

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Our Place's Therapeutic Recovery Community transformed

HeroWork Renovation and Healing Garden unveiling on July 20

VICTORIA, B.C. – When the community comes together, the result is transformative.

Teaming up with HeroWork, Our Place wants to invite everyone to a special unveiling of two major transformative projects at the new Therapeutic Recovery Community, 94 Talcott Road. Open house, tours and presentations will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 20, and run until 4 p.m.

With the help of HeroWork's incredible crew of 500 volunteers and 120 businesses there's been a radical renovation of the Therapeutic Recovery Community's main living quarters, including 8 living areas and 24 sleeping suites that will house up to 48 men. In addition, HeroWork doubled the size of the dining room space, added an arts and crafts room, created an outside food production area and erected a must-see longhouse style pavilion at the facility entry.

The community's residents are men who have suffered significant trauma and addiction and have struggled to put their lives back together after periods of incarceration and homelessness.

Simultaneously to this renovation, a very generous donation has allowed for the creation of an amazing Healing Garden. What was once an institutional, concrete compound is now a green and serene oasis.

"It truly is incredible what HeroWork has done to transform the interiors of the former youth custody centre," says Don Evans, CEO of Our Place. "The generosity of the volunteers and skillset of the trade professionals has been amazing to watch. And the new garden that has come about because of a local philanthropist will be such a place of healing and transformation for the residents."

Tracie Clayton, the new Executive Director of HeroWork Victoria, agrees. "It takes a community to rebuild a community, and we've seen just that. It's been a privilege to be part of mobilizing our community of volunteers and businesses for such an inspiring project."

"The hard work by so many businesses, volunteers, donors and staff who have come together to make these wonderful enhancements will make an enormous difference in the lives of residents on their own pathway to healing and hope," said Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. "My heartfelt gratitude to everyone at Our

Place. Your work is a shining example of community in action that will have a lasting impact for years to come.”

Event: Open House – Renovation & Healing Garden

When: Saturday, July 20, 1:00pm to 4:00pm (Presentation at 2:00pm)

Where: 94 Talcott Road, View Royal

For over 50 years, Our Place has been a unique inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted and the homeless. Individuals and businesses provide much of the financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides over 1,000 meals per day, plus 1,200 snacks, hot showers, education, job skills, health care, addiction recovery services, donated clothing, counseling and outreach services; plus 45 transitional housing units and over 100 shelter spaces. Most importantly, Our Place provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

HeroWork is a charity that renovates other charities. We are a community of people who organize and complete Radical Renovations, just like modern-day barn raising. HeroWork creates positive social change by improving physical infrastructure, program efficiency that leads to improved moral, program expansion and sustainability, and community buy-in. Profoundly different philanthropy.

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