



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2016

Out of the Rain shelter opens doors for homeless youth

VICTORIA, BC – Local homeless youth who need a warm, safe place to sleep will once again be welcomed at the Out of the Rain shelter. The seasonal shelter opens tomorrow, Oct. 15. It will serve youth aged 15-25 from 9:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. every day until April 15, 2017.

Shelter services are provided by community agencies, faith-based organizations, businesses, and individual volunteers through a coalition, led and coordinated by local charity Beacon Community Services.

“It’s a sad truth that some youth don’t have a safe, warm place to sleep, even on the coldest, wettest nights of the year,” says Beacon Community Services CEO Bob Boulter. “We work with community partners to offer that.”

Staff and volunteers also connect the youth with other community supports.

“These kids grapple with all sorts of issues,” Boulter added. “Out of the Rain helps address some immediate practicalities, like where to sleep during the winter, and can also be a stepping stone to help improve their lives over the longer term.”

Each night, the shelter rotates among host sites in an effort to maximize resources. Two trained staff work at the shelter; volunteers serve as helpers or drop off a hot cooked meal for the youth. Meals are typically donated by volunteer groups which commit to provide one meal per month.

The shelter opened in the winter of 1998 and has run every winter since. Last year, Out of the Rain served approximately 200 young people.

Established on the Saanich Peninsula in 1974, Beacon Community Services is now one of BC’s largest non-profit social services organizations. It serves thousands of clients across the CRD, including through programs and services in: Child, Youth and Family Services; Counselling and Mental Health Services; Employment and Training Programs; Housing, Assisted Living and Licenced Dementia Housing; Adult/Senior’s Recreation Services; Volunteer Services; and Home Support Care. Many community programs to help people and improve lives (including Out of the Rain) are supported with funds raised by selling donated items at Beacon’s seven thrift shops.

For more information about Beacon Community Services, please see www.beaconcs.ca For more information about Out of the Rain, see www.outoftherainvictoria.ca/

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