

Beacon



COMMUNITY
SERVICES

2024
Annual
Report





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 W̱SÁNEĆ people, and the ləkʷəŋən –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.





LIGHTING THE WAY FOR 50 YEARS.

Annual Report Contents

01	Letter from the CEO
03	Message from the Board Chair
04	Mission, Vision, and Values
05	Highlights and Achievements
07	Our Reach: Impact Statistics
09	Launching New Initiatives
14	Programs and Services
22	Our Impact: Community stories
27	Community Engagement and Partnerships
43	Financial Overview
45	Beacon Directory
47	Thank you

*SCAN ME
TO CHECK OUT
OUR NEW WEBSITE*





A letter from the Chief Executive Officer

C.A.R.E. IN ACTION

As Beacon celebrates our 50th year, I'm inspired by the considerable accomplishments of our teams and the many lives they've impacted as we continue to live our mission, vision and values – Helping people, Improving lives.

We have been fortunate to have one of our volunteers, Maureen Dale, archive Beacon's history including newspaper articles and photographs. Reflecting on our establishment in 1974, Beacon has evolved into a cornerstone of support. Today, we continue to stand strong, firmly grounded in the principles that have guided us from the start.

This year, we are particularly proud of the opening of "Mirrors on Meares," Victoria's new supportive housing facility. This initiative is a significant step towards our vision of ending homelessness, especially among youth. The Beacon-operated building, along with its comprehensive programming, embodies our commitment to providing safe, stable housing and essential support services to all of its residents.

We are also proud of the opening of ŠEŠÍŠEJ, Beacon's nature-based childcare centre. This project is the culmination of an extraordinary partnership between Beacon and the Saanich School District (SD63), years of collaborative discussions, meticulous planning and a shared vision. Incorporating Indigenous teaching, it is deeply rooted in the W̱SÁNEĆ ways of knowing and being, that establishes a strong sense of community, and belonging.



I would like to thank everyone who supported us this year. I am grateful to our funders for entrusting us. To our 300+ staff and 550+ volunteers – you are the true heart and soul of Beacon. I would also like to thank our Board of Directors who are incredibly passionate about the work that we do. They have worked very hard, ensuring Beacon has the core structure we need to thrive for another 50 years.

As we look forward to the year ahead, I am excited about the possibilities and confident in what we can achieve together. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey.

Sincerely,

Tricia Gueulette

CEO, Beacon Community Services



The home was named "Mirrors" by its residents. It is an homage to "reflection" and a play on words becoming, "Mirrors on Meares."

Meares Supportive Housing opened its doors in November, 2023 welcoming 48 young adults at-risk of homelessness.

The home provides meals, laundry on-site and a range of support services in partnership with local providers.



A message from the Board Chair

COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

When I joined the Beacon Community Services Board in 2020, I did not imagine that I would have the honour of Chairing the Board in the organization's 50th Anniversary Year. On behalf of the Board of Directors it is my pleasure to express the Board's commitment to and pride in the work of Beacon; its wonderful staff and amazing volunteers; and to celebrate 50 years of community service.

The 2023/24 year has been another exciting one! Beacon's strength as an organization stems from its deep historical roots; its commitment to doing things well; and its willingness to innovatively address community needs.

To nourish the roots of the organization, the Board has updated and revised the organization's constitution, bylaws and Board policies. This work will reach completion at the Annual General Meeting in the Fall. This necessary effort modernizes the Board's structure and creates new membership opportunities for individuals and organizations interested in supporting Beacon and furthering its work.

The year also saw much more emphasis on the future of the organization. A fundraising team is now in place and a Real Estate strategy has been created to help identify opportunities for using Beacon's property assets to address community housing and service deficits. While it is early days for both initiatives, there is exciting work ahead as new projects are identified and undertaken.

In this annual report you will find information about new projects underway – and the Board is very excited about the child and youth initiatives that have happened this year – but you will also read about the amazing range of Beacon's services.

Many thanks to my colleagues on the Board, the Beacon team –led so capably by CEO Tricia Gueulette, and our amazing volunteers and community partners for making 2023/24 such a successful year; and for launching Beacon into its next 50 years of community service.

Sincerely,

Joan Easton

Chair, Board of Directors, Beacon Community Services





Beacon's Mission, Vision, and Values

Through our unwavering commitment to our vision, mission, and values, Beacon Community Services has made a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals and families. Our comprehensive programs have fostered resilience, promoted well-being, and created opportunities for personal and communal growth. We have become a cornerstone of support in the South Island and Gulf Islands communities, continuously adapting to meet the changing needs of those we serve.

Our compassionate approach ensures that every individual is treated with dignity and respect, while our commitment to excellence guarantees that we provide the highest quality of care and support. By upholding our C.A.R.E. values, we have built strong, trust-based relationships within the community, driving forward our mission to deliver compassionate, innovative community services that foster self-sufficiency, volunteerism and well-being.

Beacon Community Services stands as a beacon of hope, support, and opportunity, lighting the way for individuals and families to achieve their fullest potential and contributing to a thriving, resilient community.

Mission:

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

Values:

Compassion,
Accountability,
Responsiveness,
Excellence

Vision:

Helping people. Empowering communities. Improving lives.



Highlights and Achievements

BEACON CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

This year Beacon Community Services has reached a remarkable milestone—five decades of unwavering commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

Since our establishment in 1974, Beacon has evolved into a cornerstone of support and impact, reflecting the passion and dedication of those who recognized the transformative potential of community. Today, we continue to stand strong, firmly grounded in the principles that have guided us from the start.

We are marking our 50th year with celebrations organizations-wide; and we're thrilled to share a special gift with all of our internal stakeholders: a commemorative carabiner water bottle featuring Beacon's new 50th anniversary logo. The gifts will be distributed to staff, volunteers, partners and donors organization-wide.





A FRESH, NEW LOOK

As part of our 50th-anniversary celebrations, we have developed a new logo, website and commemorative tagline: “Lighting the Way for 50 Years”. This tagline encapsulates the essence of our journey – illuminating paths, fostering connections, and guiding individuals and families towards a brighter future. It symbolizes the light of hope, compassion, and support that Beacon has consistently provided throughout its rich history.

All of these enhancements reflect our commitment to embracing the future while honoring the legacy that has defined Beacon for the past 50 years. As we enter our Golden Anniversary with a renewed identity, we affirm our unwavering commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.





