



nourish  
community

## It takes a village

You can create and nourish a community at Our Place.

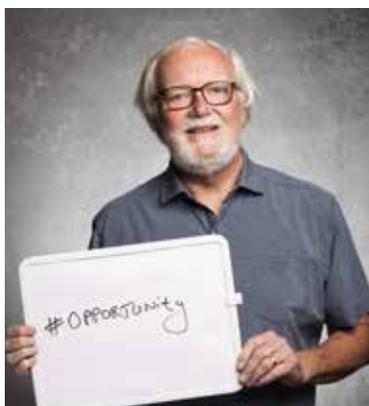
*As folks have found a roof over their heads, Our Place residents have begun to share more stories of feelings of trust and comfort, which can be very hard for many who have faced trauma in their lives. You, as a kind and compassionate donor, make this circle of caring possible. A few donors and community supporters also recently shared some reasons why they choose to give to Our Place and help nourish the people we serve who so desperately need unconditional love and acceptance. Here's what they wanted you to know:*

"Our Place serves Greater Victoria's most vulnerable people: the working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted, and homeless. This is the Our Place family.

While a lot of the efforts of the staff and volunteers at Our Place are focused on the *immediate needs* of its family members, Our Place has recognized that part of helping its family members is to get them on a path to help themselves. In some cases, this will involve preparing them for employment by supporting them in finding and keeping a job, oftentimes after a long absence from a workplace.

I support their Our WorkPlace program because I believe its very successful pre-employment training workshops and supports have material and long-term benefits to encourage productive and meaningful change for the members of the Our Place family and our community at large."

~ **Peter Powell**, Past Vice Chair, Burns Fry Ltd.



"The term **entrepreneur** often references a person who sees a need and undertakes an effort to meet this need with intent to create a service or product while, often, taking a calculated risk. Understanding the needs and desires of your clientele is clearly demonstrated by the efforts extended by Our Place to meet the current and future needs of the members of the OPS family.

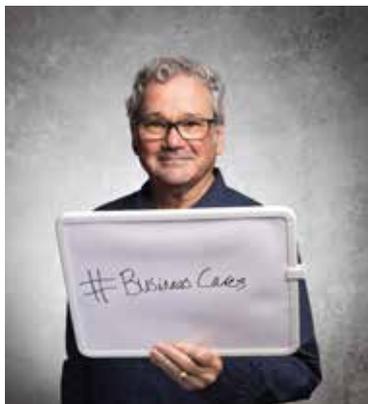
There is a remarkable energy within the organization to identify needs and act. I see small examples of taking action to address a need: power washing the front entrance, identifying the potential for on-site laundry facilities, and growing and cultivating greenhouse produce. These efforts build confidence and training related to job seeking.

Overall, the work performed by OPS in convening donors, the community, and others provides an excellent example of the entrepreneurial approach: understand the need, assess the value, take action to implement, realize the benefits." ~ **Mike Shannon**, Executive in Residence (UVic Innovation Centre), Chair of the Board (Camosun Technology Access Centre), Board Director (Vancouver Island Engineering Society), Past Chair of the Board (VIATEC)

“Our Place is a quality organization: from the governance, to the management, to the leadership they show, and also the volunteers and frontline staff. They are amazing; the energy and commitment they have really shows.

We know that when we give our time and our money to Our Place that it is going to be well-used in the community.

We choose Our Place because of the impact that it has on the community. Without them, I think our entire community would be much worse off – immeasurably worse off. You’d notice the difference everywhere. We’re proud personally, as well as on a corporate level, to be sponsors of such an important element of the community.” ~ **Pete Jando, Branch Manager and Director, Odium Brown Ltd.**



“The question I ask people quite often is, ‘What do you think this place would be like if Our Place wasn’t here?’. I can’t imagine this community without Our Place. If they weren’t here, who would care for these people? If they weren’t doing the service they do in providing the care that they provide, who would do that? Who would that fall to?

One of the things that’s so important in a person’s life when they’re in some sort of distress or crisis is to provide them with that stability that comes with a bed, or counselling, or company, or fellowship, or a meal. Without the kind of stability that’s provided by Our Place, catastrophe would be living on the streets

every day.” ~ **Bruce Williams, CEO, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce**

“As a long-time volunteer for Our Place, I have the privilege of working alongside the exceptional staff who daily demonstrate patience and compassion when addressing the complex needs of some of Victoria’s most vulnerable citizens. Much of the work carried out by staff is under some of the most trying of circumstances, but I have seen many instances of lives being changed for the better.

In addition to volunteering my time and expertise to Our Place, I am also a donor. Early in the pandemic, I created a wellness fund for frontline workers at Our Place. I specified that it be a matching fund, so that others in the community would also have an opportunity to show their appreciation for the critical, and in many instances, lifesaving work these workers perform – day in and day out.



Frontline workers outside the Our Place Drop-in Centre on Pandora.

I am grateful for the chance to be a part of and to support the valuable programs and services that Our Place Society provides. ~ **Veronica Osborn, small business owner and community supporter**

***Will you join this wonderful community of supporters and help us provide nourishment and connection to those we serve?***

***Please donate now!***

From its humble beginnings as a simple downtown Victoria refuge, Our Place has grown from an inner-city community centre to employing 200+ staff and 250+ volunteers who operate a continuum of critical services in locations throughout the CRD.

- 919 Pandora Avenue
- Muncey Place on Blanshard Street
- Capital City Centre Hotel on Douglas Street
- Howard Johnson Hotel on Gorge Road
- Tiny Homes Village on Caledonia Avenue
- Russell Street Shelter
- My Place Shelter on Yates Street
- First Metropolitan Church Shelter
- Pandora Night Shelter
- New Roads Therapeutic Recovery Community in View Royal
- Our Workplace on Quadra Street