



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2026

What's inside

Our Stories

4



2

CEO Message:

Together, we are helping people move from surviving to thriving

4

Our Family

Kim and her daughter, Leeanna, found home at Muncey Place

6

Our Community

Programs like Beehive Wool Shop's knitting workshops combat isolation

8

Ways to Get Involved

Opportunities to make an impact in support of Our Place this year



Hope and Belonging



We thank Mail-O-Matic for donating resources to print this colour newsletter

Message from Julian

Spring is often described as a season of renewal. But here at Our Place, renewal isn't just a feeling — it's something we see every day.

We see it in the small, steady steps people take along their pathway of support. It may begin with a hot meal and a place to come inside, but it doesn't end there. From shelter, to stable housing, to recovery and rebuilding — each step creates the foundation for the next.

Over the winter months, your generosity ensured that thousands of meals were served, that people could come inside out of the cold, and that no one was turned away from care. Even without heavy snowfall, the cold was still dangerous — and because of you, we were able to respond,

opening 20 additional Extreme Weather Response spaces alongside the more than 500 shelter and housing spaces we operate every day.

With Easter arriving this month, we saw many more people walk through our doors — not just for food, but for connection. For a place to belong. For a starting point.

But what we know — and what stories like Kim and Leanna's so clearly show — is that lasting change happens when people have a place to call home. Housing provides stability, dignity, and the opportunity to rebuild relationships, reconnect with family, and begin to look forward again. It is one of the most critical steps on the pathway.

We are also seeing that progress in our addiction recovery programs. The first women have now graduated from the Women's Therapeutic Recovery Community at New Roads — a milestone that represents months of hard, courageous work. And because of you, we are preparing for the next step: Reunification House, which will open soon, offering a safe and supportive home where mothers can reunify with their children while continuing their recovery journey.

We have already seen the impact of this kind of continued support through Jaymac House for men graduating from New Roads. Stable, sober housing is not an extra — it is essential.

None of this happens without you.

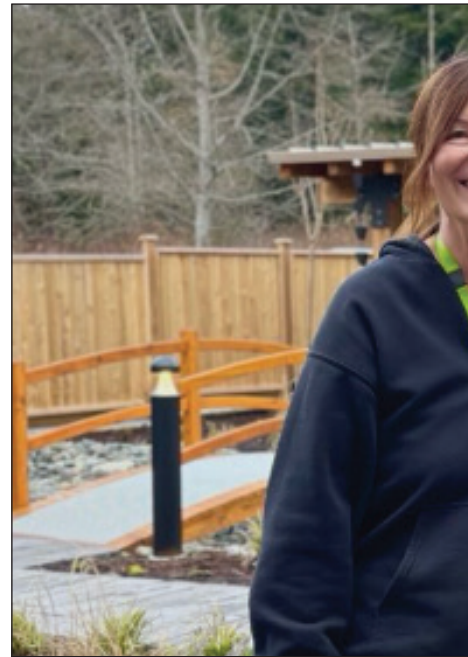
Every meal served, every safe space offered, every home created is a direct result of your compassion and commitment to this community.

As the days grow longer and brighter, I am filled with gratitude for what you have made possible — and with hope for what we will continue to build together.

Together, we are helping people move from surviving to thriving — and building a community of hope and belonging for everyone.

With gratitude,

Julian Daly
CEO



Supriya Crocker MA, RCC, MTA visits the Women's Therapeutic Recovery Community at New Roads



THANK YOU!

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU. We are truly grateful to everyone who contributes to Our Place. We appreciate the care and compassion shown by donations of time, talent, and money that benefit our family members. The many programs and services offered are only possible with the generosity of Our Place volunteers and supporters like you. Thank you!



Men's Program at New Roads for Music Therapy



Easter saw hundreds come in to eat and spend time together

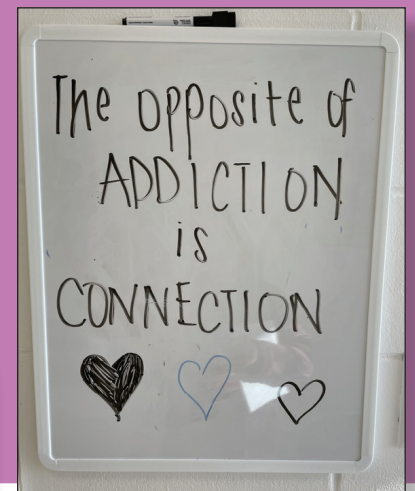


At Our Place, everyone finds family

Hope & Belonging at Our Place



Beauty Day celebrated all the women at Our Place



The residents at New Roads find inspiration every day



Hundreds walked in solidarity at Coldest Night of the Year 2026

Our Family

Kim and Leanna

Kim and her daughter Leanna are residents at Muncey Place Supportive Housing, operated by Our Place. But, it wasn't long ago that they were both living on the streets of Victoria, desperate for safety and shelter.