Highlights and Achievements

2023-2024

17,740 

Meals served in
the More than
Meals program



2935

Client homes
cleaned

530 

Active
volunteers

334 

Licensed childcare
spaces provided in
Greater Victoria

**BEACON
CELEBRATES
50 YEARS**

118 

People found work
through our
employment
services

4,376 

Seniors who benefited
from Shoal House
programs

365 

Day that
Out of the Rain
shelter is open



175 

At-risk-youth
supported
by homeless
prevention
and shelter services

135 

People housed
via care homes,
assisted living, and
subsidized housing

2433 

Drives to
appointments

963 

New Shoal
members





Rising To Meet The Needs of the Community

OUR UNIQUE WRAP-AROUND CARE

Beacon Community Services offers a comprehensive range of programs and services designed to meet the diverse needs of individuals and families in the South Island and Gulf Islands communities. Our services span across various sectors, including senior care, where we provide essential support, companionship, and healthcare services to enhance the quality of life for elderly residents. We empower youth through housing, education, and skill-building programs, ensuring they have the resources and guidance needed to thrive. Our childcare services support working families by offering safe, nurturing environments for children to learn and grow.

Additionally, we provide community support services that address immediate needs, such as food security and crisis assistance like the homelessness prevention fund and the restorative justice program which averts family cases away from the courts, while also fostering long-term resilience and well-being. Through these multifaceted programs spanning an entire lifecycle -from birth to end of life, Beacon Community Services proudly remains dedicated to uplifting lives, promoting independence, and strengthening the fabric of our community.





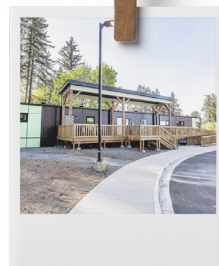
New Initiatives: A Bigger, Brighter Beacon

OPENING ŠEŠÍŠEJ LICENSED CHILDCARE IN SD63

Our new centre, ŠEŠÍŠEJ, brings our vision of a connected, safe inclusive, and nature-based child care environment to life. Opened in partnership with SD63 and the Province of BC, the name ŠEŠÍŠEJ is a SENĆOTEN word meaning “little forest. This centre sits amidst a forested lot where the children can explore, climb trees and find many things to wonder about. Each day will bring a new adventure!

The staff brought nature into each room by using the centre’s natural surroundings like pieces of wood, pine cones, flowers and even dried fruit to create stools, games and learning tools. With the help of the maintenance team, the staff re purposed old furniture and gently used pieces were sanded and repainted to use as furniture within the rooms.

The centre – located at the intersection of White and Veyaness roads sits on land that was donated by the Turgoose family in 1873 with the condition the land be held and used for public school purposes only. Beacon is proud to open this new centre, fulfilling its promise to rise to the needs of the community!



“Our nature-based centre will incorporate our Licensed Care philosophy of understanding the relationship we have with the land and our communities. Indigenous ways of knowing in the early learning curriculum teaches us that children are sacred gifts. Children are strong, capable and resourceful, ŠEŠÍŠEJ will strive to impart these values and ensure that the children in our care experience an environment where their positive identities and sense of belonging are nurtured and protected.”

-Tricia Gueulette, CEO



ŠEŠIŠEJ
CHILD CARE
CENTRE





Launching new initiatives

NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCE CENTRE OPENS

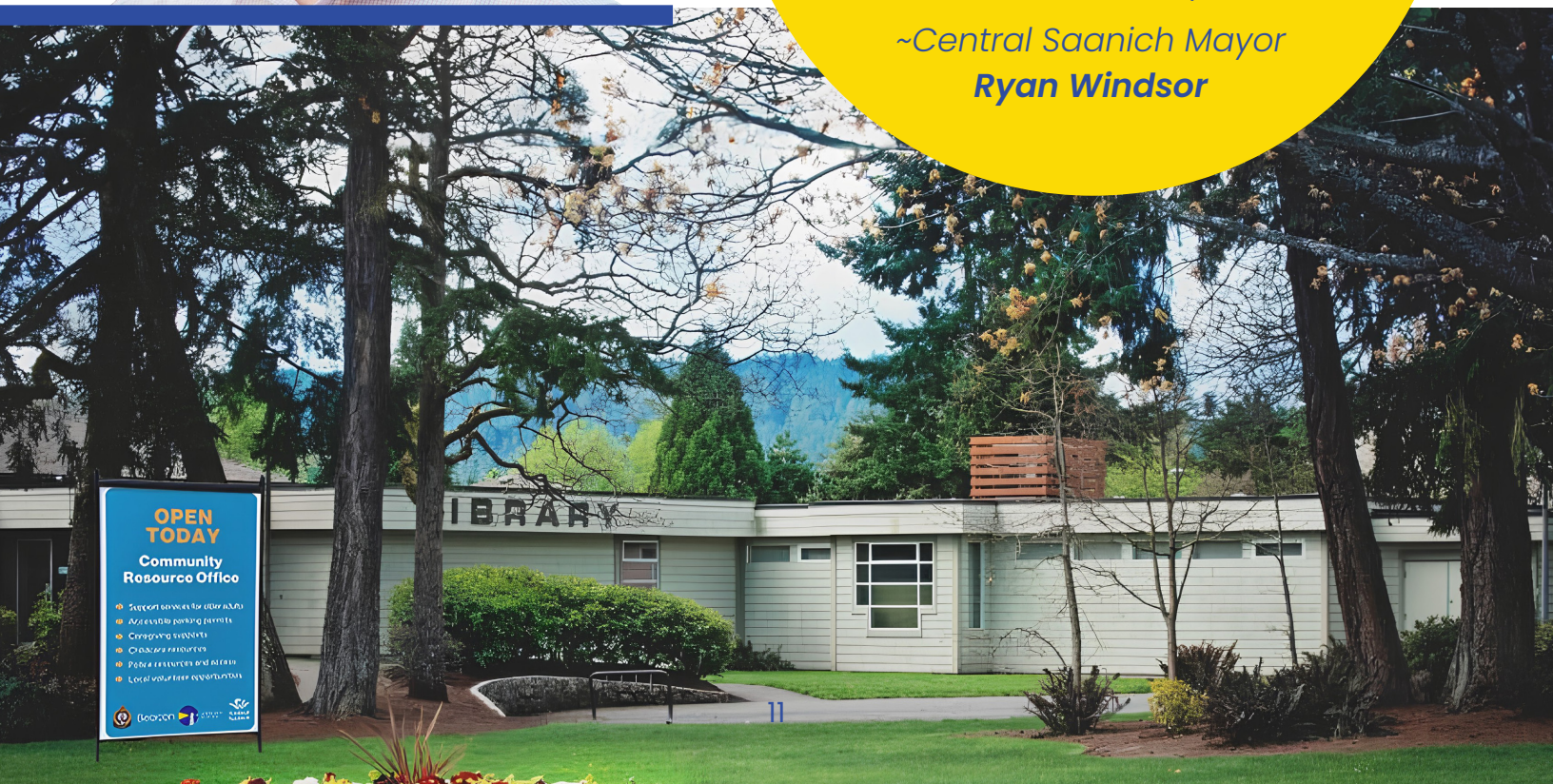
Central Saanich's recent community outreach indicated the need for a physical resource centre as part of the age-friendly community plan. Older adults and caregivers identified that there is an overwhelming amount of "difficult to navigate" information.

