

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Realtors cook up breakfast month at Our Place

Every breakfast in February was sponsored by real estate community

VICTORIA, B.C. – If there is one group of individuals who understand the importance of warm food and shelter, it's the Victoria Real Estate Board. And when two past presidents of the board learned of the opportunity to sponsor breakfasts at Our Place, it was a light bulb moment that transformed into an entire month of giving Greater Victoria's most vulnerable citizens a hearty and healthy start to the day.

After touring the unique, inner-city community centre, Bev Highton and Eric Charman challenged their fellow VREB past presidents to Sponsor-A-Breakfast for \$500 at Our Place. That was three years ago, and the concept of sponsoring a month of breakfasts is now even bigger and better as the whole real estate community joined together and decided to sponsor February.

"It's just fantastic to see the community of realtors coming together like this to help the less fortunate," says Don Evans, executive director of Our Place. "After Christmas, donations and support leave front of mind for a lot of people, so to receive this much needed and generous help at such a crucial stage is a true blessing."

Highton and Charman have been impressed by the work being done at Our Place, and welcomed the opportunity to become more involved.

"It was a natural fit for us," says Charman. "Waking up in the cold with nothing to look forward to is about as depressing as it gets. If we can help make someone's day just that little bit better, then it means the world to us."

One of the realtors who served up a cooked breakfast was Krista Voitchovsky of Re/Max Camosun. "It was so heartwarming to hear and see how much the breakfasts were appreciated by the Our Place guests. We realized how many people were in such a desperate situation and wanted to do more to help."

Voitchovsky was so moved by the experience that her team has decided to sponsor and serve one breakfast every month. John Beaumier of Fair Realty has also made the commitment to serve a monthly breakfast, along with The Breakfast Club that began with a group of Realtors in 2014.

Some of the realtors participating are: Fisgard Asset Management Corporation; Bill & Gail Pettinger; Eric Charman; NAI Commercial (Victoria) Inc.; Holmes Realty; The Preferred Homes Team; RE/MAX Camosun - Realtors® Who Care; Premier Network

Group; Royal LePage; RE/MAX Alliance Victoria; The Neal Estate Team; Proline Management Ltd.; Firm Management; Tony Zarsadias Personal Real Estate Group; The Breakfast Club; Jodie Farup, Century 21; Victoria Real Estate Board - Community Relations; DFH Real Estate Limited; The Mark Imhoff Group - Sotheby's International Realty Canada; and Fair Realty.

CUTLINE: Eric Charman, left, helps serve up breakfast at 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 its programs and services. Our Place provides over 200 transitional housing units, over 2,000 meals per day, hot showers, free clothing, counseling and outreach services. Most importantly, it provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

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