



What is home?

It seems like a simple question but ask five people and you will likely receive very different answers.

For example, I was born in Ireland, and over the years I've lived in the UK, Indonesia, and cities across Canada. In each of these places I always sought out home — a place of comfort, safety and connection. For me, it's much more than four walls and a roof overhead. It's the feeling of belonging.

For others, home — especially childhood or marital homes — has never offered safety or belonging, and they have struggled for years to find any place where they might fit.

At Our Place, we see it every day — the longing for stability, warmth, and hope.

People who access Our Place housing find home in many ways. Sometimes it's as simple as having access to a washing machine to finally keep their clothes clean. For others, it's keeping

warm and dry on cold nights, and meeting their neighbours to share a meal in the common areas. For all, it's having you, our community, and the Our Place staff behind them who want to see them succeed.

At New Roads, our men's and women's therapeutic recovery site, home is created by each individual as they rebuild a life in recovery, a seed that needs to be unearthed from beneath years of addiction.

And sometimes home is fleeting — a moment in time — such as when isolated people come to Our Place's Downtown Community Centre for one of our festive family meals.

So, then, what is home? Is it a place or a journey?

At Our Place, we believe it is both. We strive to provide a place where people feel they belong, where they can take a moment to have

a hot meal, a shower, and a moment of connection. But that is only the first step.

Every meal served, every shower offered, every bed in our housing and addiction treatment programs, and every counselling session or employment opportunity helps someone take the next step on what we call the pathway of support — a journey from surviving to truly thriving.

And while each person's journey looks different, every success starts with the same foundation: relationships and stability.

When we come together as a community, it's possible for everyone. Will you help someone start their journey today with a donation to Our Place?

*With gratitude,
Julian Daly, CEO*



To donate to Our Place Society, please visit us at:
ourplacesociety.com/donate,
call **250-940-5060**, or email
donors@ourplacesociety.com

Deanne's Story



Growing up in Ottawa, Deanne is fluent in French, attended conservatory-level music programs, and performed flute and piano at a professional level in her twenties. Right out of high school, she received several scholarships and committed to an intensive program in music. Within a few years, the extreme pressure and stress of the field led to extreme burnout.

Newly out of her parents' home, dejected from her harsh post-secondary experience, and feeling lost — she decided to move to the island and start fresh.

Deanne felt drawn to the sense of freedom that couch-surfing through the coastal communities offered. While living her free-spirited life, she held down a steady job in fine arts marketing for a company that had expanded across the country. But the more she moved around, the more disconnected she became. From her job, her health, her relationships, and herself.

After a painful break-up and several breakdowns, she received a diagnosis of bipolar disorder and stayed in the hospital for three weeks. But the cycle of isolation continued for Deanne.

"People didn't want to have relationships with me, because of my diagnosis," she says.

At one point, she lived for several months with a boyfriend and became pregnant. But, soon after having her son, she lost custody. When looking for someone to lean on, she ended up living with friends deeply entrenched in addiction and began using herself.

At her lowest point two years ago, she was living in front of Our Place on Pandora Ave. Slowly, she would come inside to eat and began accessing drop-in services. After some time, she was referred to a rehab program and following this, a spot opened up for her in supportive housing at Albina St, operated by Our Place.

In her first year at Albina St. housing, she stabilized, reconnected with her art by drawing portraits, volunteered and supported the community. In her second year, she branched out and got a job at a local café.



Portraits by Deanne



Deanne is now sober, has quit smoking, is effectively managing her bipolar diagnosis with regular medication and support, and has been back in the workforce for a year.

"I love it. I bake cookies, cakes, and bread. It gives me a sense of creativity again."

And that's not all. In the past two years, she has also reconnected with her son, who lives on the island. Together, they've visited several island communities, and he's come to see her at Albina St.

"He's happy for me," she says with pride.

But, she isn't stopping now. Deanne still has goals and dreams of building up her resume and helping others to find their way back, just like she has.

With your help, someone can do just that.

Help someone find a home in time for the holidays by donating to Our Place today.



Join us at an Our Place event!

Saturday, November 8, 2025

Inside Our Place

Join us for an evening at our community centre—a behind-the-scenes experience rarely open to the public. You'll be guided through the spaces where lives are transformed every day and hear powerful firsthand stories from our team about how Our Place supports recovery, dignity, and hope in our community.

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Our Place Community Centre, 919 Pandora Ave, Victoria, BC

Tickets: \$120 (includes dinner and donation to Our Place).

Thank you to our Hungry Hearts VIP Community Advocate Sponsors, Odlum Brown and Leon Judah Blackmore Foundation!



TICKETS AND DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.OURPLACESOCIETY.COM/EVENTS.
FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT SHARRAH@OURPLACESOCIETY.COM OR CALL 250 940 5060 EXT 5108

Friday, December 12, 2025:

A Christmas Carol

Join Our Place and CBC for a dramatic reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* at Broad View United on Friday, December 12, 2025. It's the Christmas message full of hope, redemption, and . . . ghosts.

Featuring the vocal talents of CBC Radio personalities, REACH All Abilities Performing Company, and some very special guests. This uplifting in-person event promises to be a heart-warming evening for the whole family!

Time: Doors open at 6:30 pm. Show begins at 7 pm.

Location: Broad View United | 3703 St, Aidans St, Victoria, BC

Tickets: \$15 for adults, \$7 for children



Giving Tuesday: Home for the Holidays with Our Place

Double Your Impact!

ALL GIFTS THIS MONTH ARE MATCHED.

In honour of Giving Tuesday on December 2, Knappett Projects Inc. and a generous local donor have pledged to match every donation to Our Place up to \$210,000.

That means your gift this month will go twice as far to help people in our community find stability, safety, and belonging — *a home for the holidays*.



Donate now at
www.ourplacesociety.com/donate



Smarter Ways to Give: Donor-Advised Funds and Gifts of Securities

As the year draws to a close, many of you are looking for meaningful - and tax-smart - ways to give. Two of the most effective ways to make a bigger impact are through a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) or a gift of securities.

A DAF allows you to make a charitable contribution, receive an immediate tax receipt, and then recommend grants to charities over time — or even schedule recurring gifts that reflect your ongoing values and priorities. If you have a DAF with organizations like the Victoria Foundation, you can easily direct a gift to Our Place Society (charitable number: 82709 8344 RR0001).

Donating publicly traded stocks, mutual funds, or bonds directly to Our Place is one of the most tax-efficient ways to give. When you transfer securities in kind, you avoid paying capital gains tax and still receive a receipt for the full market value - meaning more of your gift goes directly to support your neighbours in need.

Why It Matters: These forms of giving can help you maximize your tax benefits while deepening your impact - turning assets you already hold into hope, housing, addiction recovery and healing across our community.

If you'd like to learn more about how to make a gift through your DAF or transfer securities, please contact **Janice Kalin** at janicek@ourplacesociety.com or **250-940-5060 ext 5101**.