

2023 Annual Report





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Land Acknowledgement

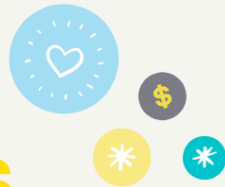
Beacon Community Services respectfully acknowledges that we live, work, and serve on the traditional and unceded territories of many Indigenous Nations, including the WSÁNEĆ people, and the lək̓ʷəŋən -speaking peoples of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Beacon Community Services' longstanding commitment to those we serve, including our staff and volunteers, is to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples and cultures to better understand how we can strengthen relationships and move forward together with care, love and respect.



Community Impact



The Impact of **BEACON'S PROGRAMS**

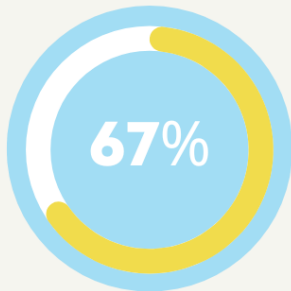


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**DRIVES TO MEDICAL
APPOINTMENTS**

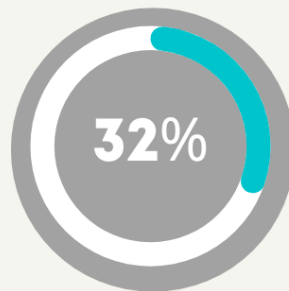
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**MEMBERS AT SHOAL
CENTRE**



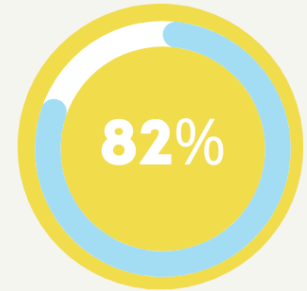
**JETS YOUTH
FOUND WORK
OR SCHOOL**

JETS is a youth
employment program
with 43 clients.



**TOTAL ADULT
CLIENTS GAINED
EMPLOYMENT**

228 total clients were
served though WorkBC.



**SWEET YOUTH
REMAINED
EMPLOYED**

SWEET is a youth
employment subsidy
program with 32 clients.

20,503

**MEALS MADE FOR 184
CLIENTS**

73 in 4

**SENIORS CARED FOR IN
BEACON HOMES**

About Us

Beacon Community Services is a renowned charity which encompasses an entire lifecycle of support services from birth to old age, serving thousands of people in the South Island and Gulf Islands. Beacon has grown exponentially from conception and now it boasts 550 volunteers and approximately 290 staff who focus on helping people, empowering communities and improving lives.

Beacon continues to grow, rising to meet the needs of our ever-changing communities and confronting the tough socio-economic climate with innovative programs and services. The cost of living has never been as high, and issues of affordability, healthcare, childcare and sustainable employment are vital to everyone's wellbeing.

British Columbia's inflation rate is higher than the Canadian average which makes the services that Beacon provides more critical and sought-after than ever before. Beacon maintains an extensive network of partnerships, committees and initiatives – playing a leadership role in assessing and responding to community needs.

Charitable Registration Number: 12995 1174 RR0001





Vision, Mission And Values

Vision

Helping people.
Empowering communities.
Improving lives.

Mission

We deliver compassionate, innovative community services that foster self-sufficiency, volunteerism, and well-being.

Values

We C.A.R.E. = Compassion. Accountability.
Responsiveness. Excellence.

Message from the Board Chair



CHUCK MCNAUGHTON

BOARD CHAIR

I joined the Board in 2017, and have witnessed the resiliency of Beacon's staff and leadership. They were required to make major adjustments through the pandemic which made for evolutionary times at Beacon over the last few years; but I can say - with confidence, that Beacon has risen to the challenge and initiated innovative solutions and programming to continue to meet the growing needs of our communities. During my tenure, many exciting projects have been launched and I'm inspired and humbled to be a part of the board while these projects were initiated. A few key projects to mention:

- The Lighthouse was born! A 24/7 youth shelter which houses and feeds up to 20 homeless youth daily. This shelter also provides youth access to support workers who assist in finding permanent housing, life-skills development, providing addiction education and referrals to recovery services.
- We opened Beacon Nature Club at the new PEXSISEN Elementary, supporting the before-and-aftercare programs for students by providing 50 childcare spots. There are also 20 preschool seats for ages 3-5 years, with the understanding that the children seamlessly enter Kindergarten at PEXSISEN after completing their preschool years.
- Exciting projects on the horizon include Meares, the largest youth homeless shelter in B.C. with up to 50 single-dwelling units; and the Veyaness childcare centre in partnership with SD63 which will create over 80 childcare spaces - both scheduled to open in the Fall of 2023.

The reason that Beacon's work remains critical is due to continued hardship within our communities. The struggles of thousands of people have been somewhat cushioned by what Beacon does through its many programs and services. I'm proud of the way that Beacon has handled the shift in its work and priorities over the past few years. I'm leaving my seat on the board with the joy of knowing that the Greater Victoria Chamber's Best Nonprofit of the Year award for 2023 went to the most-deserving organization. Thank you to my colleagues on the Board, CEO Tricia Gueulette, the staff, volunteers, partners and funders for making my time with Beacon unforgettable.

Message from the CEO



TRICIA GUEULETTE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Looking back on 2022/23, I am inspired by how much our teams across Beacon have accomplished and how many lives they have impacted as we continue to strive to live our mission, vision and values in helping people and improving lives. In an amazingly busy year, among many other things, we have:

- Set out to ensure Beacon is acknowledging and learning more about the devastating impacts of colonization, including, but not limited to the displacement of peoples and the loss of language, culture and children on the disproportionate number of Indigenous people we serve. We have started a learning journey that we hope will bring us closer to understanding and incorporating Indigenous history and culture into the work we do;
- Set out to ensure our organization seeks to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging and is reflective of those whom we serve;
- Continued to expand our Leadership in Motion development program across Beacon to ensure we have the leadership capacity in all areas to be able to continue to meet the demands of the work we do;

I would like to thank everyone who supported us throughout this busy year. I am grateful to our funders for entrusting us. To our almost 300 staff and 600 volunteers - you are the true heart and soul of Beacon. Your commitment to making a difference across our communities makes me proud each and every day. I would also like to thank our Board of Directors who are incredibly passionate about the work that we do. They willingly give up their time for meetings, and strategic planning and have been so committed to seeing us grow and improve.

