



# There is a pathway for Victorians in crisis, and it works.

Every day in our community, we see people struggling — people living in deep crisis. At times, it can feel overwhelming to see so much pain around us.

When we encounter someone who appears abandoned, unwell, and without the care or support they need, many people ask the same question: Is there hope? Can things actually change?

The answer, thankfully, is yes.

Every day at Our Place, we see people begin to move forward. Some take small steps. Others take big ones. But each step matters, and together they form a proven path out of crisis.

At Our Place, we call it the Pathway of Support.

It begins by meeting people exactly where they are — whether that means offering a

hearty sandwich to someone who is hungry, providing a safe place to sleep, bringing someone into our shelter or supportive housing, offering a warm place to sit and connect, or welcoming someone into our nine- to twenty-four-month addiction recovery program. Step by step, people move from survival to stability, and for many, toward recovery and renewed independence. There is help, and there is always a place to begin.

There are many entry points onto the Pathway of Support, and every person's journey looks different. But one thing remains the same: every individual who comes to Our Place is given the opportunity to take a step forward. It takes time and trusting relationships.

Yet over time, those steps lead people back to health, back to community, and back to themselves.

There is still much work to be done, and meaningful support is needed at every step along the way. But for the hundreds of people we see at Our Place every day, there is hope — and there is a pathway forward.

In the pages ahead, you will see that pathway in action and meet people who are already walking it. With your support, someone can take their first step today.

*Julian Daly,  
Our Place CEO*



To donate to Our Place Society, please visit us at: [ourplacesociety.com/donate](https://ourplacesociety.com/donate), call 250-940-5060, or email [donors@ourplacesociety.com](mailto:donors@ourplacesociety.com)

# Alice's Pathway



For many people who find help at Our Place, it begins with a meal. Hunger brings someone inside even when they aren't ready to face bigger challenges.

At our Christmas meal this year, I sat with Alice, a woman in her seventies who worked all her life and never imagined she'd struggle to afford groceries in retirement. On good days, she manages simple meals; on others, her food runs out, and her hands ache too much to cook. Preparing a holiday meal is beyond her means, and she doesn't have family in Victoria anymore.

For many years, she spent holidays alone, until a chance conversation with an Our Place staff member on the bus years ago. They invited her to our holiday meal when they learned she would be spending the holiday alone. When Alice arrived, she was welcomed warmly and enjoyed a

full turkey dinner at our community centre. She met so many people, some homeless and dealing with great hardship, but many, like herself, navigating the challenges of living on a limited income that no longer stretches as far as it once did.

These small moments are powerful on their own — providing comfort and belonging. But they also open the door to greater healing. An Our Place Outreach Worker sat at the table with Alice that day, too and connected her to our 55+ group — a special program for seniors to combat isolation and do activities together.

Today, Alice comes in twice a week to meet with the group. They do crafts together, go on outings, and eat lunch. These additional meals mean she can make her rent, afford her medications, and be embraced by a support system that cares about her.



**Our Easter meal is happening this week! Donate today to help ensure there's enough holiday food — and community — for everyone.**

# Andrei's Pathway

Housing isn't simple. Many factors make it difficult for someone to find and keep stable housing, and a room alone isn't enough. People need safety, stability, and support as they begin to rebuild their lives.

That's why My Place — our transitional shelter — exists. It supports people coming directly from the streets with 24/7 staff, a safe place to sleep, and dedicated support workers who help residents reconnect with services, rebuild stability, and begin planning their next step forward.

Recently, one of our Housing Support Workers, Sahal, shared a story about a resident named Andrei who has been staying at My Place for some time.

Andrei immigrated from Romania more than a decade ago and had lost touch with his family back home. He often spoke

about his siblings and how much he longed to reconnect with them, but he didn't know how to begin. Without resources, support, or even the confidence to try, the distance between them had only grown.

One day, Sahal sat down with Andrei and pulled out his phone. Together, they opened Facebook and began searching.

Before long, they found Andrei's sister's profile. When he saw her photo, his eyes filled with tears.

From her friends list, they discovered even more relatives he recognized. Sahal later told me, "After everything he has been through, the joy on his face in that moment was unforgettable."

