

CENTRAL CITY  
FOUNDATION

Families in BC. Are we doing  
everything we can to keep  
them together?

# COMMUNITY REPORT

FALL 2019

2020

# FAiR iN THE SQUARE

Join us and connect with your  
neighbours and community

**SUNDAY, MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>**  
**11 AM - 2 PM**

**Victory Square Park**  
W Hastings & Cambie

- **Artisan market**
- **Live music and entertainment**
- **Arts and Crafts**
- **Free BBQ & coffee**

CO-HOSTS

**CENTRAL CITY  
FOUNDATION**



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FALL 2019

## CENTRAL CITY FOUNDATION

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On the traditional and unceded ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səl̓ílwətaʔ / Selilwiltulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

Central City Foundation has been helping people in the inner city improve their lives since 1907.



For more information on the innovative, community-led solutions we fund, please watch for our e-news or visit [centralcityfoundation.ca](http://centralcityfoundation.ca)

**We are prepared  
to address the  
challenging issues  
that others will not.**

# Message from the CEO



For over 100 years, Central City Foundation has helped people in the inner city improve their lives through funding for social purpose real estate and support of innovative, community-led programs. We believe in the intrinsic value of all human beings. By providing supports and addressing barriers, we are working to build an inclusive community where everyone can participate, prosper and reach their full potential regardless of the trauma and injustice they have survived.

To respond to the community's evolving needs, we are constantly working to expand our understanding of the history and context of the issues faced by people in the inner city. Child welfare is an essential issue that needs more of our attention if we are to break the chain of inter-generational traumas that we have created. We hope this community report will not only help you better understand the issue, but also see some of the amazing examples of leadership and work that is being done to build a better, more inclusive future for people in our community.

This past year your donations have helped fund housing, space for health clinics, addictions treatment, employment training and many other innovative, community-led programs that help people in the inner city improve their lives. This report includes information about a number of these programs and the impact they've had on lives.

Thank you for your support. I strongly believe that if we work together with our neighbours to create community-driven solutions, we build hope for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jennifer Johnstone".

**Jennifer Johnstone**  
President, CEO  
Central City Foundation

PS: You may have noticed a new look for Central City Foundation! We think this update to our visual identity better reflects the humanity, empathy and hope we've been building since 1907.



**CCF** Central City Foundation  
Sept 19 · 🌐

Central City Foundation believes in investing in community-led initiatives like Feminists Deliver and their recent conference. The conference was an unprecedented coming together of local grassroots women's organizations. Read our blog to learn more about Feminists Deliver: <https://www.centralcityfoundation.ca/feminists-deliver/>



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**CCF** Central City Foundation  
Apr 12 · 🌐

Looking to #volunteer outdoors on a beautiful sunny day in Vancouver? Interested in free bbq, live music, and spending time with community? There's still time to sign up as a volunteer for Fair in the Square, Sun, May 24th! Register via at [centralcityfoundation.ca/fits/volunteer](http://centralcityfoundation.ca/fits/volunteer)



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**CCF** Central City Foundation  
Aug 28 · 🌐

Since 1907, Central City Foundation has been an intrinsic part of #Vancouver and we are determined to continue building a strong resilient #community with our #neighbours.



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**CCF** Central City Foundation  
Aug 28 · 🌐

The BC real estate industry is interested in impact investing, and Jennifer Johnstone has an article in The Real Estate Institute of British Columbia magazine Input talking about the value of Social Purpose Real Estate and how we do it.



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**CCF** Central City Foundation  
Sept 19 · 🌐

Did you see the front page of today's Vancouver Sun? Lori Culbert has done a big story about our Hope Dialogue discussion about Children and Youth in the Inner City. Read it for more info about poverty and children, what some of our community partners are going about it, and how Central City Foundation brought everyone together.



👍❤️ 18

**CCF** Central City Foundation  
Aug 19 · 🌐

Check out this beautiful kiln that allows JustWork Economic Initiative to employ workers and serve our community! We're so glad we're able to show our support through funding from our capital grants program!



👍❤️ 32

**CCF** Central City Foundation  
Oct 24 · 🌐

Aunt Leah's Place Retweeted Central City Fndtion Thanks @CentralCityFndt for your commitment and for the support you provide to Aunt Leah's Place. Having a secure space for our Youth Hub and operations empowers us to create better programs and have greater impact on young people.



