

ANNUAL REPORT

WHAT WE DID AND
WHERE WE ARE GOING
2021/2022

JohnHoward
SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

ABOUT US



We create safe, healthy and inclusive communities for all people to belong, to rest and to be as they are. We champion all people by providing spaces for their stories to be heard, their rights to be advocated for, and their lives to grow.

Who We Are

As a community of people, we are for the individual, believing that every aspect of care and support has a generational impact. Who we invest in today and who we care for now, determines the greater future for all our communities. This is why we individualize support, work with people as they are and not as society would determine them to be.

What We Do

We provide services for those facing barriers to sustainable employment and housing, along with community-based programs focused on youth and women at risk. Our community garden, our justice programs and partnerships with First Nations Communities are among the many responses our organization is passionate about. Our reach is not limited to any specific gender, race or culture but is open to all people.

OUR FOUNDATION

Our Mission

We contribute to a safer, stronger and more sustainable community by supporting people to achieve greater independence.

Our Vision

We create safe, healthy and inclusive communities for all.



Everyone deserves a second, third, or fourth chance and that's what we try to provide our clients with at John Howard Society Victoria. We support them through what can be some of the most challenging times of their lives.

OUR VALUES

To Those We Serve



Dignity

We commit to treating each person with dignity and respect in a non-judgemental manner.



Advocacy

We commit to respectfully supporting and championing the human rights of our clients and delivering on our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.



Empowerment

We commit to supporting our clients to change and grow, to make informed decisions and to have the agency to act on their own behalf.

To Those We Work With



Collaboration

We value listening, working and evolving with each other, our partners and our community to best serve our clients.



Resiliency

We value embracing challenges with the determination to learn, evolve and grow.



Accountability

We value operating with integrity and being responsible and answerable to each other, clients and the community.

WHERE WE ARE

We, as the John Howard Society of Victoria, extend our hearts and thankfulness to the ləkʷəŋən (Lekwungen) People of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations and acknowledge their traditional territory, the Xwsepsum Territory, on which we serve the community.

As outlined in our vision and mission, being inclusive means balancing the injustices from the past and moving forward with the the work and advocacy in the Calls for Truth and Reconciliation guiding and directing our work. We desire to work with Indigenous and First Nations Communities, the Songhees and Esquimalt, and allow their voice, experience and culture inform and influence the way we provide services in our employment, residential and outreach programs.

In addition, we are eagerly looking for ways to increase support for Indigenous people we serve, which includes cultural mindfulness training led by Indigenous staff, the Indigenous liaison and community Elders and Knowledge Keepers. The Totem Pole Journey at VIRCC and the Cedar Harvest are the beginnings of our way forward. Our humanity to one another invites us to partner with the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations, and provide space for their voices, their experiences, their leadership, their perspective and their culture to be as it was so long ago.



Cedar Harvest teaches to take only what you need.

Max Henry, Indigenous Cultural Liaison of VIRCC and of the Songhees First Nations

