in one place without eviction—Patrice finally feels at home.

"Now that I have help, my burdens don't feel as heavy," she says.

Once dependent on others, Patrice now attends art and cultural classes, speaks at conferences about FASD,

and even serves as her floor's captain. Many younger residents affectionately call her "Kokum" (grandmother).

Thank you for your support of Hope Terrace, and for making a difference for people like Patrice. After decades of struggle, she can finally say, "For once, I'm happy."



STITCHING HOPE:

Decades of Warmth from Friends and Volunteers



It began with a simple "Mitten Tree" in the 1970s, when a community member named Dorothy started collecting winter items for Bissell Centre.

Forty-five years later, Dorothy has transformed the mitten tree into the Devon United Knitting Group. This dedicated circle of crafters has woven a blanket of comfort and compassion to protect their neighbours during Edmonton's harsh winters.

FROM JUNK DRAWER TO COMMUNITY IMPACT

How Your Old Electronics Help Change Lives



Imagine if that forgotten charger tangled in your drawer could be someone's ticket to stability! It could be, thanks to an innovative partnership with Quantum Lifecycle. Bissell Centre's Electronic Recycling Program lets you transform your electronic waste into community support.

Year-round, we accept virtually any electronic item—working or broken—from phones and laptops to toasters and tangled cords. While you declutter, you're also preventing harmful materials from reaching landfills.

But it goes even further! Your outdated electronics then generate crucial funding for Bissell Centre's programs supporting Edmontonians experiencing homelessness and barriers to stability.

The process couldn't be simpler: drop off your unwanted electronics at Bissell Centre's Thrift Shop, and we handle the rest—ensuring they're either responsibly recycled or refurbished for

new use. Each discarded device then unlocks grant funding that directly supports our mission.

Your fall cleaning can become someone's fresh start. What electronic items do you have gathering dust that could help transform lives instead?

Resources recycled in 2024: 18,308 lbs



**6,137 lbs
of plastic**



**79 lbs
of glass**



**9,127 lbs
of ferrous
metals**

Total carbon reduction equivalent:



**61
trees**



**27
cars**



**7
Cross-Canada
flights**

So far in 2025, the knitting group—drop-in members, anonymous donors and long-term volunteers—has already created 376 handmade items, from baby blankets to essential winter wear. Their generosity doesn't stop there. Through their thrift shop operations and personal donations, they raise vital funds that strengthen Bissell's programs.



They also share in-kind gifts – like children's books and toys – that bring comfort and joy to the children in our childcare program.

These nimble fingers don't just create garments; they've stitched together a community of care that has warmed bodies and hearts for nearly half a century.

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

It's the season of gratitude—a time to reflect on things that give us joy and hope for the future. We asked members of the Bissell Centre community to share what they are most thankful for this year.

**"BISSELL GIVING
US WHAT WE
NEED TO SURVIVE."**

— Kevin,
Community Member

**"FRIENDS
AND FAMILY."**

— Walter,
Community Member

**"Everyone at Bissell
for their support
and care."**

— Don,
Community Member

**"For the
love in
my life."**

— Donna,
Community Member

**"Bissell being open
and helping us out
and understanding
who we are."**

— Uncle,
Community Member

**"Breathing. I have
COPD and I'm
grateful for each
breath I can take."**

— Cheyenne,
Community Member

**"Being alive
and waking
up each day."**

— Walter,
Community Member

**"Grateful to be here,
grateful for my friends."**

— Larissa,
Community Member

**"The support
of family and
friends."**

— Spring,
Community Member

**"Bissell helped me
start my new life
off the streets."**

— Vance,
Community Member



**Community
Heroes**

Have you ever thought of becoming a monthly donor?

By becoming a monthly donor, you'll be reducing administrative costs and making it possible for Bissell Centre to confidently plan ahead to meet the needs of Edmontonians experiencing homelessness and poverty.

It's quick and easy to become a monthly donor online at bissellcentre.org/community-heroes just remember to check off the "Give Monthly" box!

