



Your Impact

Your Invaluable Gifts Bring Hope and Belonging

Thank you for being a compassionate partner in valued philanthropic support of people experiencing such tough times in our region. Your thoughtful consideration for those struggling with poverty, homelessness and disabilities helps hundreds to meet basic needs and more. Here are a few photos, stats and stories, shared by our staff and volunteers, that show how your donations come to life at Our Place.

Grateful acknowledgement of the time and talent of volunteer Dominic Hall for his professional photographs. A picture is often worth more than 1,000 words!

Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to arrange a personal visit to our Community Centre by emailing donors@ourplacesociety.com or by calling our Donor Services line 250-940-5060. Thank you for caring.



Togetherness = Hope and Belonging

Wellness programs like our seniors' 55+ Club, footcare clinics, sing-alongs, therapy dogs and group journalling (led by Bill Israel) bring connection to so many. "One of the regular Journal Workshop participants shared that he has been missing the group, as it was on break for the holidays. He shared that being a part of the group gives him something to look forward to each week. I asked him why he likes attend. He said meeting with other people who 'get it', and that it has come to feel like a real community. I asked how he was doing, he said he was holding on to hope. I asked how he held on to hope, and he said by connecting with groups like this, it reminded him that he's not alone."

Simple Gestures = Hope and Belonging

Over the holiday season, hundreds of Angel Gifts and Christmas stockings were given out at all our sites. At the Community Centre, a staff member said: "One person with severe mental issues could not enter the building, so we brought him his gift to the street. He looked at me confused, 'What is this for?,' he asked. I explained that it was a gift and that someone had purchased it just for him. 'Do I need to give it back? Why for me?' The look of bewilderment nearly brought me to tears. You could hear that behind his question there was another question, or maybe a statement: *I don't deserve this*. After some conversation it dawned on him that the gift was truly his and he walked away smiling from ear to ear."



428,841
meals served
at Pandora &
other OPS sites

11,428
hot showers
in Our Place
hygiene

363
active case
mgmt plans
to nourish
change

170
active clients
working with
Our WorkPlace

2,654
participants in
wellness
programs &
services



Listening Ears = Hope and Belonging

In 2022, 768 One-on-Ones were provided by Spiritual Care volunteers and staff to folks who needed someone to listen. "Perhaps my favourite story from this month was when I spoke with one of the Community Centre family members, who told me his son is in treatment at New Roads. After speaking with his son and getting his permission, I was able to give the man an update, and you should have seen the 'proud papa' grin on his face. This wouldn't have been possible if I wasn't working regularly at both New Roads and the Community Centre. Later in the same week I talked with the man, and he had gotten a place in a treatment program himself. It was such a gift to be a part of his story!"

A Roof Overhead = Hope and Belonging

Our Place staff stepped up to the challenge of housing over 500 men and women this past year. "There was a long-term resident who slept overnight at one of our shelters with bunk beds. He's been using the shelter for many years and he has always been a delight to have around. He works full-time and would always offer to help out around the shelter during the evenings and at morning clean-up. He completed a BC Housing application with the support and advocacy of the shelter staff. When a placement became available at Muncey Place, BC Housing reached out to offer him the spot. He was very excited to hear about this placement and he moved in on December 23rd, just in time for the holidays."



YOUR Kindness = Hope and Belonging

Because of you, nutritious meals, hot coffees, hot showers, hygiene supplies, clean clothes and medical care are there every single day for Victoria's most hurting, vulnerable people. When folks walk inside the doors of the Our Place Community Centre downtown, or any other of our 10 locations, they discover a community that nourishes hope and belonging. Join us on this journey in 2023 as we:

- Open the first Our Place permanent housing site on Albina Street, providing secure homes for the first time in many years to the residents of the former Howard Johnson temporary shelter.
- Continue to provide basic daily needs (including 1,400+ nutritious meals a day) to hundreds of people in our community who are struggling to make ends meet.
- Provide even more programs and services that can interrupt the suffering so many are facing because of severe trauma, and allow people the time and support they need to nourish change in their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.
- And so much more!



350+
volunteers
giving an
average of
1.5K hrs/month

75
intakes to
New Roads
Therapeutic
Recovery
Community

80
Our WorkPlace
clients
employed

\$72,825
in donated
farm produce
for healthy
meals

70
move from
temp shelter
to permanent
housing