**Community Life Chairperson’s Report**

**Fall 2018**

Madame President,

The Community Life Standing Committee continues to be a very busy committee involving a variety of issues some of which are Social and Economic Justice, Dignity and Rights of Persons, Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship, Homelessness, Human Trafficking, just to name a few.

YESS or Youth Empowerment Support Services in Edmonton is a non-profit agency dedicated to helping youth ages 15-24 that are homeless. End Poverty Edmonton 2015 stated that chronically homeless people cost tax payers over $100,000 a year per person. Preventing youth homelessness is both a good investment and the right approach to ending the cycle of homelessness. Consider adding YESS to your list of charities you support. More information can be found at my display table.

The logo for the Alberta Food Banks Association is Lead. Feed. Share. Strengthening the Community. In April, Food Banks Alberta hosted a 3 week online food drive encouraging donation of healthy food. This innovative food drive allowed 20 food banks to each create their own specific list of most needed items which people could chose from to then donate online. In August all the food was delivered to Food Banks Alberta's provincial warehouse in Leduc. Food donated will be shared throughout the Province and will be available to any of the 90 members of the Association. See my display table for more information on how to donate and when the next Give Healthy online drive is.

With winter fast approaching or already here and the Edmonton Cosmopolitans Community Services Foundation is organizing a "Warm Coats Warm Hearts" winter clothing drive in association with Boyle Street Community Services. The drive will take place on October 20th at 11:00 am. See my display table for more information.

The Edmonton Diocesan Council has been a strong supporter of Catholic Social Services. Parish Councils donate to CSS through the Diocesan Parish Remittance form. Councils also donate directly, as do individual members and parishioners. Catholic Social Services has asked the Catholic Women's League to consider becoming more actively involved in Sign of Hope fundraising. Their annual campaign will now be called the Annual Appeal and the former Cabinet will be called Friends of Sign of Hope. Friends of Sign of Hope is a committee who will fundraise on behalf of Sign of Hope during the Annual Appeal and serve as a key and coordinated link for Sign of Hope in the broader community for fundraising purposes. Catholic Women's League member Bea Salmon of Edmonton will represent the CWL on this newly formed committee. We are looking forward to hearing more about the Friends of Sign of Hope as well as the Annual Appeal.

The League Prayer states "teach us to share with others at home and abroad the good things you have given us". We share when we use our hands to build homes for the homeless, we share when we prepare food for the hungry or donate food to the food banks, we share when we write our government about the human trafficked, we share when we support refugees, in our community and around the world.

This concludes my report. Are there any questions?

Patti Heck

Community Life

Standing Committee Chairperson