

Date

Caring Donor  
123 Generous St.  
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Dear <Salutation>,

With the season of spring upon us, the world around us is blooming, growing and changing. It's a joyous reminder that things get better after they were worse. And it's a time when we can turn our thoughts to *hope*.

But for the most marginalized members of our community, those who are struggling to make ends meet, living without a roof over their head or coping with addiction and mental health issues, it can be hard to see hope at the end of the tunnel.

I want to extend my wholehearted gratitude for your generous support. Thank you for caring so much about the people in our city who are experiencing homelessness, poverty and difficult circumstances.

**You have brought renewed HOPE to so many of your neighbours in need.**

You may not know them or cross paths with them, but you have touched their lives in more ways than you'll ever know.

<Salutation>, would you consider making a gift today that will transform the lives of people like Noah whose story we share in the enclosed newsletter?

So many of our fellow Edmontonians are going through difficult times right now. They are being squeezed from all sides.

In its trail, the pandemic has left behind rising rates of mental health distress, especially among the most vulnerable members of our community. People living in poverty are often disproportionately affected by mental illness. And they are less likely to seek support.

The skyrocketing prices of food and rent are pushing individuals and families to the brink of poverty. Imagine having to decide: eat or pay the bills? Sadly, more people than ever in our city are forced to make that choice.

The past few years have been hard for all of us. But for those who are struggling financially, emotionally and mentally, it's been extremely tough.

Can you imagine suffering from such severe social anxiety that you are unable to leave your home or work up the courage to apply for a new ID card? That is the story of **Noah** whose story we share in our spring newsletter. Thankfully, Noah turned to Bissell Centre, where your gifts helped him get the support he needed.

You will also read the story of **Charlotte**, a domestic violence victim who struggled with mental health issues most of her life. Thanks to your generosity and kindness, Charlotte was able to enroll in the employment training program at Bissell.

These stories — among so many others we witness every day — are heartwarming examples of how your support is bringing hope and changing the lives of people in your community. Each story is a reminder of the incredible difference we can make in the lives of others when we come together.

We are Edmontonians. And we are a community. Like all of us at Bissell, I know that you care deeply about our city and the people who call it home.

**We are so grateful for you and your support. We would not be able to serve our community without you by our side. Thank you!**

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and the inspiring stories within. To help us continue to be there for more of our neighbours in need like Noah and Charlotte, please let us hear from you today.

With my deepest gratitude,

Gary St. Amand  
Chief Executive Officer  
Bissell Centre

P.S. May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Will you please send a gift today to ensure your neighbours who are experiencing mental health issues and other hardships can turn to Bissell Centre for support? Thank you.