

# High School Student Endures -42 C Frigid Winter Nights Sleeping Outside

## Raising Funds and Awareness for Mosaic Centre and Our City's Homeless Population

Winter Weather Advisory: Temperatures in Edmonton dropping to -42 C with wind chill - December 7, 2013

While we were all huddling inside of our warm homes away from the bitter cold snap and record low temperatures last week one high school student was bedding down inside his tent for another night.

In an effort to raise funds and awareness for Mosaic Centre and Edmonton's homeless population, Collin Messelink has committed to spend six months sleeping outside in his tent this winter. Collin's passion for outdoor adventure and his dreams of becoming a mountain guide or search and rescue crew member are fueled by his passion to help Mosaic Centre give a hand up to those less fortunate.

Mosaic Centre has been a safe place within the community of Northeast Edmonton for 4 years. People facing all aspects of poverty may turn to the centre for direction and mentoring. Staff build relationships with clients and assist them in identifying their needs as they overcome challenges. Once needs are determined, help is offered to discover and access available services forming goals and plans to succeed. Operating with the generous donations of supporters Mosaic Centre provides ongoing support and mentoring as individuals work towards their goals. Staff and other Centre users essentially become a 'community' of support and encouragement for individuals that formerly had no substantial, dependable social network.

When Collin was asked why he was doing this he said that it was an adventure and he wanted to challenge himself for the benefit of others. This adventure began October 1st. Collin intends to spend every night, until the end of March 2014, enduring the cold nights in his small tent to raise awareness of the state of emergency that the homeless live in from day to day.



During this past cold snap there was a period of 5 days where the temperature dipped below -40 C. The very low temperatures are presenting problems with condensation turning to ice inside of Collin's second-hand tent. The inside of the tent walls are lined with ice, the window screen is frosted up and he even had a four inch icicle form inside of his tent. The temperature dropped so low that his thermometer quit working and the zipper on his sleeping bag froze so he couldn't zip it up. One of the biggest challenges is that his bedding becomes moist from the overnight condensation. Collin finds the mornings the coldest and is grateful to be able to take his bedding inside to dry out during the day. Collin recognizes that those who are sleeping rough out in the elements do not have this advantage.

An interview with Janneke, Collin's church youth leader, revealed that Collin has turned down opportunities to participate in events that would have given him a short reprieve from his campaign. Collin is a member of the Youth Group, at First Edmonton Christian Reformed Church, that takes time to lend a helping hand at Mosaic Centre. He is also a student at Edmonton Christian High School which includes Mosaic Centre in their curriculum and encourages students to volunteer at the centre. Collin says his teachers are all behind what he is doing and are encouraging him in his efforts.

Collin's mom, Juliet, sat quietly by as we interviewed Collin and he revealed his heart to raise money to help others. Tears glistened in her eyes as he chatted about what he is doing to raise awareness and show the love of Jesus to people he doesn't know. Juliet said she is very proud of her son for his commitment to helping others and when asked if she agreed with what Collin is doing, she said she couldn't stop him because his passion is so great.

Collin is asking others to join him in his efforts by making monetary donations to Mosaic Centre. Donations can be made at or mailed directly to Mosaic Centre or through the Donation link on the website: [www.mosaiccentre.com](http://www.mosaiccentre.com)



Donations of \$25 or more will be acknowledged with a charitable donation receipt. Our charitable organization registration number is 13155 8140 RR0001. We will keep you updated on the progress of Collin's adventure and funds raised.

Please keep Collin and all of those who are spending cold winter nights on the streets in your prayers.



*We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 3 We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3