

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. John the Divine Anglican Church Donates \$5,000 to Support Beacon's Homelessness Prevention and Shelter Services Programs

VICTORIA, BC – October 16, 2025 – St. John the Divine Anglican Church has made a generous \$5,000 donation to Beacon Community Services' Homelessness Prevention and Shelter Services Programs, continuing a long tradition of care that began with the church's involvement in launching the Out of the Rain Youth Shelter nearly three decades ago.

In the late 1990s, a small group of outreach workers and volunteers connected to the church opened their doors to youth sleeping on the streets of downtown Victoria. From those early nights serving meals and offering warmth, Out of the Rain was born, a grassroots effort that has since grown into a year-round youth shelter, now operated by Beacon Community Services.

Long-time volunteers Karyn Lehmann, Gerry Melville, and Pauline Majcher have remained involved since the shelter's inception. Today, thanks to the dedication of this group of volunteers and the support of the church's donation, the spirit of Out of the Rain continues by helping prevent youth homelessness before it begins.

"We wanted to give back to the same community we've been part of all these years," said Karyn Lehmann. "Beacon has carried forward the values we started with care, dignity, and connection."

The donation will support Beacon's work helping people move from crisis to stability — from emergency shelter and supportive housing to homelessness prevention. These programs provide essentials like safe spaces, meals, and connection to long-term housing supports, empowering participants to build stability and well-being.

"This donation helps us continue a legacy of community care that began with a simple idea: every young person deserves safety and belonging," said Tricia Sexton-Earl, CEO at Beacon Community Services. "Our Homelessness Prevention Programs build on the foundation set by Out of the Rain, helping youth move from crisis to stability."

Beacon Community Services invites others to join in this spirit of generosity. "Compassion costs little and changes everything," Karyn said. "Most of us can cook something or contribute a little money. We all need each other to do this."

Beacon Community Services invites the community to celebrate its success and continue contributing to its mission. Visit beaconcs.ca/donate to make a donation and learn more.

Beacon Community Services

Beacon Community Services was formed in 1974 when a small group of volunteers established the Citizens' Advisory Committee to help address social issues in Saanich Peninsula communities. Today, Beacon serves Southern Vancouver Island and the outer Gulf Islands - and the Beacon team numbers around 300 staff and 600 volunteers. Through a wide range of community programs and services, Beacon continues to support people of all ages, strengthening communities, and transforming lives. Learn more at www.beaconcs.ca

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