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OUR IMPACT

People Served

720



Achieved Employment through our Programs

151



Average age of Clients

34



Volunteer Hours of Dedicated Kindness

2,340



Those served with mental health concerns

47%

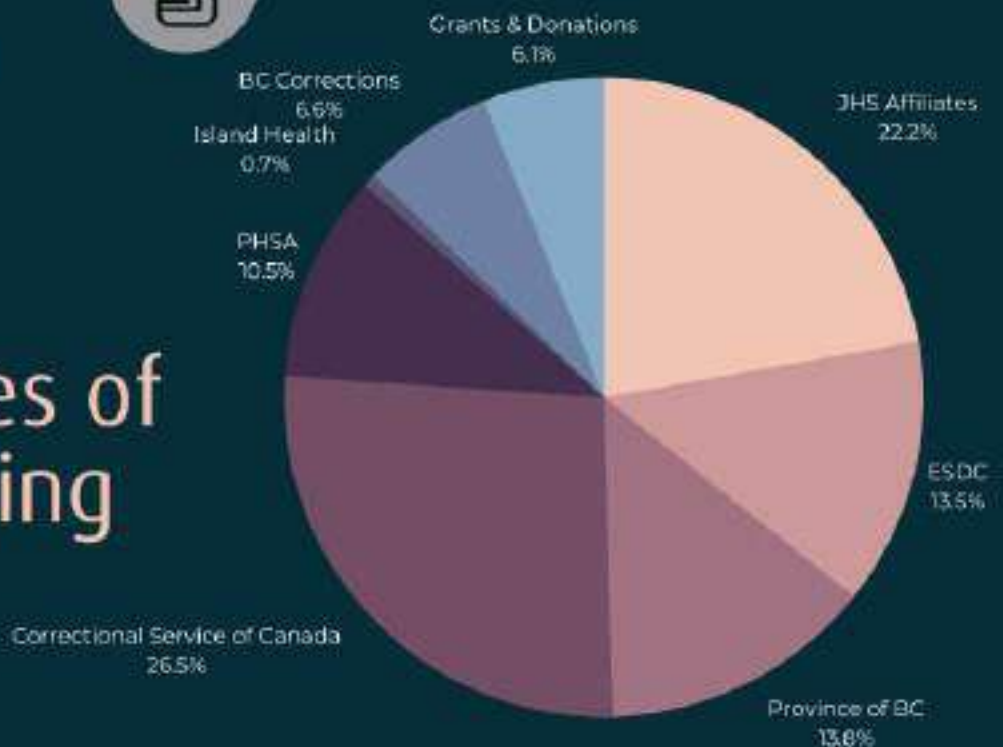


Those served with substance abuse

52%



Sources of Funding



MESSAGE FROM MANJ

MANJ TOOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Reflecting on the past year - we have persevered. We have grown. We have made our community safer.

The past couple of years came with their challenges, and every year we are reminded of the incredible people we are surrounded by. From the resilient clients we serve across all programs - to our staff who approach each day with integrity, trust, honesty and our valued community partners, who aid us in creating person-centric services. Through the commitment and determination of this collective group we contribute to a safe, healthy, and inclusive community for all.

This past year was a year of excitement and opportunity as we continued to implement our strategic plan. Grounding ourselves in our goals for service excellence, organizational sustainability and capacity we continue to focus on the initiatives and activities that support the overall strategic direction.

We expanded our program areas - growth that was made possible by the hard work of our program teams and the outstanding reputation of our program staff, which has continued to positively build with all of our funding partners. In alignment to our strategic direction, new programs were developed and operationalized.

While we are excited to have new programs and services, our true success is rooted in those who paved the road before us. After an amazing 40 years as Director of Community Programs, Shirley Williams retired in March 2022. Since 1982, Shirley played a critical role in the growth of JHSVic from developing and operationalizing several programs, serving many needs of the most vulnerable clients. Shirley's passion, dedication, and "can do attitude" greatly increased our organization's impact to provide education, employment programs, outreach and in-reach supports to a diverse population. Shirley had an impact on countless lives and will forever be a pillar of our JHS Vic community.

Our ability to create a lasting and evolving impact in the lives of the people and the communities we serve would not be made possible without our incredible volunteers, staff, leadership team, Board of Directors, donors, funders and community partners. I am proud to be one small part of our exceptional team and the wider JHS community, who deserve immense applause for their unwavering dedication, support, and commitment to the people and communities we serve.

MESSAGE FROM HENDRIK

HENDRIK STEENKAMP
DIRECTOR OF
STRATEGIC GROWTH



I could not be more excited to have joined the John Howard Society of Victoria. I have met the most dedicated and passionate group of people anyone can wish to work with, and I am proud to call them my coworkers.

It is the absolute passion for what we do, coupled with our determination to have a real lasting impact on our clients and the community that

enables us to go above and beyond every day, and commit to delivering against our strategic priorities to expand our impact in the community.

From a Business Transformation perspective, we are out of the starting blocks to executing our plan across three key areas: Service Excellence, Organizational Sustainability and Capacity. These transformation projects and initiatives are pillared by our Core Values and Culture and will set us up for continued growth and success.

As our staff is at the heart of our growth and successful transformation, we are investing in engagement strategies as a priority with digital platforms such as StandOut and Qualtrics with a few more to come in 2022.

I would like to acknowledge Manj for his vision, leadership, and commitment to everyone at John Howard Society, steering us as a collective to push the boundaries, to challenge ourselves to grow, while having fun.

My heartfelt thanks to all the staff at The John Howard Society for your support of me, for allowing me to push the envelope and for being on board with our Strategic Growth Plan. I look forward to the next year with excitement as I know we have an amazing dedicated and passionate staff whose resilience and motivation to continuously make our Vision a reality: "To create safe, healthy and inclusive communities for all." This will set us up for success.

A CONVERSATION BECOMES A REALITY



What began as a conversation amongst staff, the 736 Princess Avenue Building is the future of JHSV. It will become a new community hub, where people can seek housing, education, counselling, and other supports they may need to be successful members of the community. It will employ, serve and dignify once disregarded members of Victoria's Community, connecting them and integrating them back into the lives and societies they once were refused. It will not be a halfway home but an integration service provider, connecting all community partners, funders, and clientele together in one shared vision: a safe, healthy, and inclusive community for all.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Beresford, Chair

Retired Civil Servant - BC
Government

Hank Mathias, Vice Chair

Retired BC Corrections

Ranj Atwal, Past Chair

Community Services Manager -
Ministry of Child & Family
Development

Wendy Townsend, Member

Retired - Correctional Service of
Canada, Programs Manager

Blair Fisher, Treasurer

Instructor of Criminal Justice,
Camosun College

Bob Downie, Member

Retired - Saanich Police Chief
Instructor at School of Business,
Camosun College

Randie Johal, Member

BC Transit Manager

I understand. And that helps everyone.