I look forward to the year ahead and am excited about what we can achieve together.



Beacon Turns 50!

Next year marks Beacon's 50th! And this is an exciting time for growth, development and reconciliation. CEO Tricia Gueulette envisions a "bigger, brighter Beacon" able to reach more people and shine a light in their lives; whether it be through Indigenous outreach, senior activities, employment services, housing or childcare solutions - Beacon is here for our communities.

The impact that Beacon's services and programs make is palpable; from the single mother who accesses training support and childcare to begin a career in IT; the homeless youth who is connected to a caseworker at a shelter and accesses rehab; the widowed senior who is connected to an activity center. Beacon gives people -no matter who you are or what stage of life you're in -an opportunity to live happier and more fulfilled lives.

The vision for our next 50 years will be rooted in fostering strong relationships with partners, donors and local Nations; updating hiring practices to focus on diversity; ensuring programs and services are fresh, innovative, cost-effective and meet the growing demands of an increasingly difficult socio-economic climate. Times are tough with the cost of living soaring, but Beacon will continue to rise to meet the needs of our communities with C.A.R.E.

Beacon will celebrate its 50th with a series of special events throughout 2024! We have an assigned 50th Planning committee to ensure that events are effectively scheduled and rolled out to allow accessibility to all Beacon stakeholders including staff, volunteers, clients, residents and the community.



Commitment to Reconciliation



BEACON HAS A NEW INDIGENOUS LOGO

Beacon has a new Indigenous logo! This incredible art was designed for Beacon by artist Jody Van Brabant, son of Chris Van Brabant, one of the Indigenous Outreach Coordinators on the HPP team.

The logo's images are animals and the symbolism is important. The first animal is The Frog which leaps at new opportunities while being able to swim through waters with strength. The Raven is the Trickster and the life bringer, this represents the love of all's right to exist. The Eagle, spiritual growth and sun bringer, that brings clarity, vision and wisdom to great heights. The fourth animal is the Salmon which gave itself to humans to feed on its energy so that they can reach their goals with honor. At the center is the human, as all animals protect humans and help guide them to the true wisdom, which is helping each other. How perfect for Beacon whose vision is "helping people, improving lives."

We are incredibly grateful to Jody for sharing his talents with Beacon.

*Please note: This is not replacing the current logo, but will be used as a supplement.



Commitment to Reconciliation



ARTIST PROFILE

Jody Van Brabant was born and raised in Victoria. Jody is 20-year-old with Tsimshian/Nisga'a and Filipino ancestry from Hartley Bay (Tsimshian), Gitwinksihlkw (Nisga'a). He is currently pursuing post-secondary education to become a Zoologist with the goal of protecting animals.

At the beginning of his cultural Art journey, Jody reached out to his Ye'e (Grandfather), Nisga'a Chieftain Sim'oogit Gilse'en (Keeper of Gitwinksihlkw Bay) Ron Nyce, for his guidance on how to take this step. Being raised in the Nisga'a culture, Jody felt he had this honor and gift to reach out and listen to the wisdom of his Elder, his Ye'e.

Jody allows his ancestor's art style to flow through him in this traditional piece as it speaks in Tsimshian style as well as Nisga'a, while allowing his voice to be heard.

Jody chose each animal to represent a meaning. Just like the animals gave us, he uses the first letter of each animal - with honor - that spells "F.R.E.S.H.." FRESH can be a new way, a new connection, that is open for each person to find their way while they write their story.

-shared via Chris Van Brabant

INDIGENOUS BOOK LIBRARY

The leadership team attended a Truth and Reconciliation workshop at a local Nation on April 3rd, 2023. An Elder shared stories of surviving residential schools and enduring medical experiments at a Nanaimo hospital. The stories moved the team deeply and spurred the need to continue the conversation, which is how the Indigenous book library was initiated. These books have been recommended by the Elder at the workshop and have been made available to everyone at the Quadra office. They can be ordered for anyone at Beacon.





Focus on D.E.I.B



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING

Beacon has launched its D.E.I.B. committee whose goal is to represent and support diversity, inclusion and belonging throughout Beacon. The committee is made up of people from equity-seeking groups, including 2SLGBTQIA+, IBPOC and differently-abled. The committee is currently working on setting its priorities. The inaugural meeting on February 2, 2023, was facilitated by Serena Morphy of Awaken HR -who works to create diverse environments where everyone feels represented, included & valued.

A few members of the D.E.I.B. committee have started the Pride Parade committee, who are excitedly planning Beacon's inaugural Pride Parade presence. They have worked hard to secure the Beacon truck, design custom Beacon Pride t-shirts, recruit marchers for parade day and plan all details relating to the parade including truck decorations and crowd giveaways.

Beacon HR has made a commitment to diversifying hiring practices and has applied for grant funding in hopes of rolling out cultural safety and anti-racism training organization-wide.

