

Warehouse Ministry is a Relief

It's a place where supplies are gathered, packed into huge eight by eight by 40-foot containers and then shipped to peoples and nations in need around the world.

by Patricia Paddey

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The Compassionate Resource Warehouse in Esquimalt, B.C. is a lot of things to a lot of people. First, it's a gathering in place, where everything from medicines to school supplies, clothing to household goods, personal hygiene items to dry food stuffs is collected, packed into huge eight by eight by 40-foot containers and then shipped to peoples and nations in need around the world.

It is a place of community, where volunteers assemble to work side by side with a common goal: to give of themselves in order to better the lot of people in need often half a world away.

But to Dell Marie Wergeland, founder and director of the Warehouse, it's primarily "a fantastically fun place to be."

That's because Wergeland, 51, views the Warehouse, which operates under the umbrella of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada (the relief arm of the Church of the Nazarene Canada), as a place of miracles.

The seeds of the Warehouse were planted in 1999, when Wergeland, her husband and her brother-in-law took a short-term mission trip to Honduras to provide aid in the wake of Hurricane Mitch.

"A lot of the places we went into, the only supplies they had were what we brought," says Wergeland, remembering how the trip home meant confronting the reality of western luxury and excess. The Wergelands determined to fill one large shipping container with humanitarian aid items for Honduras. It took them 18 months to do it. "Then we thought: 'Well, that was fun. Let's do another one,'" Wergeland remembers.

With the help of countless volunteers, "wonderful contacts with businesses, agencies, ministries and foundations," and "the Lord's blessing," Wergeland says the next 156 containers were filled and shipped (at an average cost of \$5,000 to \$10,000 U.S. each) a little faster.

Today, the Warehouse sends out approximately one container every two weeks, causing Wergeland to say, "This is the Lord's project, not ours."

To find out how you can help, call (250) 381-GIVE, or Email: werge@telus.net.
Website: www.cwarehouse.ca.