A JHSV staff story

When I work with clients, I don't feel scared. I feel like I understand. I understand why someone would use drugs if they had a painful past. I understand how social systems are stacked against certain people. I understand that they are just like me.

They have dreams. They have their favourite dessert. They have memories of riding their bike really fast with friends.

So no, I'm not scared. I understand. And if I can help other people understand, then I'm doing something good for all of us - for all of us who live, move and have our being in this community.



OUR TEAM

MANAGEMENT

Manj Toor

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hendrik Steenkamp

DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC
GROWTH & TRANSFORMATION

Shirley Williams

DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Kathy Roy

DIRECTOR OF
RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Karli Cole

EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM MANAGER

Chris Aspelund

RESIDENTIAL HOUSE MANAGER

Alena VanDerHaegen

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

STAFF

Max Henry

Dayna Berkner

Deborah Stavert

Jack Morris

Melinda Murphy

Rhonda Sheen

Emma Cossette

Avalon Forrester

Kylie Humble

Torey Kesteven

Ogorchukuu Omogolor

Michael Squier

Michelle Wade

Ashley Mandur

Mariana Londono

Judy Chouinard

Byron Kuc

Medina Empey

Phil Cottrell

Heather Goud

Ron Smith



RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

MANCHESTER HOUSE

The year of 2021-22 was a year full of challenges and successes. Despite enduring a second year of the pandemic, our staff demonstrated their resilience and flexibility, providing support and essential services during the most demanding of times. The team pulled together to ensure that the mental and emotional wellness of each resident was maintained by providing activities within the house.



Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve dinners, pumpkin carving contests at Halloween, decorating at Christmas, and sponsoring a family in need in the community proved to be effective.

Staff connected with those incarcerated through mail and phone, provided in-reach services in the institutions when

permitted, attended training sessions on Suicide Prevention and Risk Management, and represented Manchester House at the Camosun College Criminal Justice Career session.

Our program offers a host of amenities which include but are not limited to: Identification Replacement, Assistance in Income Tax Returns and Pension applications, Employment, Housing, Transportation, Financial Management, Emotional Wellness, Leisure Activities, Education Upgrades, Social Media Education & Awareness, Computer Skills, Indigenous Cultural Support, Physical Wellness Development and connection to varying community supports.

Coronavirus fundamentally changed our world, but it gave us time to reflect on our priorities, realizing that nothing can stop us from accomplishing our mission.

60%

More than half of participants became employed.

29

Participants this past year with 12 new to the program.

303

The average length of days participants resided at Manchester House.

FORENSIC RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

The Forensic Residential Services Program enables residents to move from the Manchester House Program into semi-independent or independent living once all necessary life skills are learned and maintained. The program is inclusive to all adult males meeting program criteria and under the Review Board Disposition Orders.

We aim to provide a safe, nurturing, furnished living environment that is accessible, affordable and providing clients with privacy and safety. Public safety is a priority for them and for us. This is why housing or placement with easy access to services and amenities are provided. Medical services, leisure, work, education and other community integration programs give the resident full ability to transition into their own, independent life within the community.