NEW BEACON PRIDE TEE



Strengthening Our Team



EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

After an employee survey, which revealed the desire for more connectedness, Beacon’s internal newsletter was born! Called The Beacon Connector, it is published every Friday by the new Communications Manager and highlights the week’s biggest stories from events, awards, staff and volunteer happenings. Get connected with all of your Beacon updates by reading the short and sweet newsletter. Make sure to send your updates and any Beacon-related news to: djacobs@beaconcs.ca

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Beacon has been a community presence for almost 50 years and has not lost its mojo, participating in many wonderful community events. Quadra Village Day was tons of fun and a HUGE success! Our Beacon booth was the busiest booth at the park. We engaged many community members (there were over 100 people in attendance) and everyone had fun with our guessing game. We had a sidewalk sale at Quadra Thrift with 50% off all clothing. We even had special Beacon cookies made and fabulous balloons to boot!



Empowering Communities

An incredible Beacon team, made up of staff, volunteers and residents walked the IG Wealth Management Alzheimer's walk on Sunday, May 28th. They are not just an awesome-looking bunch, in their bright white Beacon tees and neon accents; they also SMASHED their fundraising goal of \$1500 and raised a total of \$1,766 on behalf of the Alzheimer's Society. The money raised goes directly to programs and services for those suffering from this disease.

At Beacon Community Services, Alzheimer's is a cause that we keep close to our hearts. With 32 residents in our care, between our two licensed dementia care homes in Brentwood Bay, as well as the many programs and services that we provide for the aging population in our community; we understand the importance of resources and supports for the growing number of those affected by Alzheimer's. Well done team, Beacon Brights! You should be so proud.



We're a Winning Team!

B.C. CARE PROVIDER'S AWARD

Beacon won three prestigious awards this year, starting with the BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA) which recognized care aide Cathy Naismith, awarding her Best Care Provider of the Year in the Long-Term Care category.

Cathy has worked in Licensed Dementia Care for the past eight years at Brentwood House and throughout the pandemic would take extra weekend shifts to ensure residents were supported in their care. She is a “go above and beyond” type of person and is the first to jump in to do what is required to support Beacon residents. This is a well-deserved honor.

Tricia Gueulette, CEO of Beacon Community Services says, “She is a wonderful ambassador for the care and professionalism our staff across Beacon Community Services provide the community and we are thrilled for her service to be recognized in this way.”



We're a Winning Team!

UNITED WAY SPIRIT AWARD

The second award is from the United Way Southern Vancouver Island, who are honored to recognize and celebrate philanthropy in our community with the annual Spirit Awards. These awards commend the outstanding time, leadership & financial contributions of local individuals and organizations.

Beacon won the award for Best Collaboration, for our Better at Home and More than Meals programs. The Spirit Awards celebrate the diverse philanthropic endeavors within our community. These awards acknowledge the various ways organizations in our neighborhood display their commitment to giving back and showing their local love.

The Better at Home program offers a variety of non-medical supports to help seniors across BC remain independent in their own homes. The More than Meals program prepares and delivers meals to seniors.



We're a winning Team!

GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER AWARD

The final award is the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce's Best Nonprofit of the Year award for 2023. This award honors a nonprofit organization that has met needs and benefited the community at large.

What a huge honor to be recognized in these magnificent ways. This is a direct reflection of the dedication of Beacon's staff and volunteers. We have a lot to be proud of!



Childcare Services

Beacon has responded to the childcare shortage in B.C. by opening new fully-staffed, licensed facilities. Beacon has filled over 160 childcare spots so far and will be opening two new centres in 2023 and 2025 in partnership with both SD63 and Cool Aid Society, respectively. This will add a minimum of 100 spaces in the GVA to combat the childcare shortage.



LETTING CHILDREN BE CHILDREN

Each year we have new children start our out-of-school program. For most, it can be overwhelming.

The bond that is built up between children and our amazing childcare workers is ongoing throughout the year. We are privileged to be a part of their lives and to have an impact on how they treat each other and treat the world around them. We love observing nature on short walking trips. We love working together to build a snowman after a first snowfall, or running through a sprinkler on a hot summer day in our summer program. We foster the simplicity of children being children.

Serving Children, Youth and Families

We work to support children, youth and families through a broad range of services and programs. We promote health and safety for families, foster learning and development at all ages, and support parents and caregivers in their efforts to raise happy children, teens and families. We also offer counselling, mediation and respite for those in need.



YOUTH COUNSELLING

As a result of our amazing partnership with SD63 youth counsellors assigned to the Individual Learning Centers assisted students who attended the Broadmead and Saanichton Campuses with ongoing wellness and intervention in aid of their ability to stay on track and graduate. This year we are seeing a record 54 students graduate as a result of these collaborative efforts.

We are eternally grateful for our partnership with SD63 and the opportunity to build on creating positive change for youth.

Supporting Seniors and Caregivers

We help seniors live as comfortably as possible – whether at our assisted living or award-winning dementia homes or through one of our many services to enhance seniors' and caregivers' well-being. And our SHOAL Centre for active seniors is a booming hub in the Peninsula community, with many programs and services to support healthy aging.



CHEK NEWS UPSIDE GUYS AT SHOAL

On May 4th, The Upside Guys, Jeff King and Ed Bains, visited SHOAL center and spent some time exploring their wonderful activities, programs and services for seniors. The Upside Guys appear as a regular segment on CHEK news to highlight positive stories in our community and around the world to bring some levity and smiles to our viewers. Ed and Jeff were such a pleasure to have at SHOAL. They connected with staff and volunteers and really emphasized Beacon's outreach in the community.



SHOAL

Activities

NEW EVENTS AND RENTALS MANAGER

We have a great team at SHOAL – consisting of staff and volunteers, who make all these events possible. A great (and necessary) addition to the team is Events and Rentals Manager, Kirsten Tyler. Kirsten started with SHOAL in April and has been here for the volunteer appreciation luncheon and these two large events – big tasks for a new employee.

Kirsten has jumped in with both feet, becoming an integral part of the planning of each event and an amazing leader for the duration of them! We can already see how much of an asset she is to us at SHOAL. Kirsten comes to Beacon with a background in professional writing, and photography and is a chef – all aspects which will help to elevate SHOAL to where we want to be. We are very grateful to have her here. If you have any rental or catering requests, reach out to ktyler@beaconcs.ca.