The office opened in January and is based out of the Community Resource Office in the lobby of the library building at 1209 Clarke Rd, Brentwood Bay. The office is 100% volunteer run and open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



"Having a physical place to go where [people] could be assisted and connected to resources will be a big benefit. I really can't emphasize how grateful we are for our partnership with Beacon, and I thank their staff and volunteers for making this a reality so quickly for the community."

*~Central Saanich Mayor
Ryan Windsor*



Launching new initiatives

FINDING HOME AT MIRRORS ON MEARES STREET

Mirrors home on Meares street welcomed the first of its young adults into the building on October 24th, 2023. The housing program has 48 units for young adults between the ages of 19-27 years who are either unhoused or at-risk of becoming unhoused. It is a safe space for them to live while determining their next steps.

As residents of Mirrors, the youth are provided with a range of supports that include staff available 24 hours ensuring building and community safety, two daily meals and on-site programming through collaboration with the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness and PEERS. More supportive programming include:



Umbrella Society offers Housing Overdose Prevention Peer Supports on-site five days per week and coordinates a Resident Responder program on every floor.



The Foundry Victoria is onsite with a clinician every Wednesday to address health needs and case management.



Internal housing support worker dedicated to 5 CLBC designated individuals to ensure their success in living independently in a supportive environment.



Island Health teams come by daily to connect with clients and pharmacies meet with young adults to ensure access to medications.



Community Supporting Community

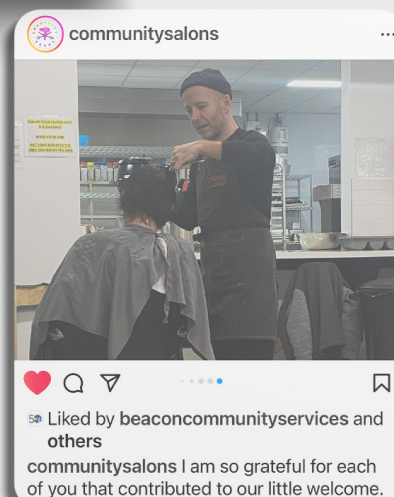
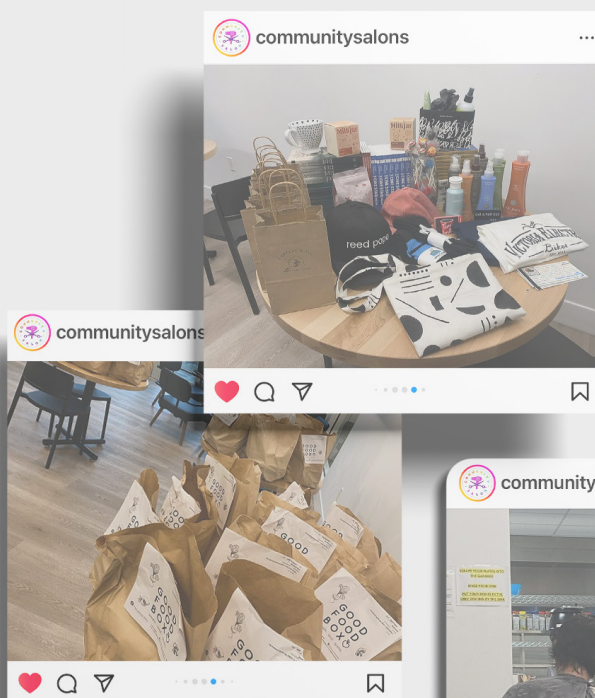
FREE HAIRCUTS FOR ALL!

Local barber shop, Community Salons, came up with an idea to gift the new residents of Mirrors a haircut and a welcome package. And wow, what a gift it became! Along with free haircuts offered to every resident, each youth received a Good Food box and a gift basket filled with local goodies. A gardening workshop was arranged and 48 books started the home library. A pair of tickets was donated for TEDXVictoria and Havn spa, along with goodies from Tim Hortons for everyone to enjoy while getting their haircuts.

This is truly community care in action! We're so grateful for each and every one of the neighbors and local businesses that contributed to this gift of welcome. For folks that have been unhoused, feeling "at home" means the world.



**COMMUNITY
CARE
IN ACTION**





Homelessness Prevention & Shelter Services

OUT OF THE RAIN IS NOW PROVIDING SHELTER YEAR-ROUND

Out of the Rain Night Shelter is celebrating 25 years of sheltering unhoused youth this year! At the end of our typical season, which runs from October to April, the staff were grateful to be able to continue to offer night shelter services to youth. Funded by BC Housing, Out of the Rain offers a warm meal and a safe, dry place to stay for 12 months of the year.



RENTAL SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL



Beacon's Homelessness Prevention and Shelter Services department was successful in their proposal for the *Supportive Rental Supplement Program*. This unique wrap-around support is in collaboration with BC Housing, Island Health and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty reduction and other local organizations. These organizations address health and other needs, along with providing rental supplements to ensure successful tenancies in market rental housing.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION FUND INCREASES FUNDING AND EXPANDS PARTNERSHIPS

Beacon has been successful in its proposal to increase the funding for this program through *Reaching Home, Canada's Homelessness strategy*. This additional funding will go to support more community members experiencing financial crises that will lead to homelessness within a two-week period. With the increased funding, we have been able to expand our community partners, to include the Women's Transition House, PEERS, Sooke Shelter Society, Mustard Seed and Sooke Shelter Society.



I had a lovely interaction this morning with one of our community members who accessed funding a few months ago. She is a single mom. Today she brought her son in to meet me - and she wanted to express how receiving the funding has been so helpful for them. She said it was such a relief for them to get the funding! She has been able to get more hours at work and was able to find some financial stability.

-Beacon Staff Member

Poetry
submitted
by a Beacon
Community Services
Homelessness
Prevention client

Gratitude

A BEACON OF HOPE, A RAY OF LIGHT,
SHONE FAINTLY IN A CLOUD OF DESPAIR
NO PLACE TO CALL HOME DISTRAUGHT AND ALONE
NEVER REALIZED THERE WERE SO MANY WHO CARED

BEACON YOU SAVED ME, HELPED ME GET ON MY FEET
AND KNOW THE VALUE TO HAVE MY OWN PLACE
TO FIND ONCE AGAIN SELF-RESPECT WITHIN MYSELF
WHEN I LOOKED IN THE MIRROR AT MY FACE

I CAN ONLY HOPE TO INSPIRE YOU ALL,
AS YOU ALL HAVE DONE WITH ME.

~ANONYMOUS



Youth Leading Youth

EMILY JACKSON

"As a former youth of the foster care system, I understand the profound significance of reflection. Mirrors, our new supportive housing building, represents a beacon of hope for young adults in Victoria. Within the sanctuary of Mirrors, reflection isn't just about the gleam of glass surfaces; it's about introspection, growth, and empowerment."

