

# AFTER HOURS OUTREACH

C H U R C H O N F I V E



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10200 No. 5 Road, Richmond

To:

**RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL**

6911 No. 3 Rd,  
Richmond BC , V6Y 2C1

Date:

**April 12, 2024**

**Your Worship Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Honorable City Councillors of  
Richmond,**

I am writing on behalf of Church on Five, which supports the Richmond Food Aid Delivery program, to present a formal funding request for the After-Hours Outreach Program in Richmond. The program, which is currently spearheaded by the Lead Outreach/ Coordinator, Hugh Freiberg, has been steadfast in its mission to provide essential support to individuals grappling with homelessness in our community. As the needs of Richmond's homeless population continue to escalate, we are seeking additional funding for the period spanning May 1 st to December 31st 2024 to fortify the program's operational capacity and extend its reach to those most vulnerable within our city.

The proposed additional budget of \$54,560 encompasses the following financial allocations:

- Further funding of \$34,560 earmarked for a Second Outreach/Case Worker, who will work 36 hours per week over the next 8 months at a rate of \$30 per hour. tasked with coordinating services, and ensuring a seamless continuum of care for individuals experiencing homelessness. This role aims to enhance our outreach capabilities, increase safety measures and will enable us to engage with a broader spectrum of individuals facing homelessness in Richmond.
- A supplementary \$20,000 allocation designated for a salary equity adjustment for the Lead Outreach Worker, Hugh, in acknowledgment of his unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions to serving Richmond's homeless population.

This additional funding is imperative to sustain and elevate the After-Hours Outreach Program's impact on Richmond's most vulnerable citizens, those who are either homeless or on the brink of homelessness. By bolstering our operational capacity, we aim to provide hot meals, essential items, and crisis/outreach care to an increasing homeless population in Richmond. On average, Hugh connects with a cohort of between 80-100 of Richmond residents, who are directly impacted by homelessness, every night. In recent months, the outreach workers have seen a dramatic shift and increase within the demographics of Richmond's homeless population and those at risk of being homeless. The noticeable trends include

1. more pensioners
2. an increase of women and couples, as 30-40 percent of our clients are now female
3. an influx of refugees needing food, housing and additional supports particularly needing access to affordable housing

These trends have been confirmed and statistics reported by Richmond Food Bank, Salvation Army - Richmond House Emergency Shelter, Richmond Food Aid Delivery outreach workers and other poverty reduction advocates. A large percentage of these people, with the exception of refugees, are struggling with mental health and/or substance abuse/misuse and most have physical ailments as well. By making these connections, we are able to address many of our clients immediate needs, as well as contribute to fostering a sense of security and support within our community.

Our mission is to ensure the seamless delivery of essential services and crisis support to those in need within our community. We respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this request and seek your support in fortifying the After-Hours Outreach Program to better serve Richmond's homeless and at-risk individuals. The proposed timeline for the requested funding spans from May to December 2024, aligning with our commitment to providing sustained assistance to those in need throughout the year. We welcome any further questions you may have and we appreciate your time and effort in addressing and supporting this important matter.

With utmost respect and gratitude,



Rachel Wilson  
Church on Five