

How did I get involved as a volunteer? Here is the readers digest version. I use to see homeless people down town and I would bring some them to the store to buy them proper footwear and clothing. Then the next time I would see some of them I noticed that they were wearing their original clothing and footwear. At this point I realized I had not met their needs. As a result I started to offer financial support to the Kelowna Gospel Mission. I felt the Gospel Mission was uniquely positioned to meet people's needs on a daily basis. The staff and volunteers at the Mission have gotten to know our city's homeless and hurting people on a personal basis and are much better equipped to minister to their needs. As a Christian I felt moved to also become involved in a more personal way and as a result I volunteered by coming to Sit and Sip. This provided me the opportunity to sit and visit with the patrons of the Mission. I have come to know some wonderful people both volunteers and patrons and have found the experience to be a blessing. About a year and a half ago Sonja Nelson sent out a Memo that their Barber was looking to retire and I offered my services to fill this need. I unpacked my tools and went to work. I currently cut hair Thursday Mornings at 8am and work till 12pm. This is a free service and I am fortunate to be able to help out these men and women in this way. The one thing I notice is how appreciative and polite my patrons are. I can say that I have never been treated badly. Through this experience I have learned that when it comes right down to it, these people are the same as you and me, they want to be seen and heard, they want a home and security and to feel they can make a difference. The toughest part of being homeless is the boredom and the feeling of hopelessness that comes from thinking that their circumstances will stay the same. It is important for those of us who have homes income jobs and family for support to recognize God for these amazing blessings and ask him what he would have us do to help others to regain these blessings. When we see a homeless person it's in our nature to look away or walk to the other side of the street, not because we don't care but because we don't know what we can do. If you would like to make a difference in a hurting persons life come down to the Kelowna Gospel Mission. While you are here come up and see me for a haircut and a smile.