It Takes a Community

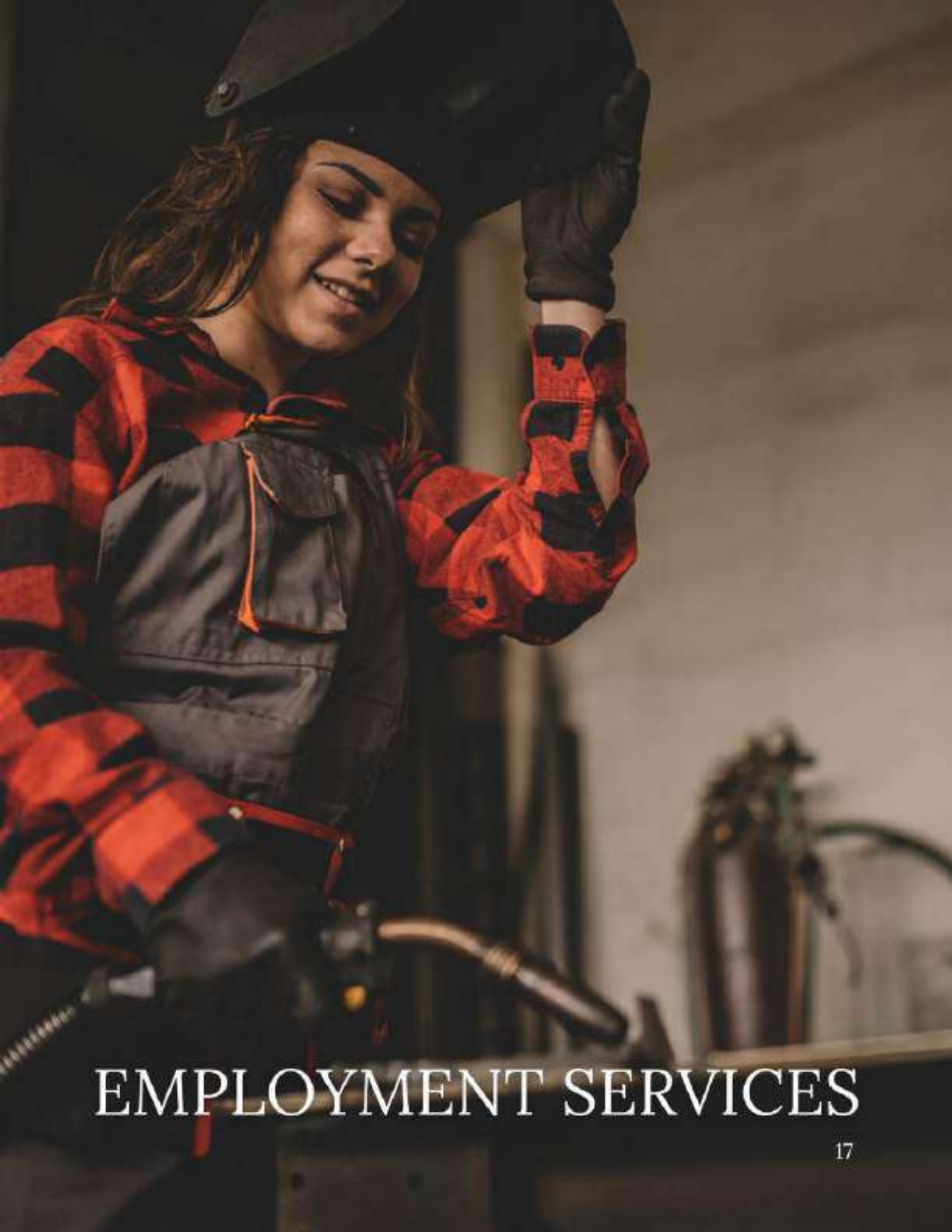
A participant's story

I transitioned from the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital into Manchester House last year. I tried to be engaged but all I could think about was getting the chance to move back into my home and get my job back. There were so many barriers affecting me and I just wanted quick and easy solutions. Staff encouraged me to focus on the short-term goals in order to achieve my long-term ones.

So I did. After 7-months of living at Manchester House, I was able to transition into semi-independent living. I worked hard to check all the boxes and do what staff encouraged me to do.

I'm thankful to say that not only have I been able to move back into the home I owned before, but I got my old job back. I didn't think it was possible. I'm so thankful for the staff at Manchester House and the Forensics Team who gave their all so I could have all. Without their support, I know I would have never been able to achieve the things I so cherish.





EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

BLADERUNNERS

BladeRunners is an employment program providing a few weeks of support and training to youth facing barriers to achieving sustainable employment. Participants receive safety training, certifications, and individualized employment supports. Ongoing support with participants and community employers ensures stability with employment and provides that long-term independence to live safe and healthy lives.



We are thankful that we supported diverse clients with various needs. We were recognized in the community as a flexible and resourceful service provider who provides individualized support to those with disabilities, mental health and complex barriers.

The success of a client is not found in what they do, but in who they are and what gives them the motivation, drive and achievement of their goals. We are thankful to have the privilege of walking beside our clients, seeing them grow and achieve what they didn't think possible.



Program
Participants
Completed the
Program

ACES

Our Acquiring Community-Based Employment Skills (ACES) Program provides support and training to individuals who are facing multiple barriers to employment. Our goal is to support participants in acquiring the life skills they need to secure and keep a job for the long term.

To meet our client's individualized needs, we offer two variations of this program: the Young Adults Training Program (YATP) and the Survivors of Violence/Abuse (SOVA). Our clientele is very unique and providing services that are catered to meet diverse needs is paramount to how we serve them.

YATP

Young adults who qualify are aged 17-29 and are at-risk with the criminal justice system as they transition back into the community.



**22 participants
enrolled**

SOVA

This program serves people who have experienced, and/or are survivors of, violence, abuse and/or trauma. These, in turn, are barriers to finding work.



**36 participants
enrolled**

THE VOICES OF ACES



Home wasn't safe and often difficult due to my parent's aversion to my identity. The staff at JHSV provided a safe space for me and are enabling my ability to become certified and qualified for long-term employment. I'm thankful to have support - even safe support.



I spent time in the William Head Institution. Upon my release I was connected to the ACES Program. I acquired carpentry skills at Camosun College and was quickly connected to employment at Knappett Projects. Transitions don't have to be overwhelming. I made it. So can others.

WEST

We have so much to be thankful for this past year in the Wellness Employment & Skills Training (WEST) Program. We offered multiple cohorts, including a federally funded cohort, employment training, certification workshops, and individualized employment supports.

Our program takes a wellness approach to youth facing barriers to experience meaningful employment along with wage subsidy opportunities for employers as an incentive to support youth in their emerging employment pathways. Our ongoing support led by our job coaches with both the youth and the employers made a large impact on the individuals who participated.