I've worked in the field for almost eight years. Since being a youth in care myself, I can attribute a lot of who I've become to this sector and the people I get to work with each day. Most of all, the experience of serving those who have been in a similar position to me, and watching them pave their own ways forward, has been a transformative and incredibly rewarding journey."

-Emily Jackson, Manager Mirrors Housing





SHOAL Centre & Senior Services

A LITTLE CALL GOES A LONG WAY

Every Friday at 9 am, my telephone rings and when I answer, a cheerful voice says, "Hi, Wendy, it's Sally, how are you today?"

When I retired from work at the age of 67, I started a new job – volunteering. I attended a United Way presentation, facilitated by two people from Beacon Community Services, who talked about their organization and what it did for the community. I knew that was the place I wanted to be. In 2000, I started volunteering at the Senior's Hot Line and ended up at the SHOAL centre.

17 years later, I broke my ankle, and became dependent on a walker. I started relying on the services offered by Beacon like medical drives, Words on Wheels and phone check-ins.

I had known Sally all those years as we volunteered for Beacon together, but because of her weekly uplifting phone calls since March 2020, life became a brighter existence for me. We never run out of things to talk about!



In May of 2021, I moved from Sidney to Victoria but keep the connection to Sidney and the SHOAL centre through Sally. These past four years, my phone has rung 208 times. Everytime it has been Sally, checking in on me.

I want to express my gratitude for these pleasurable experiences and support as a result of the work that Beacon Community Services does. I thank Sally, and her manager, Deb Greenaway.

By Wendy Warshawsk

**Impact
Story**



Senior Support Services: Better at Home

HOUSEKEEPERS



On two occasions in April, housekeepers have reported a significant decline in their clients. Housekeepers immediately reported their findings to the Better-at-Home manager, who contacted Island Health. Because of these urgent incident reports, enhanced support has been put in place for both clients, allowing two seniors to remain safely in their beloved homes.

MEDICAL DRIVES



A long time client and member of the SHOAL centre recently passed away unexpectedly. Family members came from North Vancouver and Alberta to share how much the services that Beacon provides supported their mom after their dad had passed away.

The client had macular degeneration and utilized the Medical Drive program regularly to get to her eye doctor. She was a regular participant of the White Cane Club. She participated in chair fit and balance classes. The client was a talented and active quilter and the family gave a special piece of quilting to SHOAL and her Better at Home housekeeper.





Long-term Care

MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS AT PARRY PLACE

Despite challenges related to the changing care needs, resources available and the growing isolation many older adults face—at Parry Place Assisted Living in James Bay, we have taken it all in stride!

Living our C.A.R.E. values, Beacon staff and volunteers have combined forces with community members and families to create meaningful connections with our residents and warm memories over the last year.

We've shared celebrations, collaborated with the Royal BC Museum for monthly museum mystery suitcase game; began a pen-pal program with a youth program based out of Fairfield Gonzales Community Association; enjoyed pet visits from Pats Pets; run fundraisers and even supported one of our residents in a photo-op that resulted in him being featured on the Sawatzky Sign-Off with Adam Sawatzky from CTV news! There is never a dull moment in Long-Term Care.





Long-term Care

MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS AT PARRY PLACE



Bingo



Music therapy



Trivia

**Always
something
happening!**



Special Performances



Accessible exercises



Sing Alongs



Pet Therapy



Painting Groups



Meditation



Crafts



Yard Sales

And much more!



Fundraising

BLANKETS TO WARM THE SOUL

OUR LOVED ONE HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF BRENTWOOD HOUSE FOR THREE YEARS NOW AND HAS RECEIVED EXCELLENT CARE. OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS FEEL VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PLACE OUR LOVED ONE IN THIS FACILITY. THEREFORE, DURING THE LAST FAMILY COUNCIL MEETING IT WAS MENTIONED THERE WAS A DESIRE TO PURCHASE BLANKET WARMERS FOR BOTH BRENTWOOD HOUSE AND SLUGGETT HOUSE, OUR FAMILY DECIDED THIS WOULD BE A WAY FOR US TO GIVE BACK AND PAY IT FORWARD. SO WE WERE THRILLED TO BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THIS EFFORT. WE'RE SO HAPPY TO HEAR THAT RESIDENTS ARE NOW COZY WARM DURING RAINY WINTER DAYS AND CHILLY NIGHTS. ♡





Robyn's Story: Dreams of the Sea

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES – WORK BC

Robyn (name changed to respect privacy) moved to Victoria to help her family out. They wanted to work in the Marine Industry. Initially they were interested in entrepreneurial services with WorkBC, but decided they needed more training first. With the help of their WorkBC client advisor, they were able to enroll in a one-year program to get their Captain's Ticket.

Robyn's advisor also helped them get into the Bridgewatch Program to earn an additional certification. While in this program, they were recruited by the Coast Guard and got a job. They are currently working for the Coast Guard, and will apply for Captain certification in a year. Robyn is incredibly grateful to their amazing client advisor and would like everyone to know about the wonderful services available at WorkBC Centre Sidney.

118

People found work through Beacon's employment services this year

**Impact
Story**





Charlie's Story: Finding Self-Worth

JUMPSTART EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AND SKILLS JETS SUCCESS STORY

Charlie (name changed to respect privacy) is a 26 year-old with a history of opioid use and street entrenchment. She had substantial work experience in the restaurant industry and had completed three years of university in gender studies, but had serious relapses that left her destitute more than once. She lied about her clean time to get into the program but embraced what the program had to offer once accepted and remained clean.

Charlie found work quickly in a busy restaurant with tremendously high earning potential. She plans to return to university in September and was thankful for the JETS experience to reset her priorities.

A yellow circular graphic containing the text "Impact Story".

**Impact
Story**





WHEN I WAS INITIALLY INTERVIEWED FOR JETS I SAID THAT I WAS THREE OR FOUR MONTHS CLEAN. IN TRUTH, IT HAD ONLY BEEN 2 WEEKS. THE YEAR PRIOR HAD LEFT ME SOCIALLY AND PHYSICALLY ISOLATED AND I WAS DESPERATE FOR ROUTINE AND COMMUNITY. I ONCE SAID THAT I FELT "FERAL" AND COMING TO JETS, I FELT UNSURE AND INCOMPETENT AND TOTALLY UNABLE TO ENGAGE IN THE WORLD IN ANY PRACTICAL LET ALONE MEANINGFUL WAY. GOING TO THE GROCERY STORE OR DOING DAILY CHORES CAUSED ME OVERWHELM AND I HAD ZERO BELIEF THAT I HAD THE SKILLS OR CAPACITY TO DO PURPOSEFUL WORK PERSONALLY, PROFESSIONALLY OR ACADEMICALLY.

MORE THAN THE RESUME, INTERVIEW OR EVEN GENERAL LIFE SKILLS, THE JETS PROGRAM (AND MORE SPECIFICALLY YOU BOTH) HAVE PROVIDED A SAFE SPACE (AND I DON'T EVEN BELIEVE IN THOSE AND I THINK THEY ARE STUPID) TO BE CURIOUS, REDISCOVER AND LEARN THINGS ABOUT MYSELF I THOUGHT WERE LONG GONE.

