



a legacy of love

Provide hope and belonging
for the future



Photo: Don Denton/Black Press

A legacy of love, hope and belonging

Dear Friend,

We greatly appreciate your ongoing support of Our Place Society.

Our ability to care for Greater Victoria's most vulnerable citizens in the future is only possible through friends and allies like you who provide for those who are struggling in our community. With an eye to that future, we are creating a plan to ensure our vision of hope and belonging for all endures.

After you have provided for your family and friends in your will, you can create a legacy of love for those who will call Our Place 'home' in the future. You will be supporting people who are homeless, those experiencing poverty, and those who struggle with mental health and addictions.

When you leave a gift to Our Place Society in your will, your values of compassion and caring live on. You create a sense of belonging for those who feel isolated. You provide for nourishment and guidance to those facing difficult challenges. You become part of a movement that relieves human suffering and builds hope for the future.

By remembering Our Place Society in your will, you touch the lives of people like Mark, Shirley and Gordon – whose stories you'll see featured on the following pages.

On behalf of Our Place, I offer you my heartfelt thanks. Together we can create a better life for those who are most vulnerable in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Evans", written in a cursive style.

Don Evans,
Executive Director

Our Values

Unconditional Love

We are an organization with Christian values and principles. We believe that everyone should experience unconditional love in a non-judgmental way.

Hope

We are founded on the belief that each individual who comes through our doors will find inspiration, support and comfort. We believe in the potential of all and provide opportunities for positive change. We advocate for social justice.

Teamwork

We value the contributions of our staff and volunteers and ensure they are well trained and supported. We work together as one team committed to our mission, vision and values.

Belonging

We strive to create a nurturing atmosphere of home and family, where all are welcome and can experience a sense of hope and belonging. We are inclusive. Our doors are open to those of all cultures and beliefs.

Safety

We believe all who enter Our Place should feel secure and free from harassment or mistreatment of any kind. We endeavour to create a safe atmosphere where everyone can experience a sense of well-being.



A Legacy of Love lets your values live on

When you think about how you wish to be remembered, the values that are important in your life, and how you'd like to pass them along to the future, you can be assured that Our Place will be there to continue to convey our shared values.



Mark

When Mark first moved to Victoria with his girlfriend in 2005, he had recently suffered a serious brain injury. He was homeless and became addicted to drugs.

"Our Place gave me food, they found me a place to live and they helped me get off drugs."

Our Place also helped Mark get a contract with the City of Victoria cleaning graffiti off walls and dirty needles from the streets.

Mark now volunteers as a peer counsellor and mentor, helping others to overcome their addictions.

"Our Place helps people get through everyday living. Coming here makes it worth getting up in the morning."

Shirley

Shirley came to work at Our Place in 2011 as a custodian. It was her first job after coming out of a treatment program.

"I am a recovering alcoholic and I was scared to work here at first."

Roughly 30% of the staff at Our Place, like Shirley, have come from a place of vulnerability and addiction. Their example of courage and personal transformation are an inspiration to those they support.

Gordon

"I never anticipated that I would need a place like this. I came from a middle-class background and I had always assumed that I would make enough money to live."

But Gordon's struggle with schizophrenia made for a life of homelessness and destitution for years.

Gordon credits Our Place with teaching him to take ownership of his life. He is looking forward to a new career as a licensed Acupressurist. He volunteers every Wednesday and Thursday at Our Place, providing acupressure to people who sleep outside or on hard mats – people whose shoulders ache, whose spines are stiff, and whose backs are in dire need of some relief.

"Our Place is my family and my support. I'm sober and I've got a good home and a safe environment. Without Our Place, I wouldn't have that."

Our Place has given me the hope and faith to want to live and survive and the courage to overcome anything in my way."

"I first came to get out of the cold weather for a few hours. I continued to come because I wasn't preached at. I was just allowed to be who I was and struggle with what I needed to struggle with."





How legacies can help

From our location on Pandora Avenue, we run a variety of crucial services, including meals, housing, health and wellness, education, and practical care.

We offer over 1,500 meals per day, and provide a safe and dignified environment for people to shower, receive clean clothing, find their place in the community, and connect with staff and each other.

Above the street-level facility, we provide 45 transitional housing units for those who are committed to moving toward independent living.

Each of these services offers hope and belonging for the most vulnerable citizens of Greater Victoria, and legacy gifts ensure we can continue to meet these needs in the future.

How to leave a legacy to Our Place

Leaving a bequest to Our Place Society is the simplest way to leave A Legacy of Love.

Writing or changing your will is not the overwhelming task that you may think. Everyone should have a will and update it on a regular basis. To ensure that you have a valid will, we strongly recommend that you use the services of a legal professional.

To include a bequest to Our Place Society you will need to give the legal professional drafting your will our legal name and address. It is essential that you use our correct name and address.

Our Place Society
919 Pandora Avenue
Victoria, BC V8V 3P4
Charitable # 82709 8344 RR0001

Sample Bequest Clauses:

A share of the residue (designates a percentage of the remainder of your Estate, once debts and specific bequests have been paid)

"I give to Our Place Society, 919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, BC V8V 3P4 ____ percent of the residue of my Estate for its charitable purposes."

A specific bequest (designates a specific amount of cash or other asset/s)

"I give to Our Place Society, 919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, BC V8V 3P4, the sum of \$_____ (or a description of the property or asset) for its charitable purposes.

Other Ways to Leave a Legacy Gift

Gifts of Life Insurance, Beneficial interest in RRSPs and RRIFs, and Securities, can all help support Our Place. We'd be happy to talk with you if you want more information about these options.

We'd love to hear from you if you make a legacy commitment.

Dawn Kloster
T: 250-413-3161
E: dawnk@ourplacesociety.com



1

We recognize that a **legacy gift is your decision** and you need to make it in your own time.

2

We respect **your privacy**.

3

We will use the gift carefully and cost effectively so that it has the **greatest impact**.

4

It is your decision to let us know that you've left a gift in your will, or another kind of legacy gift. **We'd love to hear from you and thank you** – but you don't need to tell us.

Our Commitment to you

*Our eight promises
to those who leave a
legacy gift to Our Place*

5

If you decide to notify us of your gift, **you can choose how we communicate with you** in the future about our work to transform lives in our community.

6

We will give you **the opportunity to be connected** to the work we do.

7

At any time in the future, you have the **absolute right to change your mind** about a gift in your will to Our Place.

8

We will honour **whatever gift you leave**, and treat it with sensitivity and respect.

Our Place Society,
919 Pandora Avenue,
Victoria BC, V8V 3P4
www.ourplacesociety.com



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