

HELP FILL THE FRIDGE



Inflated food costs hit the poorest the hardest

Demand for emergency meals at Our Place Society has increased

35%

Growing numbers of vulnerable citizens are struggling to meet basic needs. Among those skipping meals, cutting back on groceries and most stressed about rising food costs are people with old age security, pensions, the working poor, and those on disability and social assistance which now leaves them 25% to 50% below the poverty line.

Build on Community Support

Our Place Society has a proud 54 year history of providing essential services to vulnerable people in Greater Victoria because the community cares. It is the largest emergency meal supplier on Vancouver Island. Three nutritious meals are served daily at no charge to all experiencing poverty, homelessness, addictions, and/or physical and mental health issues. In the first six months of 2022 demand increased by 35% to 185,000 meals, and the heightened need is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

The emergency meals are partially funded by compassionate, concerned citizens through donations and bequests, grants, foundations, corporations, and the provincial government. The Farmlands Trust, the CR FAIR Community Food Hub of local farms, and Capital Region Food Share Network provide much needed contributions of fresh local produce that enhance nutrition and sustainability, and reduce food miles. It takes a village.

Rising Prices - Critical Fund Gap

Inflation rose to over 8% in June, the highest it has been in 39 years. Food costs have gone up by 10% since January and suppliers are warning of increases as much as 30% this year. Sadly, donations to OPS have decreased recently. Donations of produce also decreased because cool weather delayed the growing season this spring. Supply chain issues have affected food availability and tax our food manager's creativity.

Thankfully we have commitments to meet 2/3 of this year's cost.

To continue to be able to offer meals to all those who come for help we must raise at least an additional \$600,000 this fiscal year.

OPS has already had to make budget cuts. Tough decisions about decreasing its most vital services would only be considered as an absolute last resort, after all other options are exhausted.

~“You really cannot make a good life choice when you’re fighting every day to eat... We’re here seven days a week, three meals a day—it’s ... one thing they don’t have to worry about” ~ Brian Cox, our Food Services Manager. With 34 years experience, he knows how to stretch every dollar.



More from CTV News [here.](#)

Your Contribution: More Important than Ever

Be a Food Security Champion

Relieve Stress and Hunger through Meal Sponsorship!

Our Place Society now serves an average of 1,000 emergency meals every day at the Community Centre on Pandora Avenue. Your sponsorship will enable it to continue to meet the growing need.

Meal sponsorships begin at:

- ☐ \$500 for breakfast
- ☐ \$600 for lunch
- ☐ \$750 for dinner
- ☐ You and family and friends could underwrite a full day of the meals people count on for \$1,850.
- ☐ Individuals, groups, and organizations can support a full week for \$12,950 or \$55,500/month.

Sponsorships are available for special events and celebrations such as bar-b-ques and holiday meals. You may also choose to dedicate a meal in honor or memory of a loved one, a milestone event, or other occasion.

All meals are nutritionally balanced in accordance with the Canada Food Guide. Sponsors may choose to enhance the menu with optional extras. For example, a basic breakfast of porridge can be upgraded to bacon and eggs to add protein and an extra-special start to the day.



See the Difference You are Making!

Visits to the Drop-In Centre at 919 Pandora Avenue are especially meaningful to many supporters. We would be pleased to host you for a meal and welcome groups of up to 5 to help serve.

Donate In Your Own Way

Your gift will lighten the burden of others. You may support the program as a Circle of Love monthly donor or schedule contributions in another way. You may prefer to gift publicly-traded securities because of tax benefits; we happily accept these along with other giving options, by cheque, online through a credit card, or via a phone call.

Recognition

With your permission, we will recognize your valued Food Security Champions sponsorship on Our Gratitude webpage and social media.

Contact


To discuss your giving preferences, request further information, or arrange a visit

please contact:

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Red Seal Chef Zeno and produce at treatment centre



Nutrition bar at 919 Pandora Ave