

# iServe 2017 Report

**“Bear one another’s burdens...” Galatians 6:2**



## HOMELESS OUTREACH — “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matt 25:40

This past year, iServe began a project of reaching out to the homeless in a more intentional way. Warm winter clothing consisting of blankets, jackets, toques, mitts/gloves, heavy socks donated by church members or purchased by iServe have been delivered to several men’s shelters (Inn From the Cold and Gospel Mission). In addition, iServe cloth bags were filled with personal care items such as shampoo, facecloth/soap, hairbrushes, shavers, toothbrush/paste, warm winter attire like hats, scarves, thermal socks, etc. and were delivered to men’s shelters in downtown Kelowna.

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### REFUGEE FAMILIES

assisted totalling  
37 individuals

**90**

### PURSES FILLED

with personal care  
items & *Desire of Ages*  
for women

**85**

### CHRISTMAS PLATTERS

taken to seniors and  
shut-in members



### 58 QUILTS

made by Rutland Church ladies for families in need

### Mom’s Network



provides free  
clothing for Mom’s  
in need & refugees



### New Initiatives

are being  
considered for 2018

*Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can. — John Wesley*



## iServe Facts & Figures:

**458** food items were donated for outreach to refugee families or homeless and needy individuals.

**48** *Bags of Love* were donated to the Ministry of Child and Family Development for social workers to give to children removed from their homes because of child abuse or neglect.

**40** *Bundles of Joy* were donated to KGH for babies of unwed and needy moms. New Moms are most grateful for these thoughtful gifts of love.

**20** Personal Care Kits were donated to KGH for Moms on maternity with no personal necessities.

**10** Mom's were assisted in recovery from post-partum anxiety and depression. Mom's Network Ladies provided care for preschool children during their Mom's counselling sessions at the Church.

**135** crocheted baby shawls and other knitted/crocheted items were lovingly made for the Bundles of Joy program by senior ladies well into their 80's who regularly contribute their time and talents.

**\$650.00** was raised from both a Craft Fair of iServe items held in November 2017 and the ongoing sale of items throughout the year.

**\$750** in personal donations were received by iServe to be used in various outreach projects. We are grateful to each donor for their gift of love.

**Sincere thanks to each volunteer who has willingly contributed their time and talents to being the Hands and Feet of Jesus in 2017.**

## **Description of iServe Projects in 2017:**

**REFUGEE OUTREACH** — “*When a foreigner (alien) resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.*” Lev 19:33-34

iServe works with Kelowna Community Resources to assist newly-arrived refugee families by providing furniture items including mattresses (several brand new mattresses were donated by Sleep Country), sofas, dining sets, household items and bedding donated by church members, and multiple articles of clothing donated by church members. iServe hosts two Open House Events in spring and fall for refugee families to visit Mom’s Network and choose clothing for their children. ESL classes were also held in homes where mothers were unable to get out because of young children.

At least six refugee families, including two from Eritrea, have been assisted (total of 37 individuals).

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**PURSE MINISTRY** - “*Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed.* “ Proverbs 19:17

Homeless women are not overlooked. Our Purse Ministry began a year ago with Diane Wirtz leading the way. To date, about 90 purses filled to the brim with personal care items including a copy of Desire of Ages have been handed out to women on the streets or in shelters and 30 purses were requested by an Addiction Centre for women who were celebrating abstinence milestones. What a great way to recycle used handbags!

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**HOPEFUL CAFE & OIL CHANGE** — “*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress . . .* “ James 1:27

The Second Annual Hopeful Cafe & Oil Change was held August 13, 2017 on the premises of Okanagan Christian School. This outreach is designed to assist single moms or seniors on a limited budget to receive an oil change and detailed car cleaning free of charge. While waiting for their cars to be cared for, refreshments were available, free children’s clothes were given out, and a gift bag of car accessories was placed on the front seat of each car as they departed. Volunteers are always needed so plan on helping next August for the Third Annual Oil Change!

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**CHRISTMAS PLATTERS FOR SHUT-IN MEMBERS** — “*Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.*” Galatians 6:2

As in years past, platters of baked goods and fruit were delivered before Christmas to 85 seniors and shut-ins plus pastoral staff by our iServe team and other church members. In addition to the platters, 15 gift cards (\$25 - 50 value) were distributed in December plus numerous food vouchers throughout the year for a total of approximately \$725.00.

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**SENIOR'S MINISTRY — "You are to rise in the presence of the elderly and honour the old. Fear your God; I am the Lord." Leviticus 19:32**

Several care facilities in Kelowna (David Lloyd-Jones, Spring Valley, Sutherland Hills Rest Home [now known as Mission Creek Landing], Lake Country) were presented with a variety of items especially made by our iServe ladies for senior residents to enjoy. These included Twiddle Muffs for restless hands, Fidget Quilts for residents with dementia, and Lap Afghans to keep chilly legs warm in winter. Notes of thanks and appreciation were received from their care workers.

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**FAMILY HEALTH EXPO — "Again and again I have been instructed that the medical missionary work is to bear the same relation to the work of the third angel's message that the arm and hand bear to the body. Under the direction of the Divine Head they are to work unitedly preparing the way for the coming of Christ." 6T 288**

In October 2017, our first Health Expo in several years was held in the Rutland Church parking lot. iServe partnered with Health Ministries to organize and implement an event that the whole family could enjoy. From having your health vitals checked to attending a free Health Lecture with food demonstrations and tasty samples to winning a door prize or enjoying the music of local musicians to taking home a loaf of Silver Hills bread or fresh produce from R&B Urban Farms to enjoying a meal of Haystacks prepared by the Fisher family or Burgers by the Pathfinders to enjoying the antics of Chris the Clown - there was something for everyone to enjoy! iServe and Health Ministries plan to make this an annual event!

As a result of this community outreach, a number of interested individuals who requested further information on upcoming events have been contacted for other health-related programs such as Diabetes Undone (coming up February 20-March 15, 2018) and a Cooking Class (March 25).

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**INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH — "A righteous man knows the rights of the poor; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge." Proverbs 29:7**

On occasion, opportunities to help beyond our borders arise and this past year we were able to respond to several requests:

25 hand-knitted baby beanies were sent with someone traveling to South Sudan to be distributed to moms of newborn babies in refugee camps.

Also, several large bags of baby clothes and children's shoes and baby shawls were sent with Thomas and Marcie Drobott to underprivileged children in Mexico.

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