THANK YOU FOR COMING INTO MY LIFE WHEN I NEEDED TO FEEL PEOPLE BELIEVED IN AND HAD FAITH IN ME. THERE ARE VERY FEW PLACES AND TIMES IN LIFE WHEN PEOPLE ACTIVELY WANT YOU TO SUCCEED AND HAVE A VESTED AND PATIENT INTEREST IN YOUR HIGHEST GOOD. I NEEDED TO FEEL LIKE I HAD VALUE IN THE WORLD AND PEOPLE LIKED HAVING ME AROUND. IT MEANS MORE TO ME THAN YOU KNOW.

-CHARLIE, JETS CLIENT



Brady's story: Hard Work Pays Off

JETS SUCCESS STORY

Brady (name changed to respect privacy) is a 29 year-old recovering from methamphetamine use. He has been clean from drugs for a year or so. After being unhoused he is now living in a converted, supported housing hotel room. He has maintained abstinence from drugs amid other residents who are openly using.

Throughout his addiction and into his sobriety, Brady has been supporting himself by working day-labour construction. But he has been frustrated because he has a lot of experience on construction sites but is not recognized. He works hard on site and people notice that, but because he does day-labour, he's not taken seriously.

JETS gave Brady an opportunity to prove his reliability, to work with people from different backgrounds, to improve his communication skills and self-awareness. The JETS reference confirming Brady's reliability allowed him to achieve quality employment with a large and reputable construction company and put him on track for an apprenticeship.

Impact
Story





David's story: Reaching his Goals

JETS SUCCESS STORY

David (name changed to respect privacy), 27-years- old, came to JETS for support with career and education direction. He is a visible minority (Latino) who migrated from Mexico 11 years ago and is currently living with his parents. David has multiple barriers which has made it challenging for him to hold employment. In the past, he worked as a child/youth worker for three non-profit employers, which included some outdoor education/nature activities, but had to quit due to his mental health.

David lives with bipolar and was hospitalized three months prior to starting JETS. He had a prior car accident resulting in a brain injury. Upon admission to the program, David was on income assistance (IA) and applied to persons with disabilities (PWD) for more financial support. JETS provided an opportunity for him to examine his career and education options and socialize with other participants.

David was diligent with his assignments in JETS and earned certifications in WHMIS and Wilderness First Aid. He had previously completed some micro-credentials in wilderness and nature studies and desires to work with children as an outdoor educator in the future. He spent time at JETS conducting research towards advancing his education and researched related job postings towards this career.

Upon completion of the program workshops, David was registered for Camosun College and started classes the following week. Currently he is working on prerequisite courses for entry into the Environmental Technology Diploma in the Fall. He plans to find employment in the Summer, related to his education and career pursuits. David appreciated the time at JETS to build his confidence, improve his public speaking skills and finalize his goals towards education in his desired career as an Outdoor Educator.

**Impact
Story**





Beacon's Strength and Impact

NURTURING PARTNERSHIPS: A KEY TO SUCCESS

At Beacon Community Services, we understand that the strength and impact of our work are greatly enhanced by the partnerships we nurture within our community. Building and maintaining robust partnerships is at the heart of our mission to provide comprehensive and effective support to individuals and families.

Beacon is involved in an extensive network of partnerships, committees and initiatives – playing a leadership role in assessing and responding to community needs. Beacon has also started a Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) committee and an Environmental stewardship committee, which works to engage staff and volunteers in active ways.

Beacon representatives serve on provincial and local advisory committees on children's and seniors' needs, local groups focused on literacy, volunteer services planning, homelessness prevention, Neighborhood House family services, Community Advisory committees, the UVic co-op employer advisory committee, and more.





Child Youth and Family Services

CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS

A theme found within the child youth family service portfolio is the gift of being in relationship be it with;



Clients when
they are in their
time of need



Community
partnerships working
to build capacity



Colleagues exploring
ways to streamline
services

Without these relationships and informed response- based trusted partnerships, we would not be able to accomplish the level of commitment or make the outcomes possible. Though each entity of the department comes with established knowledge, the stakeholders and their role are unique and reflective of the service area.

COMPLEX NEEDS AND FASD SUPPORT: BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Partnerships form a key part of our Complex Needs and FASD Support Services Program by bringing families together through access to services and community and creating more comprehensive support systems. As part of their role, Keyworkers, who have long-term relationships with both families and school teams across various districts, facilitate smooth transitions.





Child Youth and Family Services

ENABLING SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS

Transitions can be challenging for children and their parents, especially when it involves changes like moving to a new school. Five years ago, Johnny's (name changed to respect privacy) parents sought Beacon's FASD – Complex Behaviour Keyworker services to support him. Through this support, Johnny has developed resilience and now views transitions positively.

This Spring, Johnny faced another major transition to a new school. His family requested the Beacon FASD Keyworker's presence during the initial meeting with the school team to provide continuity and support.

During the meeting, Johnny found comfort in the Keyworker's familiar presence, which helped ease the introduction to the new school and its staff. This support allowed him to confidently participate in planning for their upcoming learning goals. Johnny's caregivers appreciated the Keyworker's role in creating a positive and reassuring experience, helping him explore the new school and creating enthusiasm to return. His caregivers were relieved and grateful, as they overcame a significant obstacle with this new school transition.



Impact
Story



Child Youth and Family Services

EARLY YEARS: BUILDING HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

The Peninsula Early Years Drop-in group offers an opportunity for children and their caregivers to build healthy connections and attachments, which are all made possible through a partnership with SD63. This program works to decrease isolation, offering awareness and education for parents of children aged 0 – 6 years old, and connects families to community resources for their early years' needs.

"I'm a parent of two children under the age of five, and pregnant with our third child. As an avid attendee, I am delighted by both the StrongStart and Peninsula Babies programs. I am so grateful to have these wonderful resources on the Saanich Peninsula. Being a parent is not always easy, but these programs have been my 'village' that empowers me and my family to thrive. Through these programs, I've gained confidence as a parent; learned practical skills; widened my network and resources; and made new friends. These programs have helped my family in countless ways, and I am so appreciative."

-Parent





Volunteer Services

CELEBRATING OUR INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS!

At the annual Volunteer Appreciation event, celebrated every April during National Volunteer Week, we were thrilled to honour 37 of our longest serving volunteers with flowers, certificates and pins. Nearly every seat in the house was taken with a record-number of volunteers joining us to celebrate Beacon's 50th!

Special thanks to the hard work of Maureen Dale, who archived Beacon's rich history for the event. A huge thank you to our corporate volunteer team from QuadReal Property Group who supported the event.