CORONATION TEA

SHOAL hosted a Coronation Tea on May 7 and had over 170 people in attendance. Pictured here is our volunteer team, dressed up at the Coronation event. The event made over \$700 on the silent auction alone!



Providing Housing and Shelter



We offer comfortable, affordable living options for seniors and people with disabilities, supporting their desire to be as independent and self-sufficient as possible. We also connect those who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, with housing and services to meet their needs.



VREB DONATION TO OUT-OF-THE RAIN

The Victoria Real Estate Board (VREB) donated \$10,000 to Beacon's Out-of-the-Rain shelter! We are incredibly grateful for your generosity. This donation will be put to good use and positively impact many lives.

The VREB is an association of approximately 1,600 REALTORS® who work and live in the communities of Greater Victoria and the Southern Gulf Islands. The Board provides its members with the tools and education they need to provide the best possible service to their clients.



Providing Housing and Shelter



MEARES UPDATE

Currently, we're working to open the Meares House in downtown Victoria, which is the first of its kind in B.C., boasting 50 single-dwelling units for youth aged 19-27. The new facility will have 24/7 staffing who will support residents in a variety of different ways from teaching critical life skills to overdose response and prevention.

We are waiting for the transfer of the building and budget from BC Housing, with the transfer tentative for the beginning of August. Preparations continue as scheduled. The move-in date is anticipated for participants at the beginning of September



LONG-TERM CARE AND ASSISTED LIVING

There is never a dull moment at SHOAL-AL (assisted living)! One of the amazing SHOAL-AL activity coordinators started a pen pal program at the end of February for interested residents. They have been pen pals since with a local grade 2 class, which has brought much delight to all. The classroom teacher and activity coordinator planned a picnic at Centennial Park in Saanichton. It was an absolute hit!

Studies show that Intergenerationality Programs, between school-age children and older adults, have multiple benefits for both groups, including increased cognitive function, improved quality of life and social skills. Not to mention the mood-boosting results. Check out those smiles!

They had a bubble machine that was enjoyed by all and one of our residents even had her first ever freezie! Everyone had such an amazing time and are still talking about it. So much fun!



Saying Goodbye

LONG-TERM CARE AND ASSISTED LIVING DIRECTOR RETIRES



Deborah Carney, a cornerstone of Beacon and long-serving “leader of distinction” retires at the end of July. A note from Deb about her time with Beacon reads;

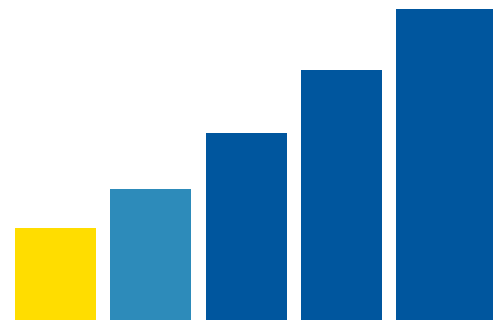
“I have over 32 years of Nursing experience, and 12 of those I have spent with Beacon. I started working here in March 2008- with a two-year gap where I worked in Acute care from Oct. 2012 - Dec. 2014. I worked for three years with the Home Support team as an RN Supervisor where my love for the organization started. I managed SHOAL Assisted Living for a year from March 2011-March 2012.

When I returned to Beacon (from Acute Care) in December 2014, I managed Brentwood House and Sluggett House until assuming the position of Director of Long-term care and Assisted Living in 2019, which has included some interesting and huge growth times during which we:

- Implemented Point Click Care online charting as a quality initiative in 2019;
- Transition of Home Support Oct 2019;
- Brentwood Fire Feb 2020;
- Navigated the COVID Pandemic;
- And achieved a successful “Accreditation with Commendation” for our homes in 2021.

I’m so proud of what we’ve accomplished over the years! It’s been an incredible journey of dedication to the organization, the wonderful leaders, staff, families and residents, - I count myself privileged to have been part of an organization that holds the same values that I do in my personal life - of wanting to positively transform the lives of those around us.”

Deborah Carney



Volunteer Services

PROVIDING EXCELLENT COMMUNITY SERVICE

Beacon's thriving Volunteer Services program exemplifies neighborliness and excellent community service. Our 550 volunteers range in age from 6 to over 90. They make our community stronger by providing services to thousands of people and raising money for local programs that help people and improve lives.

We had two of our youngest volunteers (ages 6 and 8) working the Quadra Village Day booth. They proudly sported their Beacon tees and had so much fun engaging the community. Who wouldn't love those cute faces?

At SHOAL Centre and across Beacon, we are abundantly fortunate with our incredible force of volunteers. They come from all walks of life and contribute to our community in countless ways.

We're deeply grateful to our volunteer Board of Directors, Chuck McNaughton, Joan Easton, Tom Vincent, Fiona Sudbury, Diana Lokken, Darlene Bailey Tom Noseworthy, Carolyn Knox, Gordon Steevens, Rob McMurtry whose talent and expertise lead our charity.



TANNIS WIGHTMAN, VOLUNTEER CAREGIVER GROUP FACILITATOR

Tannis Wightman has been volunteering nearly all her life, across Canada and abroad. After relocating to Sidney, Tannis spread the love and became a volunteer for more than one organization. With Beacon, she facilitates a Caregiver Support Group. These groups provide resources, assistance and a sense of community to those who are caring for a loved one at home. In order to do this – at nearly 90 years of age – she did 10 hours of intensive online training.

As if this weren't enough, she recently wrote a book entitled Letters from Grandma. She hadn't done anything like it before and wanted to have an adventure in learning all about the world of book-writing.

