

FAMILY PROGRAMS FROM WHISTLER COMMUNITY SERVICES SOCIETY

Read below to see what programs WCSS offers to help Families in Whistler...Also ask us for the new copy of our Programs & Services Brochure, it lists every social service program available in the corridor!

FAMILY PROGRAMS FROM WCSS THAT MIGHT HELP!

When times get tough in Whistler, Whistler Community Services Society (WCSS) has programs available to help. Many programs are designed to help families who qualify under National Median Income levels. For example, if you are a family of four making less than \$42,565 you will qualify for these programs. To find out whether or not you qualify based on the number of people in your family see www.mywcss.org/youthoutreach If you have gotten a KidSport or Recreation Credit approval, you do qualify.

NEVER go hungry, visit the **Food Bank**, which runs from the trailer behind the Catholic Church on Lorimer Road from 11am to 1pm the first and third Monday every month. If you are experiencing an emergency, call the Food Bank Coordinator, Sara at 604-935-7717. THERE IS NO FINANCIAL CUTOFF TO ACCESS THE FOOD BANK.

If your life is overwhelming you with problems, free assistance is available through our **Youth Outreach team**. Even if you are not a "Youth" The Outreach team acts as a referral service to many other available programs and services. Contact Davin at 604-938-3902 or Tara at 604-902-0670.

For families with children, the **KidSport BC program**, administered by WCSS, provides up to \$300 per child to enable children of financially restricted families participate in qualified sport programs. As well, the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) offers eligible families the **Recreation Credit program**, which provides a \$115 credit per family member to participate in programs offered at Meadow Park Recreation Centre. **The Parent-Infant Drop In** runs 11am to noon every Tuesday at the Whistler Public Library. This program is free and provides an opportunity for parents to socialize and hear from guest speakers. (Note: there is no registration or financial assessment required).

Families can also apply for a **Santa's Helpers Christmas Hamper** filled with all the fixings for a Christmas dinner including a turkey voucher. If your family needs help at Christmas you will receive a hamper. This program ensures your privacy!

Eligible Whistlerites may attend monthly **Community Kitchens** sessions FREE and as a bonus receive a free copy of Karen Kay's new cookbook! Community Kitchens is a fun cooking session with Karen Kay of Whistler Kaytering and assists participants with shopping and preparation of healthy and budget-conscious meals that taste great! The normal cost of Community Kitchen sessions is \$10.

Low income individuals and families can access the **Counseling Assistance Fund** which assists in paying counseling fees, the **Access to Justice Program** which helps individuals access time with a local lawyer at no charge, the **Emergency Financial Assistance Program**, which helps in cases of financial emergency and the **Tax Assist Program** where trained volunteers can help families and individuals complete and submit their tax returns.

The Support Network of Whistler (S.N.O.W.) is a weekly woman's workshop that provides skill building opportunities including budgeting tips, job search/career counseling, meditation and creative meals on a shoestring. The next 10 week session will run in March, if interested leave your name at the WCSS office 604-932-0113.

Last but not least, **The Re-Use-It Centre** is Whistler's favourite thrift store located in Function Junction at 1003 Lynham Road. It is open seven days a week, from 11am to 6 pm. This is a great place to buy home necessities, clothing and toys for your family at a reduced cost. If you are approved by Youth Outreach, you and your family can get FREE gift certificates to buy goods at the store. Another plus, when you shop at, or donate to the store you are helping to fund WCSS programs. Please ONLY donate during open hours.

For further information on WCSS programs and services see www.mywcss.org or contact our offices at 604-932-0113. WCSS is in the community to help when times are tough.