

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Homeless Man Inspires Philanthropy

Reward for honesty donated to Our Place Society

VICTORIA, B.C. – A homeless man’s generosity continues to inspire Victorians. Last month, a homeless man found over \$2,000 lying in the street in Langford. His decision to turn the cash over to the West Shore RCMP inspired hundreds of people to donate to a Go Fund Me campaign to reward the man for his good deed.

But in an additional twist, the man, who wishes to remain anonymous, decided to donate the reward to Our Place to help other vulnerable people in the region. Touched by this man’s generosity, local philanthropist Andrew Beckerman is matching the donation to Our Place with a cheque for \$5,000.

“I was moved by this man’s honesty and generosity,” said Beckerman. “Living on the street, he understands how important Our Place is to the community, and I challenge other business owners and individuals to support this fantastic organization with a donation. When you witness the care and compassion that Our Place delivers on a daily basis, you can’t help but want to be a part of it.”

Mike Kelly, who runs social media site Victoria Buzz and was organizer of the Go Fund Me campaign, presented a cheque to Our Place for \$4,000.

“We are thrilled by the donations,” says Don Evans, executive director of Our Place. “Not only does it reinforce how vital Our Place is to this vulnerable population, but the money is arriving at a very important time for us. Donations tend to slow down in the summer, but the need hasn’t. This generosity from these two disparate individuals not only helps fund our summer services, but it also helps us prepare for evening openings as we move into winter.”

Beckerman adds: “Our community has been given a valuable lesson in generosity by an anonymous donor. This man was homeless and out of work when he donated the \$5,000 raised to honour his honesty. His donation is relatively more generous and significantly more inspirational than the ‘match’ I have made in his honour. Let us applaud this exemplary community leader!”

Our Place is 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 the majority of financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides over 1,500 meals per day, hot showers, education, job skills, free clothing, counseling and outreach services, plus 45

transitional housing units. Most importantly, it provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

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