CAREGIVER GROUP ATTENDEE SAYS

"I have only been to two group meetings but that has been enough to see the value in going. Caregiving is such an isolating process. And the last few years with the pandemic on top of it, have compounded those isolating aspects. It is a blessing to have someone in the room that completely "gets it".

I am broken but with your help, and the support of the group, I hope to be able to climb out of this black hole. Like most of my generation, asking for help is the hardest thing for me to do. A friend encouraged me to seek you out and I am so grateful I did."



How Thrift Helps

Beacon's seven Thrift Shops offer affordable, convenient shopping for the entire family. They're also great places to donate items that are no longer needed. Proceeds from Beacon Thrift Shops go towards programs and services that help thousands of people in the South Island and Gulf Islands achieve a better quality of life.



WELCOME TO PANDORA THRIFT

The little store in the midst of downtown Victoria and home to the only free Cashier Training course, which runs for three weeks every Tuesday & Wednesday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and will support people for as many hours until they feel comfortable & successful on the cash register. We have no prerequisites beyond a willingness to commit to the three weeks and an eagerness to learn a new marketable skill.

Our students may be walk-ins who saw our poster, new immigrants, someone on their chosen path to sobriety, or referred from work placement programs, employment centers, shelters, schools etc. We offer a positive, upbeat learning environment based on kindness and acceptance.

Don't forget that we have a super collection of reasonably priced clothing and a fabulous book department. Come visit us soon!

-shared via Trish Unrau



A New Age for Thrift

ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY DESIGN THINKING

The RRU Design Thinking challenge in its 6th year chose Beacon as its client; and asked students to consider how we might use our thrift shops to help two different groups of people deeply connect with each other.

The challenge started on January 16th, judging wrapped up on Feb 18th with the winners being announced on March 1st. To be successful, students had to think beyond typical marketing solutions and present new and innovative ways to redesign the thrifting experience in service of inclusion and community-building.

The winning team from France won \$6000, with their idea being two-fold on how seniors can connect with the international community. The idea includes story-telling elements, from both sides regarding a thrifted object; and a permanent gathering place for people to connect with each other in the stores.

We received press coverage featuring Jackie Leuchter, Senior Manager -Thrift stores.

A screenshot of a news article from Peninsula News Review. The article features a photograph of Jackie Leuchter, a woman with blonde hair, standing in a thrift store aisle. The store is filled with clothing racks and shelves. The article text below the photo reads: "Jackie Leuchter, senior thrift shop manager with Beacon Community Services, said the non-profit is excited to be working with Royal Roads University for the school's Design Thinking Challenge. The challenge sees business students compete to develop innovative ideas to help a social organization overcome a challenge. (Justin Samanski-Langille/News Staff)". The article title is "Beacon Community Services and Royal Roads University team up for thrift shop innovation".

PENINSULA NEWS REVIEW

Jackie Leuchter, senior thrift shop manager with Beacon Community Services, said the non-profit is excited to be working with Royal Roads University for the school's Design Thinking Challenge. The challenge sees business students compete to develop innovative ideas to help a social organization overcome a challenge. (Justin Samanski-Langille/News Staff)

Beacon Community Services and Royal Roads University team up for thrift shop innovation



Empowering through Skills Building

Beacon Community Services has delivered a variety of employment programming since 1982. We offer programs and services for job-seekers and employers alike. If you're looking for work, need employment training, or simply want to get informed about the local labour market - we're here to help.

SHANE EXPANDS HIS SKILLS

Shane is a client being supported with his active job search. Through Beacon's Employment Services, Shane has continued to utilize the available resources and information to support his job search.

Shane has been open and flexible applying to positions that may lead him to sustainable employment that would utilize existing and transferable skills. Shane has been travelling from Sidney to Victoria to seek day labor with a Temp Agency even without knowing the availability of work. It was important for Shane to try and at times, there would not be work available. When this happened, Shane remained focused and positive, always looking ahead with hope.

Shane has participated in skill-building opportunities with Beacon Community Services. He became aware that there was a computer course available and inquired about the opportunity to attend. He shared a positive experience with the instructor and that he feels more confident using the computer.

Shane has recently completed Project Based Labour Market Training (PBLMT) with Complete School of Truck Transportation (CSTT). Shane has been in receipt of weekly Living Supports from Beacon Community Services while in attendance at training. This has allowed him to focus on his coursework, and be available for scheduled training without the pressure to seek day labour.



Empowering through Skills Building

SHANE EXPANDS HIS SKILLS

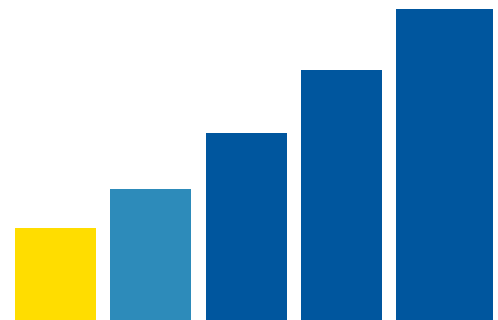
In addition to working hard towards employment, Shane has also applied for a volunteer position with Cycling Without Age. He will be offering a free one-hour bike ride for “less-able” people of all ages in Sidney. He is in the process of completing his “Pilot’s License” which enables him to tour community members on a cycle ride.

Shane has submitted a declaration to confirm he has successfully completed the Mandatory Entry Level Training Course (MELT) for Class 1 Driver’s Training. He was successful in his driver’s exam with many of the Beacon staff members honoring his achievement. Shane shared that his instructor has advised him that he wants to hire him on a part-time basis to start. He has been recognized for his dedication, commitment and suitability by his instructors at CSTT.

MICHAEL LANDS HIS DREAM JOB

Prior to coming to the Sidney WorkBC Centre, Michael was working as a Safety Officer in the Construction Industry. Due to an industrial accident, Michael was injured on the job and spent the next two years attending physiotherapy and recovering from his injuries. Michael required a career change, as he could no longer work in his previous position, or field, due to his injuries.

