



NEWS RELEASE

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Local charity celebrates community service with scholarship awards; confirms new Board of Directors

SIDNEY, BC – Beacon Community Services today handed out a total of \$6500 in scholarships to recognize five local students who have distinguished themselves through exemplary community service. The local charity also welcomed two new members to its volunteer Board of Directors and re-elected three others to the 12-person board.

The society's members re-elected directors Jim Brookes, Dr. Howard Brunt, and Penny Donaldson and elected new Board members Chuck McNaughton and Tom Vincent.

McNaughton, a senior wealth advisor with Scotia McLeod, is a licensed financial advisor in Ontario and British Columbia who also serves on the Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea's finance committee and has a history of involvement with the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation's Annual Sponsorship Title Events.

Vincent formerly chaired the BC Medical Services Commission and has had a distinguished career in BC's public service, including holding Assistant Deputy Minister roles in the ministries of Education and Advanced Education. His professional background includes significant experience in the areas of pensions and financial management, including on the boards of the BC Public Service Pension Plan, the Municipal Pension Plan, and the Teachers' Pension.

"Beacon dedicates itself to helping people and improving lives; we know that requires us to stay financially strong and to operate as efficiently as possible," said Joan Axford, who was today elected to chair the Board. "Tom and Chuck's skills sets, and their governance experience, will help us to successfully continue along that path."

Axford also acknowledged the service of Chuck Rowe and Geri Hinton, who today both retired after six years on the board. She particularly praised their commitment to Beacon and the community.

At its 43rd Annual General Meeting today, Beacon also acknowledged community service and volunteerism with \$1500 Beacon Community Services scholarships to: Misha Hasan (SD 61, Oak Bay Secondary School); Lajah Warren (SD 62, Edward Milne Community School); Chynna Tran (SD 63, Parkland Secondary School); and Catelyn Creswick (SD 64, Gulf Islands Secondary). Beacon Community Services' \$500 Donna Godwin Humanitarian Award went to Parkland student Maya Goodsir.

"These students each have a unique talent or passion," noted CEO Bob Boulter. "The common element is their dedication to making life better in their community. Through that, they've exemplified the values that created and sustain Beacon Community Services -- we're thrilled and proud to support their post-secondary aspirations, and their dreams of building a better world."

Established by a small group of volunteers on the Saanich Peninsula in 1974, Beacon Community Services has evolved to become one of BC's largest non-profit social services organizations.

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About 1200 staff and more than 500 volunteers serve approximately 10,000 people in the Greater Victoria and outer Gulf Islands areas, including through programs and services in: Child, Youth and Family Services; Counselling and Mental Health Services; Employment and Training Programs; Affordable Housing; Assisted Living and Licensed Dementia Care; Adult/Senior's Recreation Services; Volunteer Services; and Home Support Care.

Beacon Community Services also operates seven thrift shops which generate funds for services and programs to help people and improve lives in local communities.

More information about Beacon Community Services can be found at www.beaconcs.ca

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