"My daughter had always had stable market housing and been successful. We both worked jobs, good jobs," Kim says of the time before she was homeless.



Kim and her son Doug visit outside Muncey Place

“ I barely remember our first weeks homeless. We were just trying to survive and keep moving. ”

Kim grew up in foster care, moving from home to home after being separated from her mother, a residential school survivor, at just six years old. She married young and had her children early in life. Her marriage didn't last, but she raised her children and worked as an in-home care worker while they were young.

After a serious car accident, she was prescribed Demerol (a morphine-like substance) for the pain. When the doctor stopped her prescription, she had already developed a reliance on the drug and was still in pain. Feeling hopeless, she turned to heroin.

Unable to continue working, she lived in a supportive housing facility and remained stable enough to keep her relationships strong with her children and grandchildren.

Leanna grew up surrounded by stability and care, thanks to Kim's hard work and protection. Everything changed with a single phone call Kim received at home. Leanna, a law student and intern, had been studying for an upcoming exam while caring for her newborn daughter. Her husband was away in Edmonton, driving to visit family, when he was tragically killed in a fatal shooting. The perpetrator was unknown — a random act of violence that took the life of a father and husband.

Additionally, Leanna had lived with heart disease for most of her life. The shock of her husband's tragic death placed immense strain on her body, ultimately leading to hospitalization, where she was diagnosed

with congestive heart failure. Her condition severely reduced oxygen to her brain, and her health declined rapidly.

In the months that followed, Kim describes watching her daughter lose pieces of herself—her education, her sense of purpose, her belief in her future. In an effort to manage both the physical pain and overwhelming grief, Leanna turned to drugs. Over time, the addiction took hold, and she lost her housing.

Their struggles began to converge, driven by a mother's desperation to save her child. At the facility where Kim was living, guests were not permitted. But as her daughter suffered on the streets, Kim felt she had no choice but to act.

"She had pneumonia, so I snuck her in to sleep out of the cold for just three nights. I couldn't let her die on the streets," says Kim as quiet tears slip down her cheeks. She quickly wipes at her eyes and apologizes for crying as she remembers her daughter's pain.

When the housing facility found out, Kim was evicted. She joined her daughter, where they sheltered on Pandora Ave.

"I barely remember our first weeks homeless. We were just trying to survive and keep moving. Every morning, we had to gather up everything we owned and try to move. At

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY BUILDERS PROGRAM TODAY

You can make a big impact all year long and ensure there is help available in our community every day. As a monthly donor, we'll send you just one consolidated receipt for your annual donation in time for filing your tax return each year. Call our philanthropy team at 250-940-5060 or choose 'monthly' when donating online at www.ourplacesociety.com/donate



Members of the Muncey staff cultivate community with activities and constant support

one point, I needed spinal surgery. And while I was trying to recover from that, I was much slower. We lost a lot of belongings because we couldn't move quickly enough."

As they fought each day just to keep safe and warm, they would spend their days at Our Place, finding a sense of safety and welcome at the Community Centre. They sipped hot coffee at the nutrition bar to warm up from the cold and used the hygiene services to shower and care for themselves. Over time, they began to build relationships with staff—connections grounded in trust, consistency, and care—that helped them feel seen and supported.

As they continued to visit, they noticed how many people came through and found help. The other Family Members whose lives had been transformed through the support they found were personal friends,

and their stories brought Kim hope. Over time, they came to really trust the staff and were ready for help.

Due to the very high need for supportive housing, it took a long time for Kim and her daughter to find a home. But they stayed the course, supported by the relationships they had built with the Our Place team and the services they could access at the Community Centre.

"Our Place called and told us we had housing — and housing together! I felt so lucky that we had someone looking out for us."

Kim and her daughter moved into Muncey Place and it has changed their lives. They're safe, they have the dignity of a home, and have access to all the services Our Place can provide. They have laundry machines, a doctor who visits the site, and even picnic benches where they sit and enjoy the early

spring sunshine. They sit together and look at photos and messages Leanna's daughter, a successful optician, has sent that morning. The staff at Muncey Place affectionately call her Kimmy, and always have a hug or a listening ear for them both.

The road ahead will still be tough for Kim and her daughter as they both get back on their feet, get healthy, and pursue market housing. But, as they walk that road, they'll have support every step of the way.