When Michael was accepted into Case Management, he had been searching for a job for several months and was experiencing difficulty in obtaining employment. Michael expressed interest in working for BC Ferries but required the Bridge Watch Rating Certification before he could be considered. During this time, Camosun College, in partnership with the Government of Canada, was offering a fully subsidized Bridge Watch Rating Certification program. Michael worked diligently on his application, was approved for the certification program and qualified to receive living supports from Beacon Community Services while he participated in the program.



Michael Lands His Dream Job

DILIGENT, DISCIPLINED, AND RESOURCEFUL

Michael not only finished the program successfully, but he was also awarded the TEKTEKSEN Award upon completion. On Camosun's School Trades & Technology 2022 Awards home page, they state that "Michael was a delightful student throughout the Bridge Watch Rating Program. His attendance and participation was 100 %. He brought a great deal of experience and wisdom to his class. He always displayed excellent judgment and careful thoughtfulness with his classmates and instructors." (School of Trades & Technology 2022 Awards | Camosun College)

Michael began to apply for positions with BC Ferries, the Canadian Coast Guard, Harbor Patrol, and other smaller organizations but was unable to obtain full-time employment. Michael then made the decision to return to school and applied to the University of Victoria, for their Restoration of Natural Systems and Aquatics, short certificate program. Michael completed this program successfully and began to search for a job once again.

Michael interviewed with the Tsartlip First Nation WSANEC Leadership Council and successfully obtained a full-time position as their Coordinator of Stewardship, earning more than \$30 per hour. Michael stated that he "loves his job" as he is able to work in the two areas that are most important to him: the Environment and Marine Vessels. Michael also volunteers with Habitat Acquisition Trust, and really enjoys his time there.

Michael was diligent, disciplined, and resourceful. His dedication and hard work helped him to move forward, and obtain a job he truly loves.



Jumpstart Employment Training and Skills (JETS)

THE POWER OF GENUINE INTEREST

Adrian, 24 years old, was a participant in our most recent cohort. She had varied work experience that included retail, warehousing and other food industry and customer service. As part of the JETS curriculum, we include a presentation from The BC Federation of Labour program, called Alice After 5, which seeks to educate young workers on their rights with regard to safety on the job.

At the beginning of the session, the group introduced themselves and Adrian revealed that she had been a Health and Safety committee member for two different employers. This experience coupled with her enthusiasm and positive attitude prompted the facilitator to not only encourage Adrian to apply for the facilitation job but to personally recommend her to the supervisor. An interview quickly ensued and Adrian was hired on the spot. She began on June 1st in a casual capacity at \$38 per hour!

Adrian's hiring served as a great example to the group of the power of genuine interest and its appeal to employers.





JETS to Success!

OVERCOMING MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

Donnie, 23 years old, moved here from Ontario a couple of years ago to be closer to his family. He suffered a psychotic break and was institutionalized for several months including two months in solitary confinement. Donnie is strictly disciplined regarding his mental health; he works out several days per week, takes his medications, and stays in touch with his doctor and mental health team. He was only just now feeling ready to return to work. Donnie has not worked for a while and was lacking confidence. He was unsure of what he would like to do as his work experience was limited to working for one pizza chain at two locations.

Through JETS, Donnie was able to build confidence in himself, and though a loner by nature, was pleased to discover his social skills and abilities around people were much better than he thought they were. He also greatly appreciated the structure and routine that JETS provided. His initial instinct for work was to find something online that he could do at home, but he realized through his time at JETS that more isolation was not the best idea for his mental health. He decided that he would like to work in a laundry as the work was physical and he enjoys that, there was an element of teamwork and working with others but there was not the intense interaction with people that customer service work requires. He started work in a laundry immediately after completing JETS, is happily employed and making \$21 per hour.

EMPLOYER ACCOMODATES DISABILITY

We met Neil in 2022, he was facing continuous barriers to securing employment due to being deaf. He presented with extremely low confidence and could no longer face the discrimination of not being hired for positions he was qualified to do, due to having a disability. With his Customized Employment Developer, he built life and employment skills on how to successfully interview for positions and negotiate accommodations for his desired position.

As Neil is deaf, it was his preference to work in the background at Home Depot, preferably night shifts. His Customized Employment Developer was able to negotiate these terms with inclusive employers at Home Depot; and provided interview preparation and supports, on-the-job coaching, a smart watch for him to communicate effectively via text messages with his colleagues during his shift, and continued support for both the employer and Neil. Regular feedback provided by his Manager states he is a valued team member and thriving in his position on the Overnight Freight Team.



"This work fills my cup."

