



Canada Mission Project Update



I SERVE

Hebrews 13:16: “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

I have always had the compassion to serve, and over the years, even before I was with AWA, I knew I wanted to serve in some small way as a volunteer. Yes, my position with AWA is busy and filled with the day-to-day management and administration of the Canadian Project. My time is also well spent with missionaries training and visiting each project as needed. But sometimes, I need to step out of the everyday routine, seek out inspiration from other volunteer organizations, take a bit of time to give back to our church

family and community. Then incorporate what I learn to better serve in my ongoing desire for outreach globally.

Recently, I joined community service with my local church, Rutland SDA Church.

The program is called I Serve, and Donna Rose and Joan Hathaway are the coordinators. They reach the community in many ways.

IServes’ mission is to bring hope and wholeness by being the hands and feet of Jesus. Every Tuesday morning, a handful of volunteers gather to prepare items to distribute to the community.

One of the first ideas for addressing a community need was **Bags of Love**.*

This program started to meet the needs of children of different ages who are removed from their homes and put in foster care due to difficult situations in their families and/or homes. After the bags are assembled at the church office, one of the ladies drops them off to a local social worker, who then facilitates the distribution of the bags to the children moving into foster homes.



This led to **The Bundles of Joy** for newborns, bags filled with handmade sweaters, quilts, or fleece blankets. Personal toiletry kits for mothers in hospitals have also been assembled, all in brightly colored handmade bags.

Chemo bags are made up and distributed in person to women and men receiving cancer treatment at the local hospital.

Volunteer quilters, seamstresses, knitters, and crocheters contribute their talents to the group, adding beautiful finished items to the bags that go out.

I was in awe when I entered IServe's office and spacious quilting room. I was surrounded by donated teddy bears, handmade clothing, and quilts made onsite. Rows of cupboards are organized with items such as Kleenex, shampoo, soaps, deodorant, lip chaps, toys, books, pens, socks, and bandanas, to name a few, that go into the bags made with care and love.

I was greeted with a warm welcome from fellow church ladies and encouraged to join in prayer and conversation about how to serve the community better.

My first task was to help make the chemo bags for the local cancer clinic.

Coincidentally, it happened to be World Cancer Day, and I couldn't help but reflect on my own parents' battle with cancer as I filled each bag with love.

In each bag, we put a cozy pair of socks, a bandana or

washcloths, an unscented lip chap, a notebook, a pen, a word search puzzle or a small inspirational book, a small pack of tissue or hand wipes, and mints, adding a card saying this was made for you by IServe, Rutland SDA church.

I look forward to helping assemble the bags of comfort each week and praying over them with the ladies. In such a turbulent world, it's good to know that there are still those who care to serve a good cause. Please pray for these continued services worldwide.

Being a volunteer and participating with AWA over the past years and working on many projects is a blessing. It has taught me a valuable lesson: You are never too busy to give time to someone in need.

Uphold and support our AWA missionaries—faithful servants who desire to reach out and serve others.

"Finally, all of you have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing." 1 Peter 3:8-9



*Pictured is a vintage photo of one of the original community services ladies' groups in British Columbia

*Information provided from the IServe website

