

WE ARE ALL PART OF GOD'S FAMILY

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Today we are constantly bombarded with negative news and one recurring complaint is about the homeless. The complaints are generally about how they approach for money, harass people or clean car windows when drivers don't want them to. I think a number of us (myself included) forget that these "street people" are human beings.

This point was driven home to me last weekend as I was fundraising for The Weekend to End Breast Cancer walk. As I stood outside a lower mainland liquor store (with permission, of course), there was a panhandler about 30 feet away. He was friendly enough, and we exchanged small talk despite the fact that my fundraising presence greatly hampered his collections.

A couple of hours into the day he asked how much he would have to donate to get one of the pink ribbons I was handing out to donors. I said it was free for him and walked over to give him one. This man, who had been sitting outside for at least three hours (and it was very cold), proceeded to give me all the money he had collected. In that time, sitting on the cement in the cold, he had only collected just over \$4.00, yet was willing to hand it all over to support



breast cancer research! He said that he had to give something so I took a quarter and gave the rest of his money back to him.

The 25 cents I took from that man meant more than the rest of the money I collected that day. What a great reminder to us that we shouldn't be so quick to ignore or judge people. We all deserve respect as we are all part of God's family. †

2006 CENSUS – COUNT YOURSELF IN!

- Who:** You!
- What:** 2006 Census
- When:** May 16, 2006
- Where:** across Canada
- Why:** to make sure that you are counted



Every five years, Statistics Canada conducts a national Census of Population. The next Census Day is May 16, 2006.

The results of a national census: have a keen effect on public policy; develop programs such as day care and subsidized housing; select sites for schools; and, plan important public services including health care, fire and police protection. It is essential that you complete your census form and return it (on-line or by mail) and that you assist by making others aware of the census.

Watch for the arrival of the 2006 Census package in your mailbox. Be sure to complete it and remind others in your councils to do the same.