We held our first 2s+LGBTQ intake in January of 2022. With ten engaged participants, we provided two construction facilitators and a counsellor to provide diversified, safe and ongoing support for individuals who attended.



Making it Work

A client's story



I tried participating with another employment program, but it just wasn't working for me. I was able to leave the program and access WEST through JHSV. The program was just what I needed and now I work full time at a local grocery store. Providing for my kids and being respected as an Indigenous woman is key. JHSV staff and the WEST Program were just what I needed.

CSCCES

We are thankful for providing another year of the Correctional Service of Canada Community Employment Services (CSCCES) Program, funded entirely by the Correctional Service Canada. This unique employment program provides employment services to offenders through CSC partnerships, other government organizations, the private sector and other community organizations (such as Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, St. Leonard's Society, etc.). The primary objective is to provide a spectrum of employment services such as individual employment assessment, counselling, job search techniques and on-the-job placements to offenders released back into the community.



36 vocational certificates awarded this past year



82 % of participants completed the program

Everyone Deserves Another Chance

A client's story

I was really trepidatious about transitioning back into the community and even finding work. After spending 32 years of my life in prison, I was so uncertain what any amount of employment would look like. I came to JHSV with the CSCCES program and right away was able to get my WHMIS and OFA certifications. I'm working now with traffic control. I'm so thankful that someone would take a chance on me.





OUTREACH SERVICES

PROVINCIAL FORENSIC OUTREACH

We are thankful for this past year's effort to serve individuals of the Forensic Regional Clinic. This year we had 30 clients and provided a host of services to them. Our program works closely with the PHSA Forensic Regional Clinic team in order to provide support for individuals in a variety of ways. Daily support includes health, housing, leisure activities, employment, education and a host of supports with judicial and communities services. With our staff working hard to promote safety and inclusion in the home, we are proud to say that the impact of their work has truly changed lives for the better.

Letting the Client Be at the Centre

A staff story

I met client Paul at Johnson Manor back in October 2021. I noticed right away that Paul was very guarded and did not seem interested in sharing his story or any of his experiences with me. For the first few weeks, any time I attempted to approach Paul and speak with him, he would shut me down almost immediately. I eventually spoke with the other staff at Johnson Manor and inquired if they had any suggestions on how to proceed. The staff advised that Paul tended to be reclusive, rarely attended the daily check-ins, and only spoke to staff when it was necessary. I realized that if I was going to connect with Paul and support him properly, I would have to let him approach me and have him become comfortable on his terms.

From that point on I tried to be as open and honest about my intentions as possible, that meeting with me or talking to me was never a requirement. Over time I noticed that Paul was a lot more talkative in outdoor settings and had mentioned once or twice that he loved being in nature. To try and encourage Paul to participate in programming, I started planning outings to the local parks and hiking spots. On the first couple of outings, Paul was relatively quiet but then he slowly started to talk openly about himself and the difficulties he had faced in his life. Paul told me about different events in his early life, the various places he had traveled to, some once-in-a-lifetime experiences he had, and the highs and lows throughout his life - particularly the ones he was currently dealing with.

Over the next couple of months, Paul approached me willingly and we had some great conversations about what was going on for him and the positive life changes he wanted to make. I am now happy to report that Paul regularly attends the outings, enjoys himself, checks in regularly with me and his attitude towards daily life overall has improved dramatically.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS INITIATIVE

We are thankful for the work that the Community Supports Initiative (CSI) has done for the vulnerable homeless persons in our neighbourhoods and communities. The CSI Program aims to prevent and reduce chronic and episodic homelessness among individuals being released from provincial institutions. Our team provides intensive case management to address the complex needs of each individual, working hard to connect them to community resources for maintaining sustainable housing and ending the cycle of homelessness. In addition, our team provides education, employment, legal and many other interpersonal support connections and resources to affectively assist clients in their individual needs.



