

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Soup Kitchen finds shelter at Our Place

Former 9-10 club keeps soup flowing while cathedral is renovated

VICTORIA, B.C. – It's not just the city's most vulnerable citizens who find a home at Our Place — sometimes even those who help out are in need of a helping hand.

When The Soup Kitchen — also known as the long-running 9-10 Club — located in the basement of St. Andrew's Cathedral found itself without a home, as the cathedral is currently undergoing renovations, its volunteer board struggled to find a new location to continue its meal service.

“We didn't want to lose our volunteers or suppliers,” says Richard Marshall, Chair of the soup kitchen's board of directors, “and we definitely wanted to keep serving soup to the hungry.”

Unfortunately, finding a temporary home in downtown Victoria proved much more difficult than anticipated.

“But then Our Place came to our rescue,” adds Marshall. “The mission offered us free use of the dining hall — and the reception from staff has been so wonderful. Our volunteers are amazed at all the services Our Place offers to the homeless and impoverished in our community.”

The 9-10 Club has been running a daily soup kitchen out of the St. Andrew's Cathedral for 31 years, and plans to return by the end of the year when renovations are complete.

“We understand the value of fellowship over a good meal,” says Don Evans, executive director of Our Place. “And anything that benefits the most vulnerable citizens of our community has our support. With a little bit of shuffling, we were happy to help The Soup Kitchen and its guests find a home at Our Place.”

The Soup Kitchen operates from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Monday to Friday, at Our Place, 919 Pandora Avenue.

Our Place is an inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria's most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mental and physically challenged, and the homeless. Individuals and businesses provide the majority of financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides 45 transitional housing units, over 1,200 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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