



Welcome To The Family



A NEWSLETTER FOR NEW SUPPORTERS OF OUR PLACE SOCIETY

Contact:

Donor Services: (250) 413-3161

Our Place Reception: (250) 388-7112

www.ourplacesociety.com

We want to hear from you!

Do you have a story you would like to share with us or fellow supporters?

We would love to hear it.

Please contact Alyson at

alysond@ourplacesociety.com

Family

Welcome to the family. As a donor of Our Place you are creating real change in our community. Without you, our passionate and dedicated community of supporters, Our Place's work to help the most vulnerable citizens in Greater Victoria could not happen.

Family is the central theme you will find woven throughout Our Place. We call those who use our services "family" because we feel that everyone should have a place where they can belong. We strive to create a nurturing atmosphere that feels like home, where all are welcome. Our doors are open to those of all cultures and beliefs. We have a wonderful family of volunteers, and of course, now you - part of our family of donors.

Your support is making a difference in someone's life today. Thank you for helping us create change.

About Our Place

Our Place is an 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 our programs and services. Our Place serves over 1,800 meals per day, and provides hot showers, free clothing, counseling and outreach services, plus transitional housing units. Most importantly, we provide a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

Come see for yourself!

We invite you to join us on a tour of Our Place. To make arrangements please contact:

Lori (250) 413-3161, loria@ourplacesociety.com

Aly (250) 413-3161, alysond@ourplacesociety.com



The Neighbourhood

Stories from our family



Jesse Roper is a highly celebrated Canadian blues musician native to Metchosin. Inspired by the work Our Place Society does to support our community, he created Food for a Day.

Jesse Roper's story

Thank you for joining me as a supporter of Our Place.

\$6.17 is how much it costs Our Place Society to feed one person, three meals in one day, so I've released my new acoustic album for download at \$6.17 with all proceeds sponsoring a full day of meals! I'm inspired by the support Our Place offers my hometown and want to give back to the community in the best way I know possible – through the love and enjoyment of live music. Check out my new initiative at <http://www.foodforaday.ca>, you can purchase volume one or two and all proceeds will be donated back to Our Place.



Jesse & his fabulous team serving Breakfast



Jesse & Bob during Food for a Day

Winter is coming...

Mark your calendars! On February 25th, 2018 Our Place will be participating in the Coldest Night of the Year, a fundraising event taking place across Canada.

We would love for you to get involved!
Call Aly at 250-413-3161 for more info.

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[Click here to see more of David's story](#)

David's story

I stayed at the Upper Room for a couple of months a few years back, I was in a deep depression. When Our Place was built I developed a real friendship with the head chef, when he offered me a job I jumped at the opportunity. The thing about working here which is so different than anywhere else is the people you meet, the education you get on homelessness, being poor, and how they rise above it. It's just so rewarding when you see someone cold, wet and tired and they get a nice hot meal. You get more things here than you could ever get with just a paycheque.

Michelle's story

My brother is schizophrenic. Because of his illness there have been times in his life where he's ended up on the streets. Not able to get the help he needed, he was out in the world scared, alone and unable to accept the help of his family. Our Place was a haven for my brother, he was welcomed, not shamed for his illness and always had somewhere he could turn to stay out of the rain and cold to get a warm meal. Never being judged for the voices in his head. Not knowing if a member of your family is well, let alone alive is frightening. Giving to Our Place became a way I could cope with the lack of control over the situation. The commitment to give monthly means I can help someone today. I feel such pride in supporting Our Place each month knowing that my gift will help the most vulnerable among us.



Circle of Love

Join our circle of love by becoming a monthly donor. Call (250) 413-3161 to sign up. Choose to have your donation come out of your bank account or put on your credit card. Get one consolidated receipt at year end!



Did you know?

Our Place helps the working poor. We provide bagged lunches each morning to those who are working but falling on hard times making minimum wage. We also offer bus tickets available each morning to help those who need transportation to get to work. If you or someone you know would like to donate bus tickets or to our transportation fund please call Lori at (250) 413-3161

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Stories from our family



Christopher's story - Leaving a Legacy

Having worked downtown Victoria for most of my adult life, I watched as more and more people turned to the streets in need of food and shelter. All different ages, races, and religions, many became daily fixtures in my life. When Our Place opened their doors there was a noticeable difference in downtown, a figurative weight was lifted. I became intrigued after talking to one of my regular corner dwellers, who looked cleaner and healthier than he had in months. He told me about Our Place and how they were helping him, he could go and eat for free, have a shower and they even gave him free clothes and a haircut. He said it was the first time in years he felt valued and human. Curious about Our Place I went down and asked to have a tour. I was amazed at the critical work being done and I knew I needed to do something to leave my mark. I give annually currently, but I am also pleased to say that Our Place Society is named in my will. I want to ensure this essential work continues well into the future and I hope my story inspires others to consider making a legacy gift. What Our Place does is such a value to all of us, I am proud to support them.