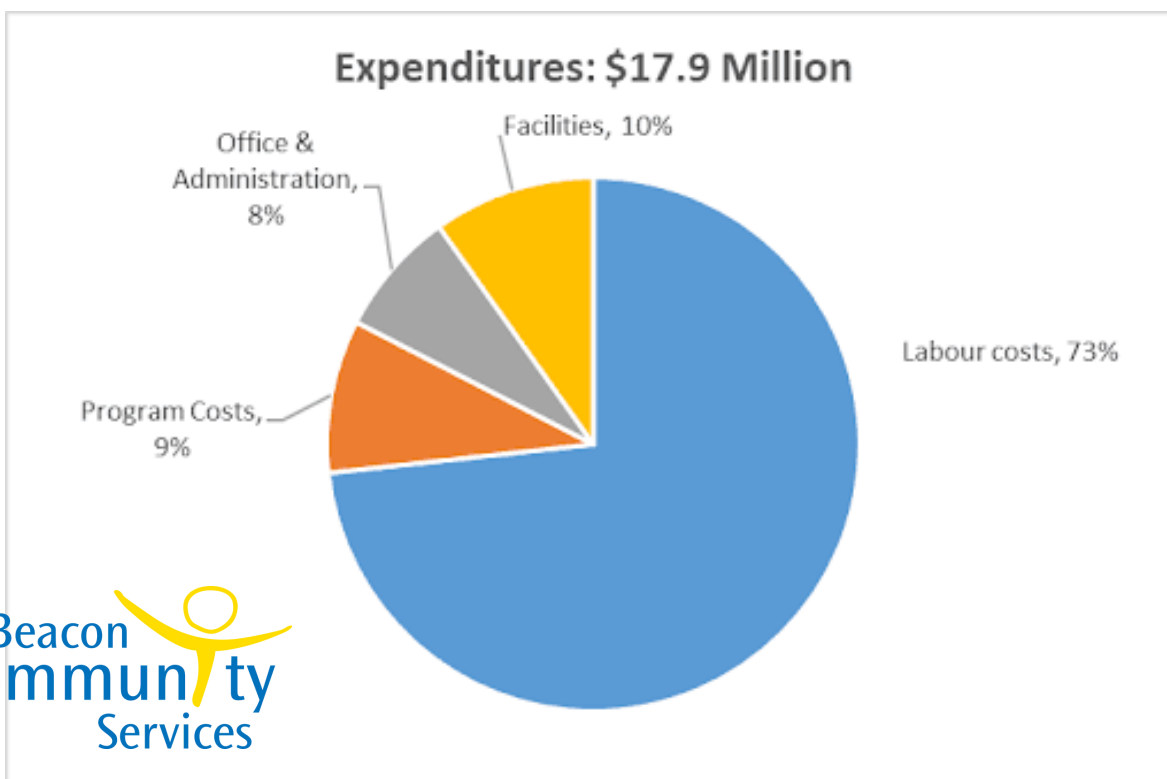
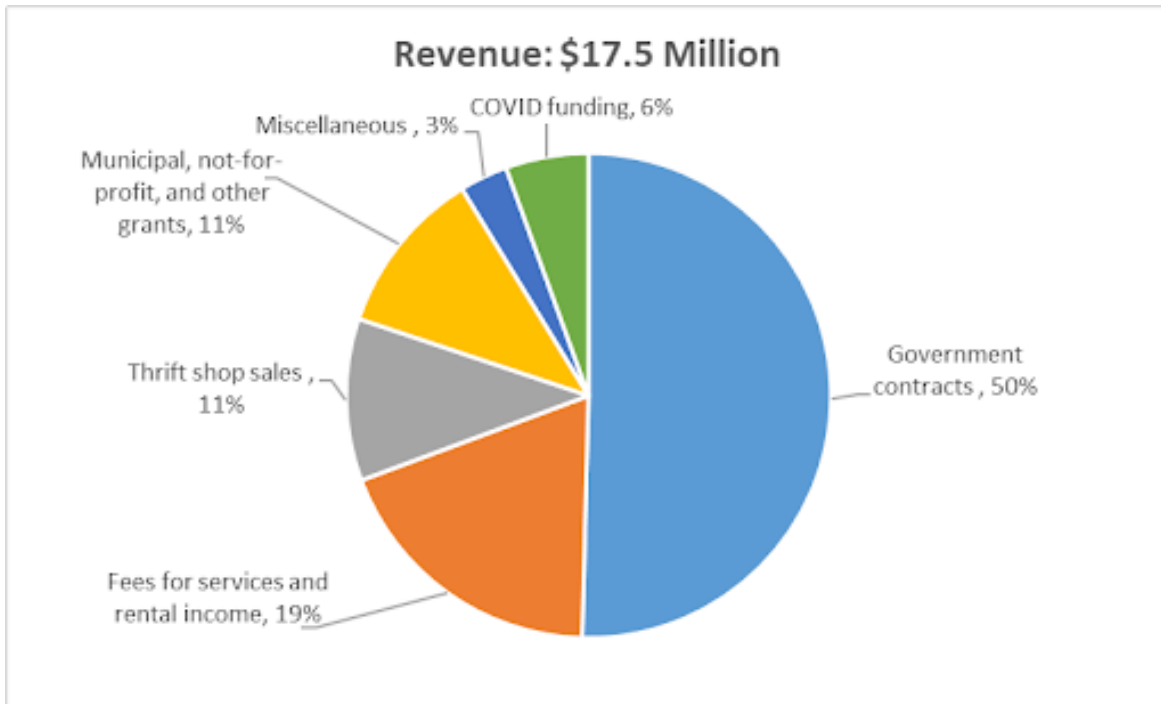
JETS SUPPORT WORKER SAYS

My name is Kalee Tan and I am coming up on three years working with Beacon. Much of the work is hard. I work with youth who experience barriers to employment. These barriers include some difficult things: mental illness, substance misuse, trauma, disabilities, lack of appropriate housing, lack of education, lack of familial support, lack of money and/or resources, lack of medical interventions, and often a general sense of ennui and isolation.

I have the absolute privilege of being able to show up to work just to help. Sometimes to help in measurable and obvious ways, such as the project goal of obtaining employment; sometimes to help to make someone's life a little less lonely for the time we are together. I have connected clients with each other, with employers, with services, and try to connect them to their own sense of gratitude, resilience, and optimism. I think I have success every day. This work fills my cup, it connects me with my gratitude, resilience, and optimism.



2023 Financial Picture



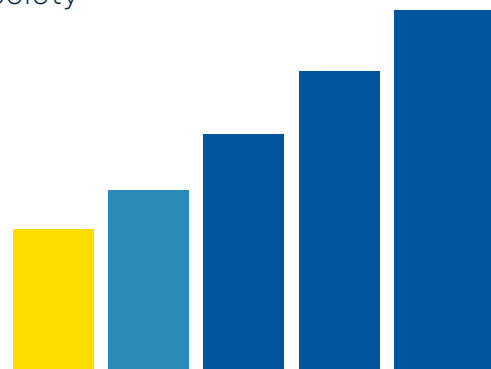
Partners and Supporters

BEACON IS GRATEFUL FOR THE PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS WHO WORK WITH US.