12 individuals housed from homelessness and/or the institution



1,250 hours of outreach services provided to our clients

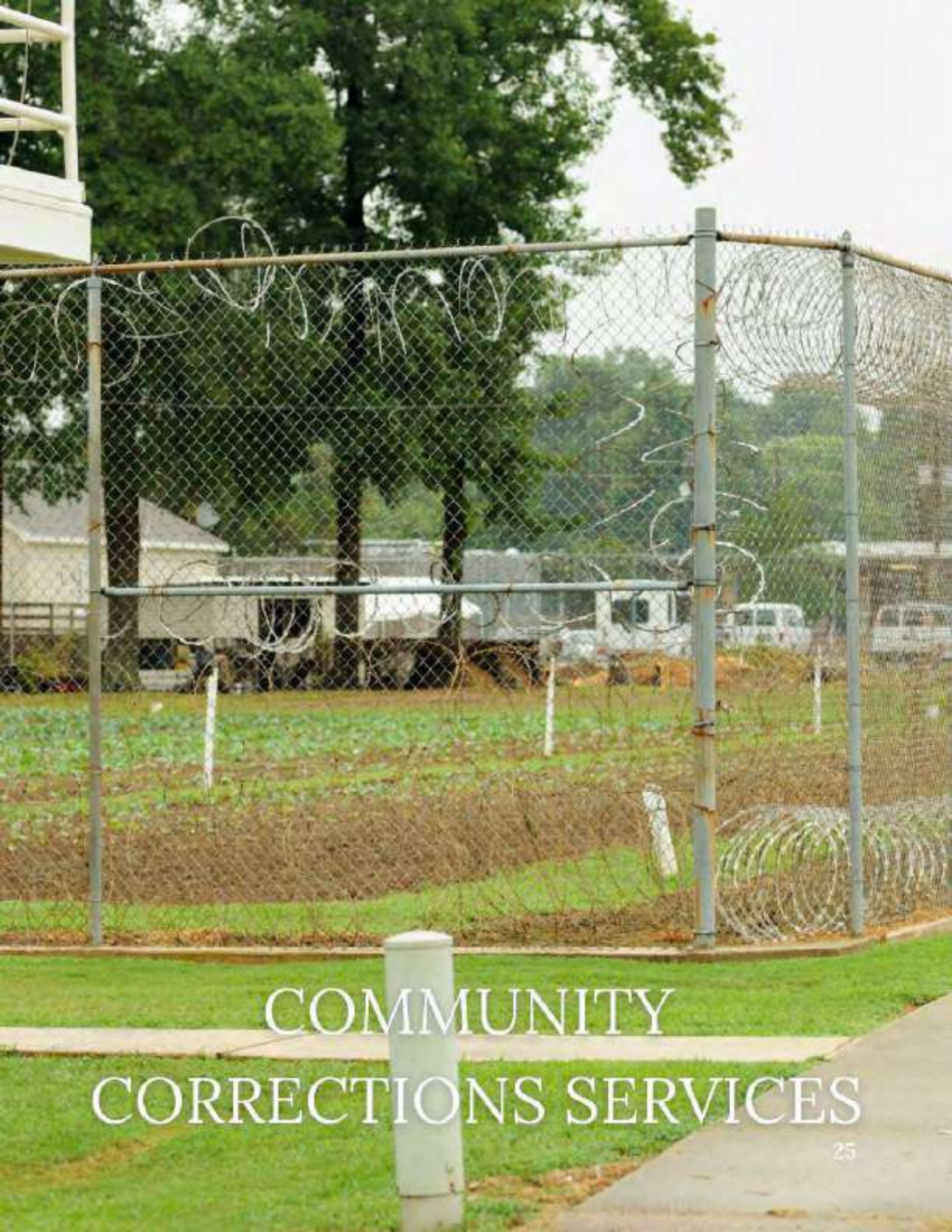


New partnerships with other support agencies enhanced service support to clients



I see the humanity and kindness that I believe we all inherently possess and I believe we have the ability to see past labels... above all else, we are connected as humans.

Staff Member at JHSV



COMMUNITY
CORRECTIONS SERVICES

VIRCC PRISON SERVICES

We are thankful to continue our work at the Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre with pre-release preparation, skills training, life skills training and emotional support. We serve primarily adult males who are on remand or who are serving a provincial term of incarceration.

This past year, we donated a 35x12 foot greenhouse which is now used to grow seedlings and starter plants. Inmates tend the garden which is grew tomatoes and herbs this past year. This was a great success due to the impact of COVID and the inability to provide regular in-person services.



In partnership with the Right Living Community, we also provided virtual healthy parenting workshops. These weekly sessions spanned over six weeks and 24 learned healthy meal planning and nutrition.

Additionally, we offered virtual tax information sessions twice a week. Men learned the basics of tax filing, how to understand provincial and federal taxes and how to properly document earnings and expenses.



We also offered Basic Framing workshops, wherein participants were given the instruction and tools to build frames in a variety of construction builds. Eighteen individuals attended and found the diversion from prison life to be a relief and an activity to look forward to during the week.



169 total participants assisted during the past year



68 participants were offered employment support, including hospitality & construction



73 articles of clothing sorted and provided for inmates living at VIRCC

VIRCC ABORIGINAL CULTURAL LIASION



"My first day at VIRCC, I noticed there was no land acknowledgment, and I was wondering how could that be?" Max Henry Jr., the VIRCC Indigenous Cultural Liaison, asked this question and thus began the journey to bring the Totem Pole Project at the Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre.

Located on the traditional hunting territory of the WSÁNEĆ peoples, known as Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, Tsawout artist, Tom LaFortune and his brother Aubrey LaFortune along with Max began their Totem Pole Project in the summer of 2021.