Moments like this may seem small, but they are part of something much bigger. Stability allows people to begin rebuilding the parts of life that were lost — relationships,



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confidence, and a sense of belonging.

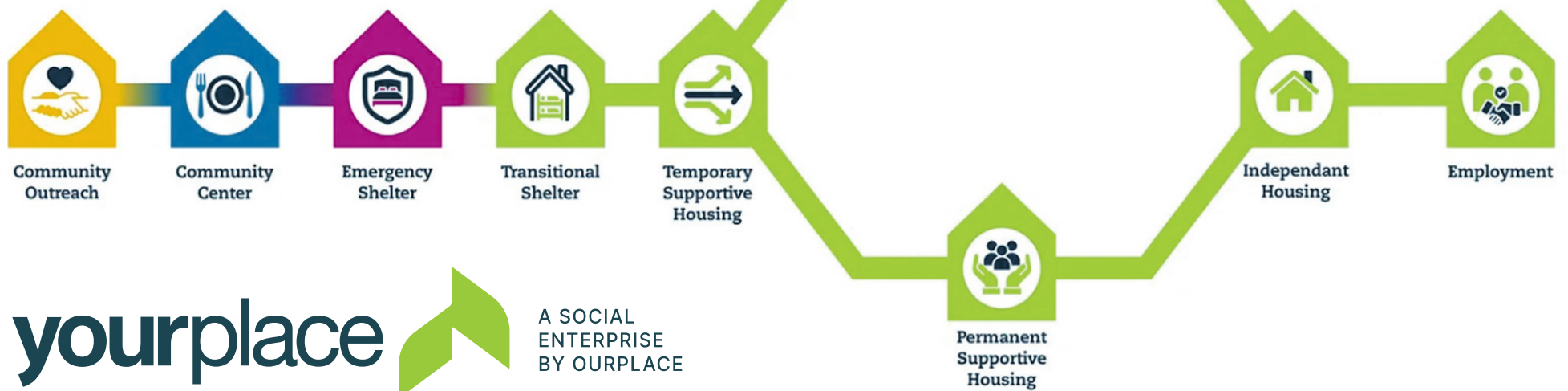
The next step on the Pathway of Support for Andrei will be moving into more independent living in supportive housing as he continues to rebuild his life. One day, he hopes to have a place of his own where his family can visit.

For now, he has reconnected with the people he loves — and that has changed everything.

**Your gift can put someone struggling on our streets onto the pathway of support. Visit [www.ourplacesociety.com/donate](http://www.ourplacesociety.com/donate) to open the pathway for someone today.**



# From Addiction to Employment *Transforming Lives*



**yourplace**



A SOCIAL  
ENTERPRISE  
BY OURPLACE

At Our Place, the Pathway of Support helps people move from crisis to stability through shelter, housing, and addiction treatment. But the final step on that pathway is independence.

For many people overcoming addiction, meaningful employment is what makes that independence possible.

One year ago, we launched Your Place Victoria — a professional landscaping and property maintenance company created by Our Place to provide employment for graduates of the New Roads Therapeutic Addiction Recovery Community.

The idea was simple: if Our Place walks with people from crisis to stability through shelter, recovery,

and housing, there must also be a meaningful next step. Employment is that step. Real, living-wage work is often the bridge between overcoming addiction and long-term independence.

In its first year, Your Place Victoria has served more than 110 residential and commercial clients across Greater Victoria and is expanding its service area into Saanich, Brentwood Bay, and Langford. Crews provide garden maintenance, lawn care, hedging, seasonal clean-ups, and property services with professionalism and pride.

Most importantly, Your Place has created stable employment for men and women who have completed treatment at the New Roads Therapeutic Addiction Recovery Community. These individuals have shown extraordinary courage, tenacity, and personal growth as they rebuilt their lives and are now valued employees contributing their skills to their community.

Each contract strengthens the final stage of the Pathway — transforming recovery into independence and stability into thriving.

As Your Place continues to grow, it will create more opportunities for people determined to build new futures. More clients mean more jobs, and more jobs mean more lives stabilized.



Learn more about  
Your Place Victoria at  
[yourplacevictoria.ca](http://yourplacevictoria.ca)