👍❤️ 12

**CCF** Central City Foundation  
Nov 3 · 🌐

@the\_reibc: Central City Foundation has been playing a role in #innercitydevelopments since 1907. In our latest blog, @jenniferjstone, CEO of @CentralCityFoundation explains social purpose



👍❤️ 21

# FAMILIES IN BC. ARE WE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO KEEP THEM TOGETHER?

“The child welfare system isn’t set up to support families. It’s set up to tear our families apart. The child welfare system is set up to provide services after it’s already fractured our families.”

— Karina Sparrow, *Musqueam Nation*

Many British Columbians assume that every time a child is taken away from their parents and put into care, that there is a real threat of danger to the child. Of course, there are situations like this, but they are rarer than we think. In many more cases, children are being placed into care because of the challenges families face resulting from the inequitable distribution of wealth, opportunities and privileges in our communities. In many cases, apprehensions are rooted in poverty or lack of affordable housing, lack of childcare options, and stem from deeper issues of colonialism, racism or endemic violence against women.

In the end, many parents are losing custody of their children when staying together would be possible if more supports were available. In this community report, we examine some of the factors that lead to child apprehensions and the innovative programs being led by community organizations that are helping families stay together or reunite.

## The long-term implications of removing kids from their families

British Columbia’s Ministry of Children and Family Development states, “Evidence has shown that children and youth have far better social, health, education, and economic outcomes when they live safely with a family – a parent, family member or extended family, or in a home with permanent caregivers – than they do in government care. The strategic direction of the ministry is to invest in supports to help preserve families, while continuing to ensure the safety of children and youth.”

It is clear from numerous studies and reports that the long-term implications of separating children from their parents are profoundly negative and traumatizing. Increasingly, we are coming to understand that unless we make profound changes in how we approach child and family support, these negative impacts are also passed along to the next generation.

## WHAT LED TO THIS SITUATION?

There are many factors that have led to the current situation where children and youth are in danger of being separated from their parents. Most of these factors are rooted in inequality created by past and current government policies that discriminate against groups based on race, culture, gender and other factors. Other issues include a lack of supportive funding for children and families, an ineffective child welfare system and the legacy of colonialism. People of colour, immigrants, Indigenous peoples and female-led single-parent homes are massively overrepresented among the children, youth and families in contact with the child welfare system.

## Understanding how our child welfare system isn't helping families

It's essential to understand that once a child is taken from their family and put into care, damage is done to both the child and the parents. The child welfare system does not provide supports for parents to help bring their kids home. In cases where a family is reunited, no supports are provided to help deal with the trauma they have experienced. Even when the children are not removed, the supports offered by the Ministry to the families are simply not working.

This disparity between promises or policy goals and practice has been noted in numerous reports from government and community in recent years. In "When Talk Trumped Service: A Decade of Lost Opportunity for Aboriginal Children and Youth in BC", the Representative for Children and Youth noted that despite MCFD stated commitments to improve the state of the child welfare system in BC by supporting families and working more collaboratively with communities, government efforts had not led to a change in service delivery or improved outcomes for children and families.

**"When children are removed, they shut down, so they don't learn," says Susan Walker of Family Services of Greater Vancouver. "They don't grow. Their health is compromised."**



"We don't focus enough on prevention, on before the breakdown occurs," says Michelle Shaw of Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS). "In that first service call or that first connection from the school counsellor, we want to send in things to keep the family together and to teach them new tools before the breakdown happens."

## Poverty and the lack of affordable housing

MCFD's own statistics show that "neglect" is the largest reason for children being taken into care, covering 74% of Indigenous children and 65% of non-Indigenous children taken from their parents. Clearly, "neglect" is firmly rooted in poverty.

One out of every five children in our community lives below the poverty line. This is among the highest child poverty rates in Canada. Some children in BC are more at risk of living in poverty than others. 2016 Census data shows that in BC, recent immigrant children had a poverty rate of 44.9%, followed by off-reserve Aboriginal children at a rate of 30.9% and 'visible minority' (or racialized) children at a rate of 23%. 52% of lone-parent families, most of whom are women-led, live in poverty. Metro Vancouver was home to 76,880 poor children in 2015, representing 50% of the poor children in BC.

Finding housing is difficult for anyone in Vancouver. Housing is an especially difficult challenge for those living in poverty. Rental vacancy rates across the province continue to be very low. While availability drops, the cost of housing continues to rise. The waitlist in 2016 for social housing in Metro Vancouver had roughly 10,000 applicants. The median rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Vancouver in February 2019 was \$2,100, up 5% over the year before.



