

How your gifts are nourishing lives

Why community is so important in the path to recovery

We are grateful for your donations which provide basic needs: meals, showers, clean clothes, and access to medical services. But what you may not realize is that you are connecting people to transformative change. Your donations create positive relationships that support individuals who are suffering, and you build a community that people can turn to for comfort when they need it most.

Nestled in a quiet, unassuming neighbourhood in Saanich, Jaymac Place houses a unique “family” that’s built on shared community, lived experience, and now, brotherhood.

“I have been clean and sober for one and a half years now and I have come a long way, with the help of the staff at Our Place,” says Patrick, a recent graduate of New Roads and now a resident at Jaymac Place. “My experience here has been really great, and I am going through this process together with everyone else.”

Patrick holds his darkest secrets close, as many of us do, and acknowledging his past is not something he wants to focus on anymore. He shares his story in broad strokes – growing up in the foster care system, finding himself

in the criminal justice system, addicted and lost. Eventually his path led him to New Roads.

“Everyone at New Roads, and now Jaymac Place, has supported me through this process of recovery and healing,” says Patrick. “Together with each other, one united, in the path towards freedom.”

Funded through the generosity of three local families, **Jaymac Place** is Our Place’s inaugural second-stage transitional home in the community. Some came from incarceration. Some came from a hard life of living on the streets with severe addiction. All took the brave step to enroll in the intensive recovery program at New Roads in View Royal. The home is a place where (up to) six men – all graduates from New Roads Therapeutic Recovery Community – come to heal, grow, and work together to successfully integrate back into society.

Their stories may vary, but what they all have in common is a goal to work together in community – a new family – towards long-term sobriety, healthy minds and bodies, and a chance to move forward, accepting and leaving their trauma-filled pasts behind.

At Jaymac Place, residents work together to care for and maintain the home and yard. They also learn life skills: grocery shopping, cooking healthy meals, and paying bills and rent. The minimum stay is six months but could be longer, depending on the individual. The men also schedule daily or weekly meetings together to organize and structure tasks, as well as attend regular group support sessions through Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or SMART Recovery.



Patrick Tatoosh is an emerging Indigenous artist. The time he spent at New Roads Therapeutic Recovery Community, and now at Jaymac Place, has re-ignited his passion for art. Patrick hopes to continue to share and sell his art publicly.

During his year-long stay at New Roads, Patrick's talent and passion for art was re-ignited. Now, with a supportive, encouraging network and a solid community surrounding him, Patrick is beginning to take his love of art to another level. His drawing of "*The Eagle*", **on the placemat enclosed**, is just one example. For Our Place Society, Patrick has also created a button in honour of Indigenous Peoples Day, as well as a series of bookmarks featuring his artwork. *If you drop off items for donation, be sure to pick one up!*

Another requirement for living at Jaymac Place is that the residents must be employed or taking educational programming. Patrick took advantage of the opportunities offered at another Our Place program, Our WorkPlace. There he successfully completed the People In Progress (PIP) certificate. Participants in PIP receive six weeks of essential employability and occupational skills, four weeks of on-the-job work experience and two weeks of follow-up support to help in their job search process. It's a program that worked for Patrick, and many other graduates. Since last November, 132 people were actively working with Our WorkPlace, and 66 are employed.

"I've managed to find work through the Our WorkPlace program and get my PIP certificate, furthering my education experience and life skills," says Patrick. "I've now got some financial stability and have made lots of acquaintances, and actually through work as well."

He has been busy giving back to Our WorkPlace by working on a mural, together with Morgan, an employee at the job skills training centre.



Patrick and Morgan work on the mural at Our WorkPlace. The idea behind the mural is that each graduate of the PIP program will place a print of their hand on the tree to signify their achievement.

"Patrick is a great example of the continuum of care we can provide," says Cheryl Diebel, Director of New Roads. "When he first got to New Roads, he was in really rough shape. But he's been working hard, and using all of the supportive services that are here for him to find success. We're very proud of him for coming full circle and finding his own path to a different life."

Patrick is excited to see the next turn his life will take, sober and at peace with his past. "Next is the plan to work on my education, working along side my program and my job of course," he adds. "I am doing everything I can to get a new way of life. It gets better day by day and I am doing everything possible to make sure that I am safe and sound." And the staff at Our Place, his brothers-in-recovery at Jaymac Place and New Roads, and the new community he is building around him will be there to hold him up in this next phase of his journey.

When people surround themselves with caring, supportive, positive energy, nourishing change is possible.

Your donations bring people together to create opportunities.

Please join us in nourishing community so people can work together to find better pathways and more positive futures.

From its humble beginnings as a simple downtown Victoria refuge, Our Place has grown from an inner-city community centre to employing 275+ staff and 300+ volunteers who operate a continuum of critical services in 10 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
- New Roads Therapeutic Recovery Community in View Royal
- Jaymac Place Recovery Home in Saanich
- Our WorkPlace on Quadra Street