While we celebrate our collective achievements at the luncheon, it's also important to acknowledge the individual contributions of our volunteers. Each of Beacon's 550 volunteers brings a unique set of skills, experiences, and perspectives, enriching the work we do and the lives we touch. Our volunteers are the heart and soul of Beacon Community Services, and we acknowledge that with their continued support, we can succeed in making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.





Volunteer Services

A SENSE OF PURPOSE

"For me, volunteering at Beacon brings a sense of purpose and contribution to my community, and building meaningful connections while making a positive impact on the residents' environment. Through our discussions, all residents are offering their valuable wisdom and insights, life experiences and giving me an understanding of history and cultural shifts of their backgrounds. I really enjoy every visit!"

**-Iklass Ikhllass Bedoui,
Long-term care volunteer**



530

Number of
Active Volunteers

30%

Volunteer hours to
Employee FTEs

51%

Number of Beacon
volunteers with 5+
years service





Thrift Shops

MORE THAN A PLACE TO SHOP

Beacon's seven Thrift Shops across the Greater CRD, each unique and special, are more than a place to find a great bargain, they also offer day-to-day support in the communities in which they operate. Sometimes:



it is the dry jacket and socks given to a customer at the Pandora Store in the middle of a rainstorm.



It is that loaf of bread that a customer picks up from one of our Brentwood Stores, which will allow a parent to make sandwiches for their child's school lunches.



It is a smiling face and listening ear at our Main Store in Sidney, for a senior struggling with loneliness.



It is helping a new resident find kitchenware and furniture for their freshly rented apartment.

These day-to-day gestures of empathy towards our customers is what distinguishes Beacon Thrift Shops as a community hub where people can feel valued, cared for and seen.





Thrift Shops

A SHINING STAR – STAFF STORY

At Pandora Thrift we are fortunate to have great connections to a number of other non-profit providers like:



They refer wonderful students to partake in our three-week cashier course. Sandy was no exception; sweet, shy, unsure of herself, but a shining star and she didn't even know it! While her immediate skill on the cash register became obvious, Sandy was always checking in to ensure her work was correct.

Dealing with the public was daunting for her; but with a senior staff member supporting her, she blossomed. With her great customer service, a beaming smile and her gentle voice, our customers loved her!

Sandy was an ideal staff member, one who is always out tidying and straightening racks between sales, putting stock away and knew where to find things that the customers wanted.

I tried to convince her to apply to work at one of our Thrift Shops, but alas, after several weeks she decided it was time to head back home. I know she left with a solid retail foundation and a greater appreciation of the skills she never thought she had. Students like Sandy make everything we do here so worthwhile and rewarding.





Thrift Shops

BECOMING PART OF THE TEAM

Shelley (name changed to respect privacy) is an integral part of the Thrift team at our Main Store in Sidney, and came to us through one of our nonprofit partners. She arrived with a support worker, who worked with the Managers to figure out which tasks she could learn, and to establish a routine in supporting her independence.

She has been with us for over two years and in that time has learned a lot. Shelley took on more jobs, gradually adding tasks such as putting out priced shoes and stuffies, to hunting down the empty hangers that appear on the clothing racks. As a result, she has gone from a one-hour shift with a helper, to a three-hour shift with support from only our staff.

Coffee time with the other volunteers is an important part of the volunteer experience and they enjoy spending time with Shelley and the joyous, positive attitude she brings with her every week!





Thrift Shops

A COMMUNITY HUB

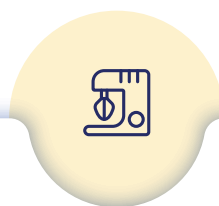
Our smallest Brentwood Bay location at 7105 West Saanich Road has gone through a major change, expanding into the empty store space next door! We have a fresh, new look and will be ready to offer a more diverse selection of merchandise, adding in more home décor, furniture, a book nook, and a children's area, while keeping our reputation for high quality clothes at an excellent price.

The expansion will introduce a new community hub for our customers to find out how to access the many programs that Beacon offers. With our fresh new branding as well as a new, centralized drop off Donation area at the rear of the store, this location is set to be Beacon's Flagship store for Brentwood Bay and the surrounding areas.

Overall the sales at the Thrift Shops have increased 15%:

2022-23 was **\$1,887,436** total sales and 2023-24 was **\$2,169,625**

Total Volunteer hours 2023-24: **32,238**



The biggest month for sales this last fiscal year was November 2023 with **\$208,121** total sales

As a result, the Thrift Shops contributed **\$278,227** in support to Beacon for 2023-24, up from \$250,076 for the previous year.

The Annex, our little kitchen & linen store continues to wow us, consistently having the **highest sales per square foot**, averaging around \$28.00 per sq ft per month.



Beacon Residential Properties

BCNPHA HOUSING CENTRAL CONFERENCE

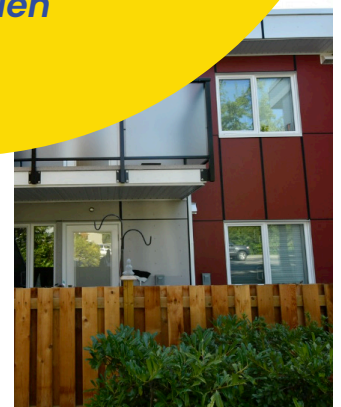
Property Manager, Tim O'Brien, along with Shahab Soltani from BC Housing and Chris Raudoy from Morrison-Hershfield, presented at the BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) Housing Central conference in Vancouver.

Their session, Navigating Complexity: Renovating a 2-story Building for Senior Tenants Amidst COVID Challenges delved into the full remediation of Marguerite Court, our two-storey, 21-suite affordable housing building. They discussed the meticulous planning, communication strategies, and processes deployed to facilitate residents' smooth movement and site navigation during the renovation project. They shared the successes, lessons learned, and best practices of the project to an engaged audience of industry professionals.



"It's very rewarding to share valuable and useful information with my industry colleagues. The opportunity to engage with peers, exchange insights, and contribute to our collective knowledge made every moment worthwhile. I look forward to continuing these meaningful conversations and driving positive change in our industry.."

*~Beacon Property Manager
Tim O'Brien*








Dream It Be It Conference Experience

SUPPORTING YOUTH IN MENTORSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT

On Tuesday, March 5th a team from Beacon attended the “Dream It Be It” (DIBI) conference which is a free event for girls and young women, transgender, and non-binary youth aged 14-20 to explore their dreams and discover their potential. The topic of this year’s event was, “Become Resilient and Empower Yourself Through Self-Esteem.”

Although all girls face barriers because of their gender, the organization prioritizes working with girls who have additional obstacles including poverty, unstable home lives, living in foster care, or teen motherhood. The Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls Program gives girls the tools they need to achieve their education and career goals, empowering them to break cycles of poverty, violence, and abuse.

Our team always walks away feeling inspired by the enthusiasm and energy of the young folks in attendance. We hope to see many as future Beacon volunteers or staff!