For more information on how to become part of the Legacy of Love please call Dawn at (250) 413-3161

Janet's story

After retiring in 2014, I couldn't help feeling like I was missing something. A good friend volunteered at Our Place and mentioned I should go to an orientation to see if it was something I could see myself doing. I am so happy I did. My afternoon shift at Our Place now fills my life in ways I never expected. The people I work with have practically no material goods, and many without even a place to sleep at night, they are however, frankly the most grateful and loving people I have ever met. I truly believe I get more out of volunteering at Our Place than I give. The people at Our Place have become an extension of my family, I have made incredible friends and my life has purpose and meaning. I will forever be grateful to my friend Alice who encouraged me to go to that first orientation.



For more information on how to volunteer at Our Place Society please call Mark at (250) 388-7112

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Breakfast by Champions

This morning, many of Victoria's most vulnerable citizens woke up to an empty fridge – if any fridge at all. This is a problem, but we've got a solution – and you can be a part of it.

Sponsoring a breakfast is a great way to bring people together. For \$500 you pay for the meal, we prepare it, and you and your friends, family, colleagues, social group who ever it may be, come in and serve the nutritious meal. It is a great team building event, as well as a wonderful way to connect with the community. Breakfast at Our Place typically is porridge and fruit, unless sponsored, then it is a real treat to the family to get a warm delicious start to their day. Alison Wedekind of Concert Properties has served numerous breakfasts, here is what she had to say: "You don't know what to expect, but it was such a surprise how many individuals came up and said thank you. I absolutely loved it."

Peter ate at our very first sponsored breakfast. He was so touched by that display of generosity, that he expressed this to the meal's donor: "This is the best breakfast I've had since I was in treatment one year ago. I'm still sober, and I hope that I can take you out for breakfast one day." We all know how a healthy start can influence our own sense of well-being. Imagine how much more important a morning meal is for someone waking up to an empty stomach on cold, damp cement. [For more information on how to Sponsor a Breakfast call Tracy at \(250\) 388-7112](#)

Fundraising in the Community

We are so fortunate to have so many great people in our community helping us raise money. When you see events in your neighbourhood or in the news and they say in support of Our Place, those are typically people in our community wanting to give back by hosting great events to help us achieve our goal of never having to turn someone away.

Organizing events can be a lot of fun, if you are interested in raising money for Our Place please call Aly at (250) 413-3161.



Donating Goods

Our Place is always in need of clothing, hygiene products, blankets, shoes. We never charge for any items that the family are in need of, so your donation is truly going to someone in need. If you have any gently used items that you would like to donate, you can drop them off at 919 Pandora Ave, any time of the day or night. We are currently in need of men's clothing, shoes, underwear, bus tickets, soap and shampoo.

Or:

If you are interested in organizing a clothing drive please contact Tracy at (250) 388-7112.

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Holiday Meals

Holiday meals are some of the most anticipated events of the year at Our Place. Each year we open our doors to hundreds of people to come in and enjoy some of the season's traditions. We have a great team of volunteers who come to give back, everyone from the Chief of Police, to the Mayors of your municipality, it truly becomes a celebration of hope, love and belonging. You may have seen our requests for \$3.11 for a holiday meal, this program helps fund so many meals. We are so grateful that because of our incredible donors, like you, we can continue to hold on to this tradition and provide for so many people.

Thank you for everything you do.

THRIFTY FOODS

Smile Cards: Do you shop at Thrifty Foods? Did you know you can have 5% of your bill donated back to Our Place by simply using one of our "you load" gift cards? Please call 250.413.3161 to get set up!

HUNGRY Hearts

A savoury soiree for Our Place

Join Us!

Our Place hosts one big fundraiser each year, Hungry Hearts. Going into our 5th year, we are excited to announce the event has raised an impressive \$485,000 over the past 4 years!

The event is a culinary challenge with competing chef's preparing impressive dishes trying to win your vote. The event also has great auctions, and fun, interactive activities all with the goal of raising money to continue to fund our meals program.

If you are interested in Sponsoring, donating an auction item, or being added to the invite list please contact Alyson Dahl at (250) 413-3161.



We need you!
We are currently looking for some great people to join the event committee!
Call Aly to apply

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY 2019