

405 Alexander

Report to the Community

Welcome to the fifth edition of our 405 Alexander Report to the Community! The months since our last update have flown by. We're excited to have turned the page on a fulsome 2023 and can't wait to discover all that 2024 has in store. Our service users, staff, and partners have accomplished a lot since our last update, and we are eager to share!

Connective assumed operation of 405 Alexander in October 2023. Since then,
CONNECTIVE STAFF HAVE

Served
159,960
Meals
 On-site and
 takeaway dinners

Hosted
20,614
Stays
 In our 54
 emergency beds

Distributed
14,010
Harm Reduction Items
 From condoms
 to naloxone kits

Averted
50
Overdoses
 Through naloxone
 administration

Alongside our regular programming and the exploration of new opportunities in the community, one of the biggest initiatives of these last few months has been our staff's efforts to make the holiday season special for residents and service users of 405 Alexander.

For many, the holidays are a time for joy – for good cheer, good food, and good fun with family, friends, and loved ones. But for some in our community, both here at 405 and beyond, the holiday season brings a more somber mix of emotions – from grief and sadness to loneliness and regret.

Recognizing this, staff work hard to make sure

those who may be struggling feel supported, and have options for tapping into the sense of community and love so many of us associate with end of year festivities.

This year, staff efforts included hanging decorations, having Christmas card making sessions, hosting events like a crib tournament and a bingo night, and having musicians play at the emergency shelter on Christmas day.

Colleen Kinch, one of Connective's Housing Support Workers, also worked tirelessly to pack gift bags for service users, and assemble stockings to hang on the doors of the building's supportive housing residents.

“There's a lot of happiness, there's a lot of celebration, but it can also be a really difficult time of year.”

– Kaitlyn, Senior Manager



Prepping for the holidays

On December 25, the kitchen team at 405 cooked up a feast for several hundred guests, featuring turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and cranberry sauce – all prepared in house. For those who still had room, cheesecake was served for dessert.

To Colleen, the impact of these efforts is shines crystal clear.

“It’s good to see people smiling...They come up with their hugs...it’s such a community here.”



Handmade Table Centrepieces



Holiday Dinner

FEEDING OUR COMMUNITY

405 Alexander Broadens its Reach

In addition to serving meals at 405 Alexander, and preparing takeaway meals for those in need, Connective is excited to broaden its support of local food security through a new partnership with The Safe at Home Society and the Council of Yukon First Nations.

This interim program started in January and will run until the end of March. It will see the kitchen team at 405 Alexander preparing up to an additional 470 meals per week, to be served at two community locations.

For the kitchen team, the opportunity means a lot. **“The work we do is hard at times but very rewarding. We are proud to be able to do our part to combat food insecurity in our community.”**

This new partnership was made possible in thanks to funding from the Government of Yukon, through the Downtown Safety Plan Initiative. It is just one of the ways we are working to expand support services for vulnerable populations in the community.



SAFE AT HOME

up to **40 LUNCHES** / day
up to **40 DINNERS** /day
Thu • Fri • Sat • Sun

📍 Former High Country Inn
4051 4 Ave, Whitehorse
Meals served at 12PM and 6PM
☎ 867-667-7233



**Council of Yukon
First Nations**

up to **50 DINNERS** / day
Tue • Thu • Sat

📍 Family Preservation Program Building
Suite 130, 205 Black Street, Whitehorse
Meals served from 5:30 – 7:30PM
☎ 867-393-9200 ext. 9236

“This is helping to fill the needs of people that are food insecure, and that are struggling to feed their families and meet the nutrition needs of growing children.

The more we are able to work together on initiatives like these, the greater our impact will be in helping to create a better Whitehorse for all of us!” – Mobile Outreach Coordinator, CYFN

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Moccasin Mobile Outreach Van

We're very excited to share that our friends and partners at the Council of Yukon First Nations have launched **Moccasin Mobile Outreach**, offering culturally-safe support and connection to those in Whitehorse's downtown core.

By meeting people where and when they need supports, this service will help reduce barriers for Yukoners facing challenges.

This pilot project is funded by the Yukon Government and will operate until March 31, with possible extension.



SUPPORTS PROVIDED INCLUDE:



Hot Drinks & Snacks



Clothing Essentials



Harm Reduction Supplies



First Aid



Emotional & Cultural Connection



Referrals to other Services

THE IMPORTANCE OF AN INDIGENOUS-LED APPROACH

Mobile Outreach Coordinator: "From my experience, communicating and opening up to people that you can identify with and have similar lived experiences with tends to be a little easier, and those with similar upbringing and cultural backgrounds tend to connect with the Indigenous population on a deeper level.

Being grassroots and Indigenous-led allows for culturally appropriate connections and supports, while building relationships and creating meaningful conversations."

THE IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

Mobile Outreach Coordinator: "We are working to reduce the loss of life and other harms in the community. We connect with individuals on their level and offer supports that are appropriate to their culture and background. We are here to be a resource for all community members and are willing to work with all groups and organizations to foster a safer downtown for everyone!"

Operating



Hours

Thu - Sat
8:00PM - 2:00AM
867-336-3166

WHO TO CALL, WHEN TO CALL

Supporting Community Wellbeing



Call **911** if you see a crime or safety risk in progress or about to be committed
Call non-emergency at **867-667-5555** if the event has already happened



Call **911** if you see a fire in progress
Call non-emergency at **867-668-2462** if you have any fire safety concerns



Call **911** if you see someone who's nonresponsive or having a medical emergency
Wait for an ambulance and do not move the person



Contact **bylaw** about property conditions, graffiti, excessive noise, street obstructions, or litter / dumping in public spaces

☎ **867-667-2111** ✉ bylaw.services@whitehorse.ca



Contact **Moccasin Mobile** if you have concerns about an individual's behaviour or safety in the downtown core, and it is Thu-Sat, between 8:00PM - 2:00AM.

☎ **867-336-3166** (Call or Text)



Contact **Connective** if you have concerns about an individual's behaviour or safety, about the state of the property, or about excessive noise at 405 Alexander.

☎ **867-455-2820** ✉ wes@connective.ca

THANK YOU!

Winter Donations



In response to some extremely cold weather last month, we put out a call on social media for donations of winter clothing and gear. With temperatures dropping as low as -47, we knew there would be many in the community struggling to stay warm.

We were blown away by the response. Our post was shared **200+ times**, and the community's overflowing compassion and generosity allowed us to equip many individuals in need with warm clothing. On behalf of everyone here at Connective, our sincere gratitude to all who donated!



Donations can still be dropped off at
405 Alexander, between 7AM - 4PM