They include (but are not limited to):

Alzheimer Society of BC
Amber Educational Services
BC Housing
Boys and Girls Club
Bridges for Women Society
Broadmead Care Society
Burnside Gorge Community Centre
Camosun College
Canadian Blood Services
Capital Region Housing Corporation
Care RX
Central Saanich Fire Department
Central Saanich Police
Central Saanich Seniors Centre
Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island
City of Victoria
Coalition of Young Parent Programs
Congregation Emanu-El
CRD Traffic Safety Commission
Credit Unions of BC
District of Central Saanich
District of North Saanich
Eldercare Foundation
Esquimalt Neighbourhood House
Family Caregivers of BC
Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group
Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria
Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre
Island Health Authority

James Bay New Horizons
Ministry of Children and Family Development
Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
North Saanich Fire Department
Our Place Society
Pacifica Housing
Pauquachin First Nation
Panorama Recreation Centre
Power to Be
Quadra Village Community Services
Queen Alexandra Foundation
RCMP - Sidney/North Saanich Reger Group
Regional Out of School Care Operators
Saanich Neighbourhood House
Saanich Peninsula Stroke Recovery
Saanich Volunteer Services Society
School District 62
School District 63
Second Harvest Canada
Service Canada (Employment and Social Development Canada)
Sidney/North Saanich Library
Sidney Volunteer Fire Department
Sooke Family Resource Society
Southern Gulf Island Community Resource Centre Society



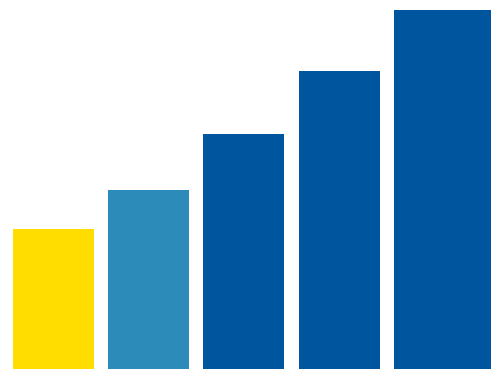
Partners and Supporters

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They include (but are not limited to):

St. Andrew's Church (Sidney)
St. John the Baptist Church
St. John the Divine Church
St. Peter's Anglican Church (Victoria)
Town of Sidney
Tsartlip First Nation
Tsawout First Nation
Tseycum First Nation
United Way of BC
United Way of Southern Vancouver Island
University of Victoria
Victoria Child Care Resource and Referral
Victoria Cool Aid Society
Victoria Disability Resource Centre
Victoria Foundation
Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society
Victoria Police
Victoria Women's Transition House
WorkLink Employment Society
YM/YWCA of Greater Victoria and Canada
Some of Our Memberships and Affiliations
Association of Service Providers for Employability & Career Training
BC Association of Community Response Networks
BC Association of Family Resource Programs

BC Care Providers Association
BC Council for Families
BC Non Profit Housing Association
Coalition of Neighbourhood Houses
Community Social Service Employers Association
Direct Volunteer Services Committee of Greater Victoria
Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce
Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness
Health Employers Association of BC
Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Self Care BC
Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce
Sidney by the Sea Rotary
Sidney Kiwanis Club
Sidney Lions Club
Victoria-South Island Long Term Care Initiative
Volunteer Victoria



Contact Us



@beaconcommunityservices



beaconcommunityservices



www.beaconcs.ca

Administration (including Accounts,
Billing and Finance)
2723 Quadra Street, Victoria
250-658-6407

Children, Youth & Family Services
9860 Third Street, Sidney
250-656-0134

Counseling & Mental Health Services
250-656-0134

Employment Services Programs
Sidney Resource Centre
9860 Third Street
250-656-0134

Salt Spring Island Resource Centre
268 Fulford Ganges Road
250-931-7687

Family Caregivers Supports
250-656-5537

Charitable Registration Number: 12995 1174 RR0001

Brentwood House
1167 Stelly's X Road, Brentwood Bay
250-652-0635

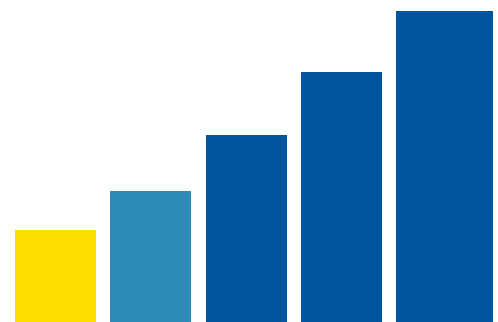
Sluggett House
1336 Marchant Road, Brentwood Bay
250-544-0925

Peninsula Early Years Centre
1649 Mt. Newton X Road, Saanichton
250-415-9794

SHOAL Centre
10030 Resthaven Drive, Sidney
250-656-5537

Subsidized Independent Housing
778-430-5766

Volunteer Services
10030 Resthaven Drive, Sidney|
250-656-5537





Thrift Shop Locations

Thrift Shop Donation Pick-ups:
250-656-6828

1. 2644 Quadra Street,
Victoria
250-590-5616
2. 715 Pandora Avenue,
Victoria
250-388-3500
3. 9756 Third Street, Sidney
250-656-3511
4. 9781 Third Street, Sidney
250-655-6416
5. 9760 Fourth Street, Sidney
250-656-6828
6. 7105-B West Saanich Road,
Brentwood Bay
250-652-0432
7. 7060 West Saanich Road,
Brentwood Bay



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