



HEU “live” Living Wage Tree of Hope to visit four local hospitals

Campaign spreads anti-poverty message

The “live” **Living Wage Tree of Hope** will tour four hospital sites in the lead up to the festive season to raise awareness about the Hospital Employees’ Union’s anti-poverty campaign.

The “Tree of Hope” will visit St. Paul’s Hospital (9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) and Richmond Hospital (12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.) on Tuesday, December 18. Then on Wednesday, December 19, the tree will be at Burnaby Hospital (9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) and Royal Columbian Hospital (2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.).

The project’s goal is to engage HEU members and educate the public about the Living Wage Campaign, and also share the holiday spirit with candy canes, stickers and temporary tattoos.

Last year, the “live” tree was a big hit at Surrey Memorial, Vancouver General, Lions Gate and Children’s and Women’s hospitals. People wrote messages about what a living wage means to them, and then pinned them onto the “live” tree (HEU Vancouver Coastal regional vice-president Louella Vincent in costume).

“HEU members and the public both found the ‘live tree’ to be innovative and fun,” says event organizer Priti Shah, a living wage outreach worker. “It truly engaged people in a conversation with us about the Living Wage Campaign.”

The HEU Living Wage Campaign started in 2007 as a bargaining tool to advocate for family-supporting wages and safer working conditions for the union’s contracted support workers. It has since grown into an anti-poverty, community campaign with allies across the province and country.

For more information on the Living Wage Campaign, visit HEU’s website at <http://www.heu.org/campaigns-issues/living-wage-campaign> or A Living Wage for Families at <http://livingwageforfamilies.ca/>.

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