Carver Tom said, "Not only can we do a totem pole, but we will do it together with staff and residents of the centre, to eliminate the 'us' and 'them' mentality". The 40-foot cedar log began to take shape, with participants from VIRCC (along with staff escorts) at carver Tom's shop in the community. Throughout the summer of 2021, between four to six residents were escorted twice a week to the shop to participate in the initial cleaning and shaving of the cedar log. The Pole Project is designed to help VIRCC participants skills in drawing and woodworking and learn cultural teachings that will support them as they prepare for life on the outside.

Max's father, Max Henry Sr., played a pivotal role in the Totem Pole Project. He selected the old growth cedar log and influenced Carver Tom about the poles design. The carvings include animals such as owls, which Indigenous teachings say are able to observe in all directions, including the past, present and future. The shapes and figures that are being carved into the pole, are all significant animals that are true to the territory VIRCC presently sits upon.

In September 2021, the pole arrived at VIRCC. It was lifted by crane over the back fence into the yard behind the facility. Carving at VIRCC began in January 2022, and the positive impact of this cultural, spiritual, mental, and physical experience is there. "Cedar is medicine. It clothed us, it was our transportation, we made utensils out of it. It housed us. There is nothing more powerful than cedar. For the residents, it's medicine and they get lost in the cedar. They get outside of their living units and hear the birds, hear the wind, be in the grass, as opposed to hearing the constant metal doors slamming, and the sound of buzzers." says Max Jr.

VIRCC ABORIGINAL CULTURAL LIASION

Many participants reflected at how participation for them in this project was an honour. Those within the institution and staff recognized the increase of positive behaviour in the living units. Respect was a vital ingredient throughout the carving process. The Totem Pole is scheduled to be raised in front of VIRCC, in early October 2022 and the late Max Henry Sr. will be honoured during the ceremony located on the traditional hunting territory of the WSÁNEĆ peoples, known as Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.



Days of Significance

Indigenous Day

With some restrictions due to the pandemic, Max was able to offer fry bread to 175 individuals at the centre. Participants and staff joined in the sharing of songs and stories.

Moosehide Day

Max shared with staff at VIRCC and with those incarcerated a day of significance known as Moosehide Day. This Indigenous-led day calls on all Canadians to advocate for ending violence against women and children.

Orange Shirt Day

Local Elders came into VIRCC and shared with staff and individuals the lived stories and horrors of the Residential Schools, including the lasting impact it has had upon generations of Indigenous families and communities.

145

Traditional Ceremonies Performed

50

In person access to Elders/Community Leaders

54

Totem Pole Journey Sessions

A man with a beard and short hair, wearing a grey hoodie, is sitting and smiling. He is positioned in front of a chain-link fence. The background is slightly blurred, showing some yellow structures. The text 'COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS' is overlaid in white, serif font at the bottom of the image.

COMMUNITY
SERVICE PROGRAMS

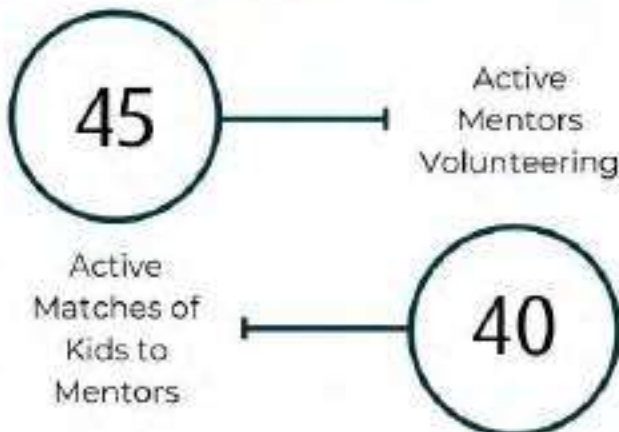
KIDSTART

KidStart Victoria matches children and youth ages 6-18 with an adult mentor to spend two-three hours a week doing fun activities together in the community. KidStart is a preventative program designed to help kids build resilience and make good choices despite challenging circumstances. By pairing them with a healthy role model who facilitates hands-on learning, kids are empowered to experience life safely and with joy.



We are thankful to have had in-person activities resume such as Easter decoration making, October pumpkin carving and December cookie decorating. Virtual sessions were held to accommodate the needs of vulnerable participants and mentors, along with health regulations regarding COVID.

We also attended our first volunteer fair at Camosun College. We recruited new volunteers who believe in caring for kids and being a positive impact in their lives.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

William Head Visitors Group

The William Head Visitors Group is the longest running volunteer program with JHSV. This group provides a unique opportunity for volunteers from various backgrounds to spend time with inmates at the institution. The group meets each Wednesday evening to socialize, play games and make positive connections.

This group became a key component to participants and their community reintegration process. Our volunteers helped alleviate some of the stress and anxiety that comes with the transitional period from prison to community living. Unfortunately, this program has been on hold due to COVID health measures. Currently 14 volunteers are ready to participate once the institution permits.

