

Shirley

Painted in 2007 by Elfrida Schragen

Shirley's parents were both traumatized by the residential school system and that trauma carried on to Shirley and her siblings. She began drinking and blacking out at age 11 and things escalated from there. As a grown woman Shirley lost custody of her children and lived on the street for five years. In September, 2010 she went through a short treatment program and in January applied for a custodial job with Our Place. She still can't believe that she was hired and has been working full time every since. Shirley is more than a custodian, she is also a healthy role model and counsellor for people in addiction who come to the drop in centre. She has custody of her grand daughter and works hard to provide a better life for her and end the generational trauma of her family.



Our Place Society has grown from a unique inner-city community centre to five locations serving Greater Victoria's most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted and the homeless. Individuals and businesses provide 50% of the financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides over 1,200 meals per day, plus 1,400 snacks, hot showers, education, job skills, health care, addiction recovery services, donated clothing, counseling and outreach services, a 60 bin storage facility, plus 45 transitional housing units and over 150 shelter spaces. Most importantly, Our Place provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.



Hope and Belonging

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Mother's Day
GIFT OF LOVE