

ourplace society

# Leaving the Lights On

*Julian Daly*  
*CEO of Our Place*

There are many days when working with people experiencing a disconnection from society is both difficult and heart-breaking.

Yet on other days - even the same day - you see the joy in someone's eyes as they are given a clean room that they can call their own. Your heart fills with hope as they marvel at a shower, a comfortable bed, and a toilet they don't need to share with anyone else.

We become attached. We have to. That is the work we do.

When people share their stories with us, it's impossible not to be deeply disturbed by the intense, complex trauma that many have experienced throughout their lives - the very trauma, more often than not childhood abuse and neglect, that leads folk down the path of mental health crises, addictions and to the doors of Our Place. And yet, too often, many don't see these wounds of trauma and the havoc they create in a life.

To those of us who work with this vulnerable population, it's obvious. Nobody would choose a life struggling with severe substance disorder if they could easily break free. Nobody would choose to lose their children to social services. And nobody would choose to lose their partner or friend to a Fentanyl overdose. And this is why someone needs to leave a light on in the dark and unpredictable storm of a poison drug



***New CEO of Our Place, Julian Daly***

supply, rampant homelessness, and a COVID pandemic.

We need people to see there is hope in the darkness.

My incredible colleagues at Our Place light that light by bringing people inside one of the shelters or hotels that we are fortunate to operate in the belief that we can provide a fresh start.

When Our Place was invited by BC Housing to manage the former Comfort Inn, we didn't go into it lightly. We knew there would be problems when people who have been living outside of community are invited back inside. There is an adjustment, and some adjust faster than others, but every bone in our bodies vibrates with the knowledge that we can't stand by and do nothing.

The transformation that we are beginning to see in the people living there is incredible. With warm, nutritious meals three times a day, a quiet room to finally get much-needed rest, and the luxury of a private shower or bath - things that so many of us take for granted - we can actually watch health start to return to someone's face and body.

We see smiles and we hear laughter, but we also know it is still a long road to true stabilization.

With housing and supports in place, we work on building trust with people who have seen so little of it in their lives, or have experienced the trauma when, far too often, trust is broken.

We see housing as hope. It is only the first step, but it is a giant one.

Change is only possible through bold actions and we are willing to be bold in pursuit of healthier lives for those we serve.

These can be dark times, especially for those with nothing but wounds and scars, but we're keeping the light on in the hope that the lost can see it shine.

THE 2020

CHARITY  100

*MacLean's Magazine ranked Our Place Society as one of the best 100 Charities in Canada for 2020!*

TV SCREENING INSIDE

## A Fresh Start at New Roads

# Therapeutic Recovery Community opens doors wider

By Grant McKenzie,  
Director of Communications

Tim Dafoe never thought he could have a new start, nor if he was even worth it.

Between the ages of 10 and 21, Tim spent 9 years inside one institution or another, learning not how to live in society, but how to hide from it.

“I went through a lot of trauma at a young age,” he explains.

Addiction became part of his journey, too – it was all around him.

In periods where he went clean, Tim struggled for normalcy. He found a partner, had three children, and tried to fit in. The trouble was he hadn't learned any of the necessary skills to leave the street life behind.

When his family life broke apart, Tim returned to the streets where crime and drug use were as easy to slip into as a well-worn sweater – or a prison jumpsuit.

“For 35 years, I had been living a certain way,” he says. “But I had assumed this identity, and I wasn't being true to myself.”

With another custodial sentence underway, Tim reached out to New Roads, a therapeutic recovery community operated by Our Place Society.

“I didn't think they would take me,” he says. “But the staff were my champions.”

Tim has been at New Roads for nine

*And when the program gets tough, “that's when you really need to buckle down,” says Tim. “This is a commitment, it's a long journey, but at the end of the day you need to remind yourself why you chose to come here. For me, it's a fresh start.”*



months now, and is a living example of how the program can change criminal thinking and begin the journey of healing trauma.

“Coming to New Roads is the best choice I ever made,” he says. “It helps you break away from prison thinking.”

And one month ago, the 36-year-old received the best possible news when social services granted him permission to reconnect with his oldest daughter. Tears fill Tim's eyes as he talks about his children and how he has let them down in the past.

