



## NEWS RELEASE

October 15, 2021

### **LOCAL CHARITY OPENS OUT OF THE RAIN YOUTH SHELTER FOR NEW SEASON, WELCOMES DONATION OF NEW VAN**

**VICTORIA, BC** – A seasonal shelter is once again opening its doors, and also powering up a new donated van to help local homeless youth.

The Out of the Rain youth shelter will now be open for 15- to 25-year-olds from 8:30pm to 7:30 am every night until April 15. The shelter runs every year from Oct 15 until mid-April.

“There are still far too many cold, hungry, vulnerable young people in unsafe conditions on the street,” said Beacon Community Services CEO Tricia Gueulette. “Every year for more than 20 years, we’ve opened the Out of the Rain shelter to help keep them safe, warm, and dry.”

“Thanks to Aragon Properties’ generously donating a much-needed van, we can now expand the valuable supports that these youth so desperately need.”

Gueulette explained the 2020 Pacifica van will be used to help youth access the shelter, assist with moving those who have found housing, and connect youth with important community resources.

“We encourage these youth to hope and dream for a better life,” added Jenn Mortimer, Beacon Community Services’ Manager of Out of the Rain and Homelessness Prevention programs. “But that has to also be backed by practical supports. The vehicle will be a really important tool. We’re delighted that Aragon Properties is supporting us with this gift.”

““We are very happy and excited that the donation we made went to such a great program. Out of the Rain is doing valuable work and we hope that this vehicle will help them make a difference to the lives of youth in the community,” said Luke Ramsay, Development Manager of Aragon Properties Ltd.

Out of the Rain youth shelter services are provided by community and faith-based organizations, businesses and individual volunteers through a coalition that’s led and coordinated by local charity Beacon Community Services. Community volunteers prepare meals, and Beacon staff are on site to connect with the youth and offer community supports.

The shelter has traditionally rotated amongst various host sites each night. However, as part of COVID-19 safety protocols, Beacon will offer shelter services at only a single site this year: 1450 Elford St.

The space can host up to 25 youth at a time; pets are welcome.

Beacon Community Services is a community-based charity dedicated to helping people and improving lives in the Greater Victoria and Gulf Islands areas. With approximately 600 volunteers and 250 staff, the charity delivers a vast array of services and programs in the fields of Child, Youth and Family Services; Counselling; Subsidized Housing; Seniors Services and Supports; Assisted Living and Licensed Dementia Care; Volunteer Services; and Employment Services, training and supports.

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Sales proceeds from the charity's seven thrift shops also help fund its local community programs.

For more information on Beacon Community Services, please visit: [www.beaconcs.ca](http://www.beaconcs.ca)

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*Beacon CEO Tricia Gueulette & Out of the Rain Youth Shelter manager Jenn Mortimer beam after getting the keys to a new van, donated by Aragon Properties to support the youth shelter & other community programs run by the charity.*



*Front & back of van donated by Aragon Properties to local charity Beacon Community Services, to support the Out of the Rain Youth Shelter & other community programs.*