

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 20, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation

### RESOURCE

STAFF: Florence MacLean, Anne Sherwood

### INFORMATION

This year Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of delivering social services to the inner city. It runs, or helps to run, everything from snack and hot lunch programs for inner-city school children to teaching at-risk teens life and employment skills through the Kids in the Hall program. Their connection to Edmonton Public Schools comes from the snack and hot lunch programs they deliver to our students.

Edmonton Public Schools students in Abbott, Alex Taylor, Eastwood, McCauley, McDougall, Norwood, Prince Charles, R.J. Scott, Rundle and Sherbrooke schools are served a hot lunch daily. These schools, along with Beacon Heights, Bellevue, Belvedere, North Edmonton, Oliver, Parkdale, Queen Alexandra, Queen Mary Park, Sifton, Spruce Avenue, Thorncliffe and Youngstown also benefit from the Nutrition Snack Program which serves a nutritious mid-morning snack. This snack is often the students' first food of the day and its effect on behaviour and learning is dramatic.

The idea for these and other programs began in the 1960's when the four founding members; All Saints Anglican Cathedral, McDougall United, First Baptist and Augustana Lutheran began meeting together on a regular basis. The churches incorporated in 1970 and were joined by St. Joseph's Basilica three years later. They have, from its inception, focused on justice for the poor and needy, meeting needs for housing, food and security and ministering to the spiritual needs of people. They began with one employee and have now grown to 175 full and part time employees.

Our students almost immediately reap the benefits of the lunch and snack programs provided by Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation. Teachers report a positive improvement in student behaviour. The children settle down more quickly in the afternoon, are calmer in general, and are more ready and willing to learn. Each lunch provides at least one third of a child's daily nutritional requirements.

Funding to help this program provide the most food possible, with the least amount of money, comes from volunteer and corporate fundraising events, supplemented by donations from public sources, United Way and Family and Community Support Services.

The board of trustees would like to thank Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation for its support and sponsorship of these highly valued undertakings. Mrs. Jasmin Hoeven, coordinator of the School Lunch Program and Mrs. Jacqueline Biollo, Snack Program coordinator, are in attendance at tonight's meeting and will be presented with a certificate of recognition from the board of trustees. They will also be accepting, on behalf of the Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation, the presentation of a piece of student artwork from the board of trustees.

The framed felt pen drawing by grade 5 Oliver School student, Cecily Weekusk, depicts the seeding and harvest of a garden and is an appropriate theme to recognize the Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation's contribution in "sowing the seeds" for the future of so many of our young students. The picture was also chosen for the cover of the district's 2000 Retirement Recognition program booklet

FEM:fem