“We talk nearly every day now, and for once in my life, I'm keeping my promises,” he says. “I'm free from addiction, free from homelessness, and I'm grateful for all the things I never thought I could have. It's a long journey, but my life is improving thanks to New Roads.”

After 18 months of intense work, inspiring success and fresh renovations, New Roads Therapeutic Recovery Community in View Royal is opening its doors to more intakes.

“It has been incredible to see the transformation of people,” says Dana Young, director of New Roads. “There is a visible change as these men who have faced so much trauma in their lives discover their true selves. It really is remarkable.”

One new change to the program has been allowing the use of tobacco, coffee and sugar.

“We found that many of the men cited the inability to smoke and abstinence from coffee was too much when they were already struggling with substance use disorder,” says Dana.

The intake process is open to men 19+ who are struggling with moderate to severe substance use disorder. Those entering the program also need to commit to a minimum of 9 months, and the program can run up to two years. Any mental health issues should first be stabilized and/or managed. While open to all, priority may be given to those with a history of homelessness, and/or contact with the criminal justice system.

An intake form and more information is available at: <https://www.ourplacesociety.com/new-roads>

## You can

As the new CEO at Our Place, Dana Young is busy meeting the people whose lives are being transformed. **a fresh start, too.** People like Tim Rathborne, who after struggling with living on the streets for years, is finally able to look to a future with hope in his heart. **He has a safe place to lay his head, rest and recover** at Our Place.

His downfall was addiction, in particular, alcohol. At first, Tim Rathborne would drink to numb the confusion and anger that flooded his brain, but numbness and pain only led him further down the dark road. For 26 years, Rathborne was able to stay on a steady path – he was employed in moving and installing heavy machinery in Victoria's construction industry. **But he began heavy drinking.**

Naturally, this daily pattern led to chaos at work and at home. His inability to control his emotions and the resulting downward spiral led to a life on the street. He lost his long-term relationship, his possessions, friends, and even his job. He ended up living in a tent — first on Pandora Avenue, then Topaz Park. **And, like many, he found his way to Our Place, where he was hopeless and simply couldn't see his way out.**

**Unfortunately, this can happen to almost anyone.**

## Your Gifts Help In So Many Ways!

Donor support help Our Place meet a variety of critical needs 365 days a year. Here is just a snapshot of April 2019 to March 2020 services for our community's most vulnerable citizens.

886,000



meals & snacks

4,745



hours of drop-in centre activities

498

paramedic/ outreach medical assessments



41

detox referrals



900

foot care treatments



10



Hope and Belonging

Phone: 250-940-5060

Email: [donor@ourplacesociety.com](mailto:donor@ourplacesociety.com)

# provide A Fresh Start

Homelessness for Rathborne — as it would be for most of us — was exhausting. Every day, the majority of his time was spent in survival mode: finding shelter, food, warmth, a toilet and shower, clean, dry clothing, and somewhere just to feel safe. He had little energy left to hold down even the most basic manual work. He was on his way to giving up entirely.



*"We need to have homelessness alleviated", says Rathborne*

## Rathborne's recent move to the former Comfort Inn has given him his first home in years.

It comes with the supports he needs. His new home has brought him the *security and stability* needed for a true **fresh start**. His newfound energy and purpose has encouraged him to add his voice to help others on the street or in temporary housing. "We need to have homelessness alleviated," he says.

You likely share his wish, too. That's why we're inviting you to join our **FRESH START CAMPAIGN** today. Your gift helps hundreds of hurting and hungry people meet their essential needs for food and shelter and offers them a chance to meet their core human need for belonging. Your

contribution enables Our Place's highly trained staff to guide people like Rathborne to build a healthier, happier and more productive life.

Please contribute to our **FRESH START CAMPAIGN** to help people like Rathborne find a supported place to plant their feet and open doors to new opportunities. *Your gift will make a real difference* and help vulnerable people, like Rathborne, discover a better, brighter future!



With gratitude,

Julian Daly  
Chief Executive Officer

## 6 Easy Ways to Make a Difference!

- Simply cut out and use this Donation Form and send it to us for a tax receipt.
- Use your credit card and make your donation anytime through our safe and secure online DONATE Button at the top of our website: [www.ourplacesociety.com](http://www.ourplacesociety.com).
- Call us at 250-940-5060 weekdays 9 AM - 4 PM and share your information over the phone.
- E-transfer to [finance@ourplacesociety.com](mailto:finance@ourplacesociety.com).
- Make a monthly pledge and join our Circle of Love.
- Talk to your broker about a gift of securities and save on capital gains tax. Use the form on our website at "Ways to Give" to let us know!

