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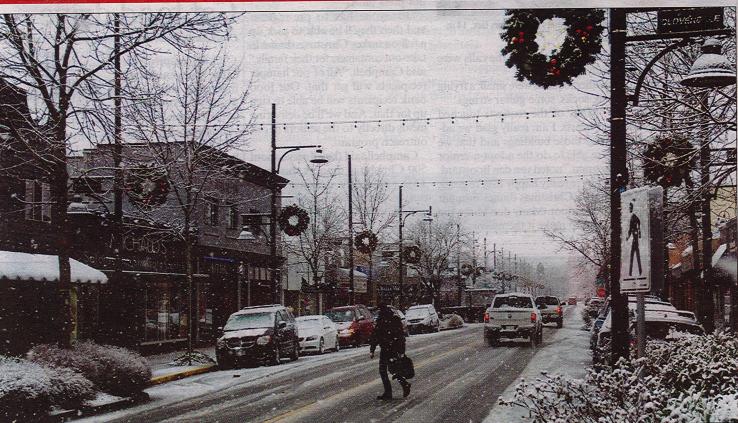
December 24, 2020

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Merry Christmas!

A man crosses 176th Street in downtown Cloverdale Dec. 21 amidst the first snowfall of the season. Merry Christmas from all of us at the Cloverdale Reporter and best wishes for the holiday season. (Photo: Malin Jordan)

Christmas outreach at Com. Kitchen

Malin Jordan Cloverdale Reporter

Sometimes the smallest things can make a difference in someone's life: a card, a gift, a meal, a telephone call.

That's the insight Courtney van den Boogaard gained when the Cloverdale Community Kitchen

'We adopted two low-income seniors' buildings in Cloverdale," said van den Boogaard, director of communications for the CCK.

Christmas hamper program, in conjunction with the store "The Heart", for the occupants of the

(CCK) launched its outreach to seniors program two buildings. The idea being each senior would receive a hamper full of non-perishable food and a personalized gift.

Annie Christiaens, owner of The Heart, made little tags with the seniors' first names and the She said they decided to start an adopt-a-senior specific gift each senior wanted and hung the

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Ninth annual cat food drive supports Surrey **Food Bank**

Cats At Home Feline Hospital just finished up their ninth annual cat food drive, but this year's drive was nothing like the previous eight.

"Restrictions based on COVID-19 issues forced us to change our strategy," said owner James Thomp-

"This year we asked our clients to choose from a list of foods and gifts we sell rather than having them drop off their purchases."

Thompson said his team mailed out their annual Christmas cards this year and inserted a list that noted donation options for giving." their cat food drive.

very generous again drive in 2012 to supgiving over 100 pounds of food for kitties." said Thompson.

"We have always



James Thompson

been well received by the food bank staff as there is a never ending need for cat food,' Thompson told the Cloverdale Reporter last year. "This is a great opportunity for those people in need to be able to provide a gift to their cat family members during this Christmas time of

Thompson started "Our clients were the annual cat food port the Surrey Food Bank.

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Pandemic forces Community Kitchen to call an audible on annual Christmas dinner

tags on a Christmas tree in her store. "Customers would choose a tag, then buy and wrap a gift for that

senior.' They then brought the gifts back to the The Heart and volunteers from the Kitchen will deliver them with the seniors' Christmas hampers.

DELIVERY

In the course of her calls to the seniors—to touch base about delivering the hampers and to inquire about what type of gift each senior wanted for Christmas—van den Boogaard found out many relied on the Kitchen's Christmas dinner for not only their only holiday meal, but also their only holiday fellowship.

"A lot of the seniors have been isolated and they haven't had any other contact with people."

That when she had a eureka moment. If the seniors were going to be missing out on Christmas dinner, why not deliver the dinner to them?

The CCK has already decided to convert their sit-down Christmas dinner into a take-out dinner, so it wasn't that much of stretch for van den Boogaard to add some takeout meals to the delivery items for

"They were excited just to be able



Volunteers pack Christmas food hampers for needy families and seniors Dec. 14 in the Alice McKay Building. (Photo: Malin Jordan)

"And they're very excited that they're really emotional." going to have dinner delivered to

A lot of heartwarming stories den Boogaard had with the seniors.

'We were calling to see what they would like for Christmas," she explained. "A lot of the seniors would happy.' Or they'd say, 'I miss hugs.' That's all they would say they want- means to make it themselves, or to seniors.

to connect on the phone," she said. ed for Christmas. So the calls were

Other requests were small: a frying pan, socks, some guitar strings.

"Many of the requests touched arose from the conversations van our hearts. I am really glad we adopted those buildings and that we were able to do the adopt-a-senior program," noted van den Boogaard. "They're really happy they're going say, 'Dear, I just want everyone to be to get a Christmas dinner brought to their door. Many don't have the without vehicles, and the meals for

cook for one, so this dinner will make a big difference."

TAKE OUT

Despite COVID-19, the Cloverdale Community Kitchen will again serve their big Christmas dinner to needy families.

"We alway do a big, sit-down Christmas dinner here. We serve about 300 people," said Matthew Campbell, director for the Kitchen. "But this year we can't do that, so we're going to package it all and hand it out."

Campbell and crew will host their take-out dinner at the Community Kitchen on Dec. 23 at 6 p.m. (After our press time.)

"Everyone has to pre-register and then they'll be able to pick up a full-on turkey Christmas dinner in take-out containers for their family," said Campbell. "All of our hamper recipients will get that. Our food bank recipients will be able to sign up for that. And we'll be delivering meals directly to the seniors in our outreach program.

Campbell said they'll serve about 500 Christmas dinners this year. That will include drive-thru takeout, in-person take-out for those

Donated cat food is seen at Cats At Home Feli Hospital in Cloverdale. (Photo: Submitted)

Cat tood drive

Continued from Al

"Our inspiration came from our staff meetings where we wanted to expand our contribution to the community," he said. "We (knew) that food banks help families who have cats to enjoy the spirit of Christmas by providing them with food for their kitties." Regarding his re-

vamped 2020 drive, The wrote on his catsathome.c behalf of the Cats at Hom Surrey Food want to than your generou in maintainir nation prog helping thos look after th family mer

Christmas."