Community Adult Mentoring & Support



The Community Adult Mentoring & Support (CAMS) Program is a volunteer mentorship service offered to individuals on conditional release from a federal correctional facility. The purpose of CAMS is to provide a one-to-one mentorship to clients as they reintegrate back into society after a period of incarceration. Volunteers are recruited from diverse communities, screened and extensively trained in order to become a valuable mentor to clients and contribute to public safety.

Nutrition Programs

We facilitated 10 classes which provided clients teaching on how to cook healthy, budget-friendly recipes that they love and enjoy.

Holiday Hampers

In October, funds were collected to create holiday hampers for individuals on conditional release with limited means and/or unable to work.

Penpals

This past year saw five more volunteers paired with five inmates at William Head Institution for letter writing. These letters provide friendship and rapport.



FEEDING OURSELVES AND OTHERS

Started in 2012, Feeding Ourselves and Others is continuing its community partnership in building a therapeutic garden experience for people challenged by mental health issues, addictions, and/or involvement in the justice system. Through this program, participants are aided by volunteer community garden mentors and gain experience working together in an organic food garden while developing stable and positive interactions with others. Participants contribute to local organic food production and improve the quality of their lives through the production of their own food and food for the broader community.

This year felt like a fresh start for all clients who are involved. There is an enthusiasm and pride amongst participants and staff as we tackle getting the garden back into shape so we can grow exceptional, organic vegetables and flowers which will go to participants and be donated to organizations within Victoria.

The garden program takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This past year we cleaned up many garden beds and pathways, planted onions, potatoes, leeks and cosmos and will continue to plant beds with zinnias tomatoes and winter squash.

It was exciting to see how important the garden was to participants and the positive impact it has had on people's moods. Participants expressed their joy and fun participating this year. Their gratitude for the program running again is beyond measure.

The John Howard Society serves as the project sponsor, and our partners in the project include the Vancouver Island Health Authority, the Assertive Community Treatment Teams, and the Seven Oaks Care Facility.

We are very pleased that we provided this amazing project for the past 10 years. The garden was a positive influence in the lives of all of those who worked in it and we look forward to how the garden evolves as not only a therapeutic activity, but as a thriving community.



COMMUNITY JUSTICE

Our Community Justice Programs are an out of court process for dealing with offences committed by community members. It provides an opportunity for those responsible for the incident to be held accountable for their behaviour. By taking steps to repair the harm caused, victims, family and community members are central to the process. Referrals come from the Saanich Police, Crown Counsel, local middle and high schools.

Restorative Justice

The Restorative Justice (RJ) Program adapted to the pandemic by offering virtual interviews, RJ circles, and final closure interviews with both participants and the victims. RJ staff facilitated weekly virtual Restorative Justice Dialogue sessions for the Right Living residents and received positive feedback from both residents and correctional officers.

In addition, RJ staff participated in the South Island Restorative and Indigenous Research Project. The project had a positive outcome with the hope of increasing referrals to restorative justice Indigenous programs on Vancouver Island.

School-Based Restorative Justice

The School-Based Restorative Justice (SBRJ) program continued with referrals from both middle schools and high schools. Cases resolved included physical violence, bullying, name calling and interpersonal conflict. We are thankful for the impact this has on school students, and how they are enabled to resolve conflict in creative, healthy and respectful ways.

What Participants are Saying



This made me think about what I did and what I can do to help.
This experience helped me understand how the other person felt.
I was greatly impacted, in a positive way, by this experience.



OUR
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OUR PARTNERS

The work we do today and the work we have done in the past is incredible. Sometimes we don't realize the generational impact our work has had in our communities. Sometimes we don't always hear the success story or how things positively impacted families. But we know it is there. We know that our efforts today produce lasting affects for tomorrow and for all the tomorrows yet to come.

Our work is made possible by a host of people. To our long-term funders, community partners, individual donors and the local businesses that support us, we are forever grateful for providing the resources to make this impacting work happen.

Funder

Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society
Employment & Social Development Canada
BC Ministry of Justice
BC Ministry of Finance - Gaming, Policy & Enforcement
Province of BC - Civil Forfeiture
BC Corrections
Correctional Services of Canada
Municipality of Saanich Police Department
Provincial Health Services Authority
Connective Support Society
John Howard Society of Canada
Island Health

Community Partners

Bolt Communication Knappett Construction
City of Victoria Wiser Projects
Hartwig Industries

Donations

Ames Family Foundation Peninsula Coop Tyhee Financial
Canada Post RBC Foundation United Way
NutritionLink Ted Rogers Foundation Victoria Foundation



OUR VOLUNTEERS

The phrase "thank you" sometimes feels too small when you think of how much a person gives of themselves. We are so honoured and so thankful for our volunteers who give their time, energy and make sacrifices for our clients. Thank you for all that it is worth, from all of us.

Thank you to the many who gave countless hours to our many Volunteer Programs such as Feeding Ourselves & Others Community Garden Program, our William Head Visitor's Group, in our Restorative Justice Programs, in the KidStart Program and those in the Community Adult and Mentoring Support Programs.





JohnHoward

SOCIETY OF VICTORIA