

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hungry Hearts shines bright for Our Place

Foody fundraiser raises a record \$150,000 to help Victoria's most vulnerable

VICTORIA, B.C. – The vibrant business and philanthropic community set a new fundraising record when it came together for the sixth anniversary of Hungry Hearts, a unique foody fundraiser for Our Place.

Top local chefs and rising new talents used their culinary expertise and imagination in a fierce competition to see who could create the most popular savory and sweet bites.

“We are overwhelmed by the generosity of the community,” says Don Evans, CEO of Our Place. “This strong support will go a long way in supporting many of our life-transforming programs and services to assist people in crisis, recovery or on the road to employment.”

Guests were invited to “vote with their heart” in crowning their favourite dish. In a finger-licking finish, Chef Nicolas Hipperson of the Union Club took home the Hungry Hearts Top Chef trophy for the first time with seared Atlantic scallop, English pea tortellini, carrot ginger emulsion, and pea shoot salad.

“People love to support great causes that truly improve their community,” says Marg Rose, director of philanthropy. “That couldn’t have been made more clear than with the hundreds of sponsors, ticket purchasers, matching donors and volunteers who came together to make our signature fundraiser such a great success.”

The sold-out event, presented by PwC Canada and hosted at The Delta Hotels by Marriott Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort, raised a record \$150,000. This generosity helps Our Place continue to bring hope and belonging to people experiencing homelessness, poverty, mental health, and addiction issues.

The competing chefs were organized by local restaurateur Kunan Ghose who is grateful for the donations of time, talent and ingredients. Along with Hipperson, the chefs included: Chef Brendan Walker, Delta Ocean Pointe Resort; Chef Josh Courtin, Dobosala; Chef Tyler Thompson, Fishhook at Mermaid Wharf; Chef Castro Boateng, House of Boateng; Chef Brett Black, Kid Sister; Chef Richard Teves, Toque Catering; and Chef Robert Budlong, Camosun College Culinary Program with his team of young, up and coming student chefs.

The event was MC’d by Pete Jando of Odlum Brown, while realtor and celebrity auctioneer Tony Joe hosted the exciting live auction. The silent auction – conducted by a great crew of volunteers – was also busy with competitive bidding on fabulous items.

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.

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