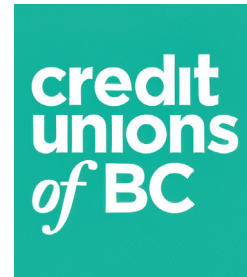
“Attending the Dream It Be It conference filled my heart with joy as I witnessed the incredible drive and ambition of young girls and women striving to reach their goals. I was deeply moved by their positivity and determination. Their passion and resilience are truly uplifting and remind me of the limitless potential within each of us.”

- Tracy Levy
Beacon HR Advisor



Beacon Partners & Supporters

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS



Fernwood NRG





Beacon Partners & Supporters

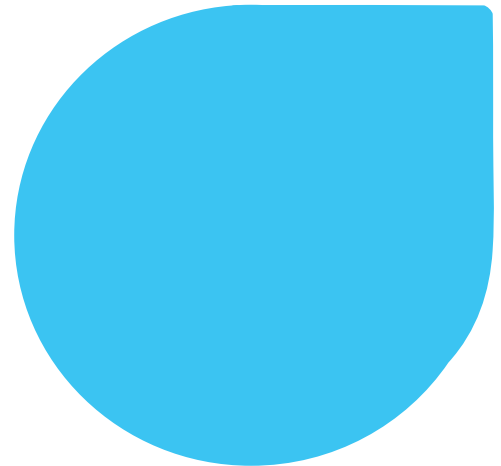
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Alzheimer Society of BC	Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology
Amber Educational Services	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
BC Housing	North Saanich Fire Department
Boys and Girls Club	Our Place Society
Bridges for Women Society	Pacifica Housing
Broadmead Care Society	Pauquachin First Nation
Burnside Gorge Community Centre	Panorama Recreation Centre
Camosun College	Power to Be
Canadian Blood Services	Quadra Village Community Services
Capital Region Housing Corporation	Queen Alexandra Foundation
Care RX	RCMP – Sidney/North Saanich
Central Saanich Fire Department	Reger Group
Central Saanich Police	Regional Out of School Care Operators
Central Saanich Seniors Centre	Saanich Neighbourhood House
Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island	Saanich Peninsula Stroke Recovery
City of Victoria	Saanich Volunteer Services Society
Coalition of Young Parent Programs	School District 62
Congregation Emanu-El	School District 63
CRD Traffic Safety Commission	Second Harvest Canada
Credit Unions of BC	Service Canada (Employment and Social Development Canada)
District of Central Saanich	Sidney/North Saanich Library
District of North Saanich	Sidney Volunteer Fire Department
Eldercare Foundation	Sooke Family Resource Society
Esquimalt Neighbourhood House	Southern Gulf Island Community Resource Centre Society
Family Caregivers of BC	St. Andrew's Church (Sidney)
Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	St. John the Baptist Church
Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria	St. John the Divine Church
Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre	St. Peter's Anglican Church (Victoria)
Island Health Authority	Town of Sidney
James Bay New Horizons	Tsartlip First Nation
Ministry of Children and Family Development	



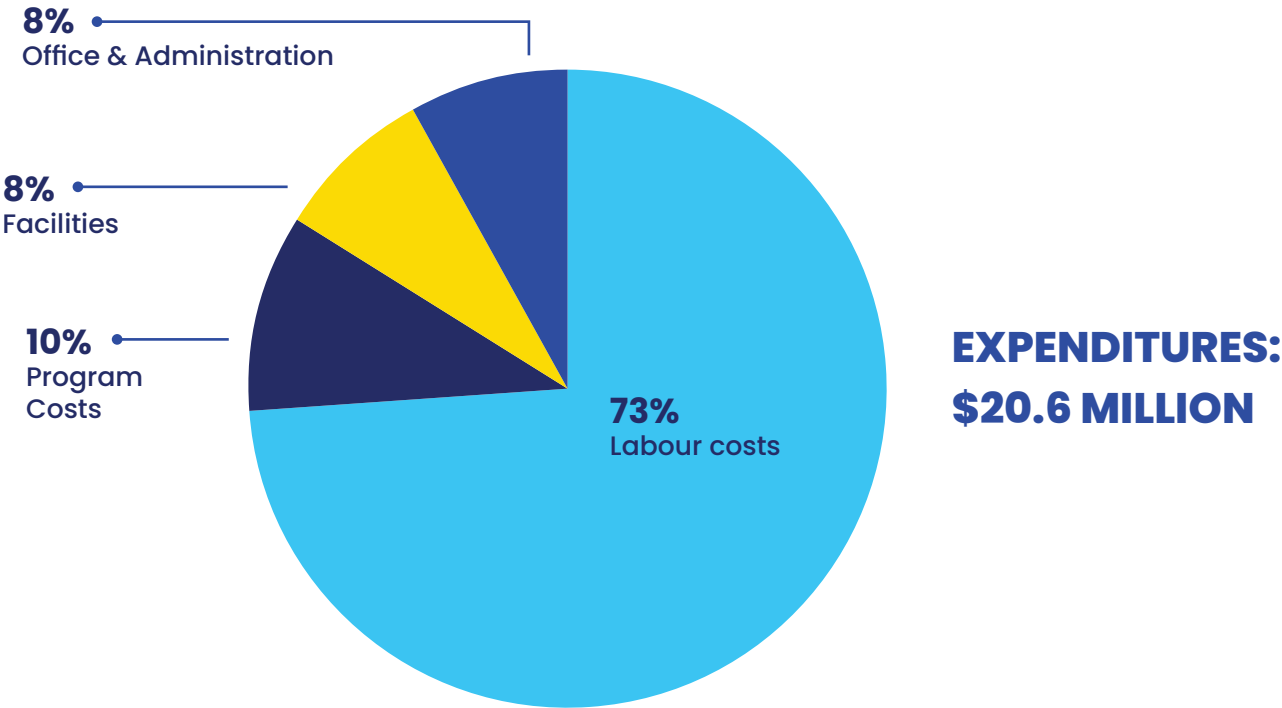
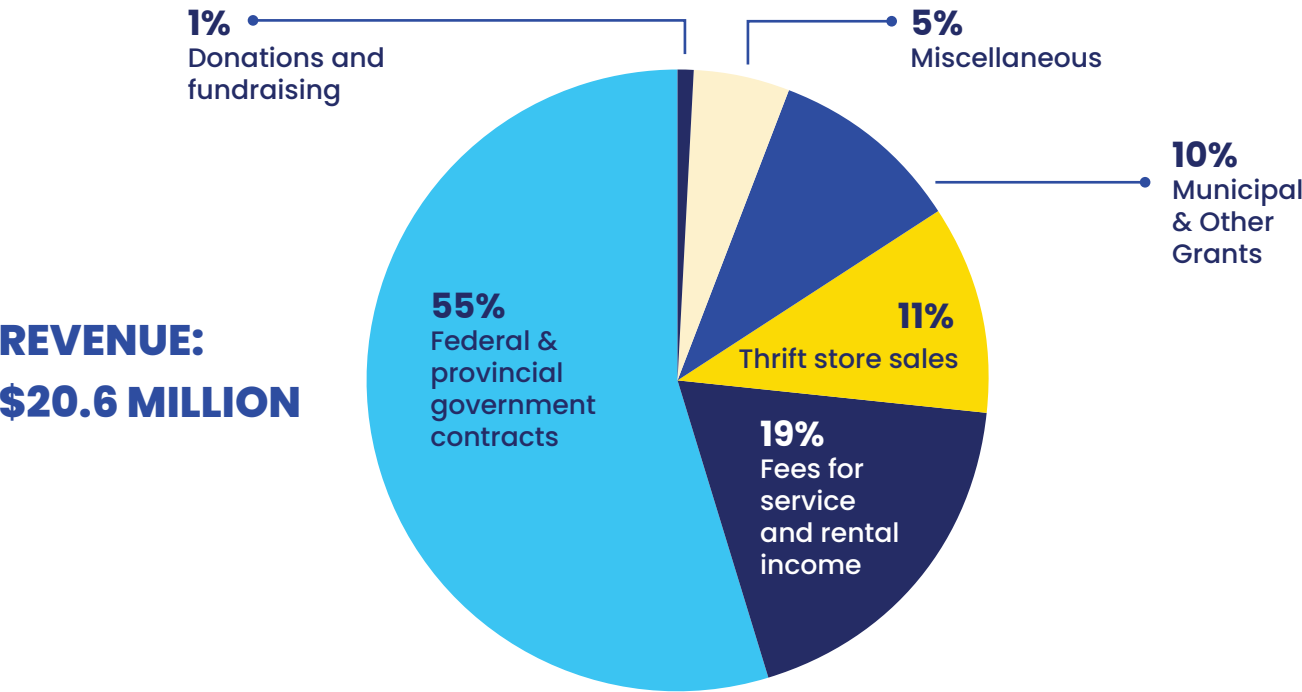
Tsawout First Nation
 Tseycum First Nation
 United Way of BC
 United Way of Southern Vancouver Island
 University of Victoria
 Victoria Child Care Resource and Referral
 Victoria Cool Aid Society
 Victoria Disability Resource Centre
 Victoria Foundation
 Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre
 Society
 Victoria Police
 Victoria Women's Transition House
 WorkLink Employment Society
 YM/YWCA of Greater Victoria and Canada
 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
 Safe Care BC