We respect your privacy and never share donor information, and do not rent or sell mailing lists.

**Donate by September 12 to double your gift from matching funds up to \$80,000!**

### FRESH START DONATION FORM

Yes! I want to give more people a FRESH START supported by essential services, safety and security.

I would like to make a one-time gift of:

\$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Or/And: Start me on a monthly pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment options:

Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Enclosed cheque

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ My Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address for tax receipt: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Donor Services:

Our Place Society  
T: 250-940-5060  
Registration No.  
82709 8344 RR 0001

919 Pandora Ave, Victoria, BC V8V 3P4  
[www.ourplacesociety.com](http://www.ourplacesociety.com)  
Canada Revenue Agency  
[www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities)



5,536

hot showers with toiletries



377

safe storage facility visits



49

rent/hydro support payments



400

hair cuts



49,402

volunteer hours (a savings of \$1.2 Million)

**PLUS...**

operation of the First Met shelter, two transitional shelters and the New Roads Therapeutic Recovery Community



ourplace

[www.ourplacesociety.com](http://www.ourplacesociety.com)

# Join Us September 12 for Our Live Hungry Hearts Facebook Event



## Let's get Cheesy!

We are on the hunt for Greater Victoria's Favourite Mac & Cheese!

From Aug. 8 to Sept. 8, visit one of the great restaurants below and try their Mac & Cheese. Then click the link on [ourplacesociety.com](http://ourplacesociety.com) to vote for your favourite.

As a show of support for our local culinary industry, and a fundraiser for your favourite local charity serving the homeless, winners will be announced at our

**Virtual Hungry Hearts Gala Fundraiser**  
on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 5pm.



[www.ourplacesociety.com](http://www.ourplacesociety.com)

The winners of the People's Choice "Favourite Mac and Cheese" dish will be announced at Hungry Hearts live-streamed Facebook event on September 12th at 5 PM. The virtual event will also include a special musical performance, auction items and a culinary demonstration from last year's Hungry Hearts champion, Chef Nicolas



*"We definitely have all of the ingredients for a great event," says event chair Charlotte Salomon. "It will be a virtual experience that I can't wait to share with the entire community."*

### Participating Restaurants:

- 10 Acres
- Aura Restaurant at the Inn at Laurel Point
- Boom and Batten
- Boondocks
- Chuck's Burger Bar
- Courtney Room
- Crooked Goose Bistro
- Darcy's Pub (Westshore)
- Frankie's Modern Diner
- Heron Rock Bistro
- Il Covo
- Irish Times Pub
- Smuggler's Cove Pub
- Spinnakers
- Virtuous Pie

Hipperson, Executive Chef of the Union Club of British Columbia and a special Q & A session with Our Place's new CEO Julian Daly.

The money raised from the Sept. 12 virtual gala will address the triple pandemic affecting the Island's most vulnerable residents through boosting health and wellness initiatives, including funding for outreach paramedics, medical supplies, extended hours for Our Place and other vital resources for people in crisis in our community.

For more information and to catch the Hungry Hearts Facebook event, click the link at: [www.ourplacesociety.com](http://www.ourplacesociety.com)



## What do Donors to Our Place Society have to say?

I donate because I believe Our Place has, does and will make a difference in many people's lives. – **Paula**

Because we feel fortunate, we feel it is our honour and our duty to contribute. – **Harvey**

The only way to make things better is to help. – **Heather**

Bless all of you for what you are doing for those who don't have the means. You are all heroes!!! – **Stephanie**

We feel so grateful to be able to support Our Place and their tremendous work. – **Susan**

I admire the wonderful, compassionate work you do. – **Jane**

I struggle with mental health, and have such awe of those who manage the compounded struggles of trauma, poverty, addiction and health challenges. What a privilege it is for me to have the resources to share! This donation is sent with deep compassion and love. – **Anonymous**

Our Place is an exceptional organization that offers hope, healing and transformation to some of Victoria's most vulnerable. Bless you for the work you do. – **Anonymous**

I am lucky enough to have a job, housing and food security so I want to help people who may not. – **Curt**