It is your support of Our Place that has given it to them. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

It's easy to apply. We now have a user-friendly online application that opens and pauses depending on our recruitment needs as well as an orientation process that enhances your Our Place volunteer experience. Please visit www.ourplacesociety.com/volunteer to get started.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

Our Community



Credit: Beehive Wool Shop

More seniors are reaching retirement only to find themselves without the support they expected, and this group is growing at Our Place. Many are now facing food insecurity, rising costs, and even homelessness. These challenges lead to isolation, depression, and declining health.

That's why the 55+ group at Our Place's Community Centre, and the activities they do together twice a week, are so critical.

Recently, we were delighted to welcome back the Beehive Wool Shop Foundation team, who joined the 55+ group to check in on their progress and share another joyful afternoon together.

Visits like these do more than build creative and practical skills—they help ease isolation, spark conversation, and bring colour and companionship into the lives of our seniors. Every smile, every shared story, and every stitch along the way is a reminder of what community can do when we come together.

We are deeply grateful to our partners like the Beehive Wool Shop Foundation, and to you for making visits like this possible. Your support helps create meaningful moments that brighten lives.

Thank you for making our community a kinder—and more colourful—place to live.



Credit: Beehive Wool Shop

LEGACY OF LOVE

A PLANNED GIFT
CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN

OUR PLACE DONORS ARE COMPASSIONATE, KIND, AND LOYAL. Living these values like you do is what makes our work possible. You can extend these values beyond your life and create a Legacy of Love for the future with a gift in your will. For more information, write to Janice at janicek@ourplacesociety.com



New home supplies thanks to generous donations!



Our Donors

We are deeply grateful to the generous organizations whose support is helping bring Reunification House to life. This first-of-its-kind transitional home in Victoria will provide a safe, supportive place where mothers graduating from the New Roads Women’s Therapeutic Recovery Community can reunite with their children – and live together again as a family while continuing their recovery journey.

Our sincere thanks to Rotary Victoria-Saanich, Harbourside Rotary, S. M. Blair Family Foundation, and United Church of Canada Seeds of Hope Fund, as well as several anonymous private donors. These generous donors have made it possible to take the first critical steps in bringing Reunification House to life.

Because of your generosity, women in recovery will have the opportunity to rebuild their lives alongside their children – creating stability, connection, and a foundation for lasting change.



New Roads team and realtor outside the first Reunification House



SM BLAIR FAMILY FOUNDATION

Get Involved

Hold your own Our Place Fundraiser or Donation Drive!

Do you have a passion for helping others? Do you want to raise awareness while providing hot meals, access to shelter, and other essentials? Consider hosting your own event or fundraiser for Our Place Society.

And doing it together with family, friends, or colleagues? A special experience and great memories to boot!

Visit www.ourplacesociety.com/how-you-can-help/thirdpartyfundraising to find more ideas and email Sharra at sharrah@ourplacesociety.com to let us know about your event.

Sharra Haumont,
250-940-5060 ext. 5108
sharrah@ourplacesociety.com

Some of the greatest help that Our Place receives is from families, friends, and groups in the community! Whether it is a yard sale, collecting spare change, having a bake sale, or setting up an online donation page – your creativity, and a little effort, could make a big difference for people in need.

Running a successful fundraiser is easier than you might think – you probably already have people around you who would be willing to contribute. If you're feeling ambitious, the sky's the limit on the kind of impact you could have with a community fundraiser!



Thanks for selling lemonade to help everyone at Our Place, Rosie!

Our Place Sponsored Meals



MEALS OPEN DOORS

Sponsored Meals are a special volunteer experience at Our Place that brings joy to hundreds of people in need.

With a donation starting at \$600, you can upgrade regular mealtimes to something special and join us to serve it to the community.

Turn the standard breakfast of oatmeal into hearty bacon and eggs and join our team to hand it out directly! See the smiles you bring to those struggling in our community firsthand.

If you can't make it downtown to our community centre, or you just want to make this volunteer experience possible for someone else—Donate to our Matching Meals Fund to create special volunteering opportunities for others.

Email Sharra at sharrah@ourplacesociety.com or call 250-940-5060 ext. 5108 to learn more and sponsor a meal today!

 **ourplace**
Hope and Belonging

Our Place Society
919 Pandora Avenue
Victoria, B.C. V8V 3P4
250-940-5060
donors@ourplacesociety.com

Join the conversation online!
Facebook facebook.com/ourplacesociety
Instagram www.instagram.com/ourplacesociety
Registered Canadian Charity
82709 8344 RR0001

Visit our website: ourplacesociety.com

