

Chiropractors hope helping the homeless will inspire other people

KRISTA BRYCE DAILY NEWS

Dr. Norm Detillieux and Dr. Helen Bergstrom spend two hours every Friday at Nanaimo's New Hope Centre, offering free chiropractic services to a waiting room full of clients.

Detillieux started the clinic on his own two months ago and when his patient numbers started to climb he asked Bergstrom to help him out. It's still a work in progress but the Salvation Army has been more than happy to accommodate their needs in return for their generosity.

Two Nanaimo chiropractors hope their good deed will inspire other professionals to help those in the community who need it most. In August, Detillieux saw two to three clients per day.



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Those numbers have reached between 12-15 and he doesn't expect it to slow down any time soon.

The duo will also be at Nanaimo's homeless fair to offer their services on Oct. 19.

"These are clients that can't afford to come but they're also the ones that need the most help," said Detillieux, 34.

Nanaimo social planners are holding the fair in order to investigate the causes of homelessness. The event will replace the annual homeless census that has been used for the past four years to get a better understanding of the street population demographics.

The fair will offer food and other services such as haircuts and will last all day, allowing social planners an opportunity to look at a smaller sample of people and understand their backgrounds.

Businesses and volunteers are still needed to offer services at the fair. For information contact Sharon Welch, chairwoman of the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness at 250-755-9313 or by e-mail at sharon-welch@telus.net.

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