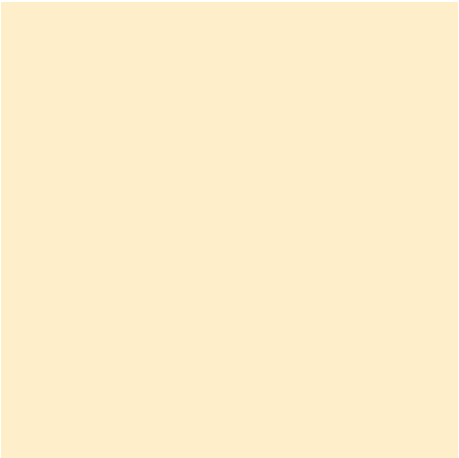
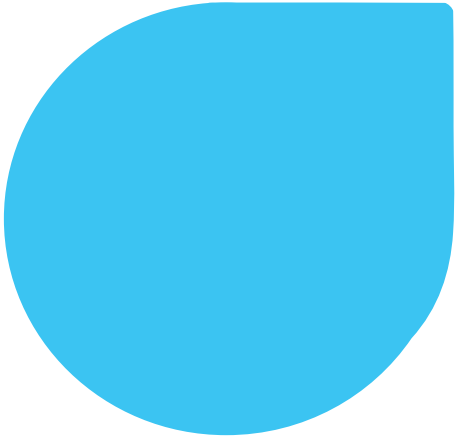
Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce
 Sidney by the Sea Rotary
 Sidney Kiwanis Club
 Sidney Lions Club
 Victoria-South Island Long Term Care
 Initiative
 Volunteer Victoria



Financial Overview

FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1ST, 2023 – MARCH 31ST, 2024







Beacon Directory

DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Administration (including Accounts, Billing and Finance)

2723 Quadra Street, Victoria
250-658-6407

Beacon Nature Club – PEXSISEN

3100 Constellation Ave, Langford
250-415-9986

Central Saanich Resource Centre

1209 Clarke Rd, Brentwood Bay
250-652-8695

Childcare Resource and Referral Office (CCRR)

7105D West Saanich rd, Brentwood Bay

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

Sluggett House

1336 Marchant Road, Brentwood Bay
250-544-0925

Family Caregivers Supports

250-656-5537
Brentwood House
1167 Stelly's X Road, Brentwood Bay
250-652-0635

Otter Be Fun Before–Afterschool Care

7075 Wallace Dr Brentwood Bay
250-652-6686

Peninsula Early Years Centre

1649 Mt. Newton X Road, Saanichton
250-415-9794

SHOAL Centre

10030 Resthaven Drive, Sidney
250-656-5537

ŠEŠÍŠEJ

7420 Veyannes Rd, Saanichton
236-638-8667

Tenant Coordinator, Affordable Housing

250-507-1287.

TEAM II

1649 Mt Newton Cross Rd, Saanichton
250-818-2660

Volunteer Services

9860 Third Street | Sidney BC
250-507-5680



Beacon Directory

DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Thrift Store Locations:

2644 Quadra Street, Victoria
250-590-5616

715 Pandora Avenue, Victoria
250-388-3500

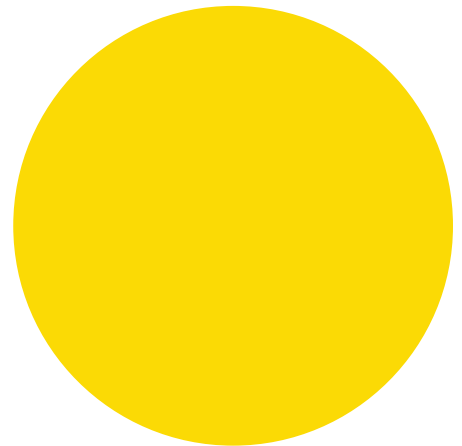
9756 Third Street, Sidney
250-656-3511

9781 Third Street, Sidney
250-655-6416

9760 Fourth Street, Sidney
250-656-6828

7105-B West Saanich Road, Brentwood Bay
250-652-0432

7060 West Saanich Road, Brentwood Bay
250-652-6707





LIGHTING THE WAY FOR 50 YEARS.

Thank You for 50 Years of Trust,
Partnership, and Shared Success.
Today, we continue to stand strong,
firmly grounded in the principles that
have guided us from the start. Today,
we look to a future of even greater
impact and inclusivity.





*SCAN ME
TO CHECK OUT
OUR NEW WEBSITE*



LIGHTING THE WAY FOR 50 YEARS.

2024
Annual
Report

