

Jennifer Turin

Doug Parton Beefs Up *His Donation*



Douglas Parton has some meaty ideas when it comes to helping Union Gospel Mission.

He's a Notary Public with expertise in real estate and insurance and he's also a farmer with a passion for giving back. When he's not chairing a meeting for the Vancouver Chapter of The Society of Notaries Public of BC, Doug can be found in the back 40, caring for his beloved herd.

Originally from Vancouver, Doug now lives in Abbotsford where he operates a hobby farm and raises a

small herd of cattle. He has been a donor to UGM's big dinners for years. Always looking for opportunities to get others involved in sharing their good fortune, Doug headed up the Vancouver Chapter's fundraising event for Chinese New Year 2006, which raised \$515 for UGM. He also organizes an annual blanket drive with

Realtors, donating the blankets to UGM at Christmas.

This year, Doug generously donated an entire beef to UGM; he recognizes the growing need of homeless people in the Lower Mainland. He says, "I'm no longer fighting to keep my head above water. I do okay. I'm not wealthy or anything, but now I can afford to start to try to find ways to help you guys at UGM."

Doug shares his motivation for giving by doing the math: "I could give one (beef) to you and it doesn't really hurt me to do that. Aren't we supposed to give a portion of that to God anyway? Giving it to UGM is

We're very grateful for people like Doug, who take action through new and creative ways to help those in desperate need.



Doug's pack horse Casey, saddle horse Red, and cows in the pasture



June, a mama cow, and her week-old calf

really the same thing because you're helping God's children. It's just a way I can help."

He's clear about his priorities and helping those who are hungry and suffering is high on his list. He farms because he likes to create quality meat for himself, his friends, and UGM. Says George, UGM's Cordova facility kitchen manager, "It's these generous donations that help the mission serve such great food." Doug's donation of beef also fed people at UGM's New West and Mission Drop-in Centres.

We're very grateful for people like Doug, who take action through new and creative ways to help those in desperate need. This Summer, he's planning to invite other BC Notaries to a fundraising barbeque on his farm. He is already

considering another initiative: to use the proceeds to buy a calf, raise it, then donate the beef to UGM. "Everyone who becomes involved will be able to watch the calf grow, then each person will feel part of the process and the solution," he explains.

Doug has found the equation for fulfillment in life.

Doug has found the equation for fulfillment in life. He loves to farm, he can pay the bills, and he sees where his need stops and someone else's begins. Because of the generosity and caring of this donor, we are able to touch lives, offering new hope by filling empty stomachs.

With humility, Doug adds, "As we find a way to look after ourselves, we can actually open our eyes and be useful in this world." ▲

Jennifer Turin is a communications assistant at Union Gospel Mission, a non-profit organization on the Downtown Eastside offering hope to the hungry, hurting, and homeless in the Lower Mainland. Before joining UGM, she was customer service manager at Priority Management, an international productivity training company. Jennifer is also a communications student at Simon Fraser University, with a special interest in journalism and copywriting.

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Doug riding Red, his quarter horse gelding