**“Social workers are overwhelmingly white, they’re overwhelmingly not from these kinds of communities and they individually hold a tremendous amount of power. At the end of the day, it is non-Indigenous people taking Indigenous kids away from their families, and there’s something fundamentally wrong about that. It speaks to the fact that the support structures of communities have been decimated, and the ability for communities to take care of their own in their own way continues to be disregarded, disrespected, and discounted.”**

— Mebrat Beyene, *Wish Drop-in Centre*

“In our current system, extreme poverty is often translated into neglect of the children or a safety issue, when really, the underlying reason is poverty,” says Karen Dickenson-Smith of Family Services of Greater Vancouver. “When they show up to us, it’s called child protection or neglect, but really it’s poverty.”

### Inter-generational effects of colonization

We continue to see devastatingly high rates of Indigenous children being taken into government care. An Indigenous child is almost 17 times more likely to be in care than a non-Indigenous child, according to the Ministry’s own reports. The vast majority of children removed from their parents are placed in non-Indigenous homes without any consideration of culturally appropriate care.

### IMPACTS ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY:

- Less than 10% of BC children are Indigenous but make up 62% of the children in government care
- Less than half of foster care children graduate from high school
- Youth aging out of foster care are 200 times more likely to become homeless before the age of 25; a 2018 homeless count found 681 homeless children and youth in our city

**“Having the presence of an elder to do cultural or emotional support can often make the difference for the family.”**

— Jenny Morgan, *BC Women’s*

**“Without a doubt, it continues today that Indigenous women lose their children because of a racist colonial system that punishes women, particularly Indigenous women.”**

— Alice Kendall, *Downtown Eastside Women’s Centre*

The effects of colonization and ongoing government exclusionary policies that disenfranchised and removed Indigenous people from their lands, continue to impact families and communities.

Despite the resilience and bravery of the survivors of the of Residential Schools, the Sixties Scoop and other systems designed to remove children from Indigenous communities, we continue to see the negative impacts of inter-generational trauma in people who grew up away from their parents, away from their elders and without traditional cultural teachings. This inter-generational trauma continues to adversely affect parenting, child welfare and family preservation.

While Indigenous communities have been offered little input into child welfare programs, the recently published report, “Pathways in a Forest: Indigenous Guidance on Prevention-based Child Welfare” (2019) by West Coast LEAF, highlights efforts by Indigenous families, communities, and Nations to revitalize Indigenous approaches to child welfare, develop comprehensive community-based supports, and fight for self-determination.





**"We need to spend more time celebrating families. We need to spend more time uplifting them rather than trying to take them down."**

— Cheryl Robinson, *Urban Native Youth Association*

### **Lack of options for childcare**

The lack of affordable, culturally appropriate and adequate childcare prevents many parents from continuing their education or finding full-time work. For many low-income families, the money earned from a job may not even cover their childcare costs.

The availability of childcare services has a disproportionate impact on women. Over 80% of lone-parent families in BC are headed by single mothers, many of whom struggle to cover the cost of childcare on one income. This economic reality often leads to difficult choices for childcare. Many of these choices can potentially mean losing your kids.

### **Endemic violence against women**

Battered Women's Support Services reports that almost 2,000 women per month are seeking safety from the violence in their lives by accessing support services. 42% of these women self-identify as recent immigrants. 18% of these women self-identify as Indigenous. These figures indicate the heightened risks for these groups of women. Furthermore, women with mental health-related disabilities, a history of homelessness or minimal

social supports, LGBTQ people, and Indigenous women are still much more likely to be victims of violence.

Finding safety from an abusive partner is difficult and dangerous and is even harder when you have children and face the risks of child apprehension by the province.

### **Some good examples of supports for families that are working**

In the Lower Mainland, there are many community organizations who are implementing positive solutions that help keep families together and support parents in keeping or regaining their children.

These innovative, community-led programs include:

- Phil Bouvier Family Centre, Vancouver Native Health's Indigenous Early Years program hosts Family Case Conferences for families to meet with MCFD
- PCRS Immediate Response Program, which provides wraparound support to families referred by MCFD
- Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) runs a variety of family programs to help strengthen parents and build stronger connections with their Indigenous culture
- Aunt Leah's provides many programs to prevent children in foster care from becoming homeless, and support mothers at risk of losing custody of their children

We invite you to find out more about these and other innovative community-led programs on the pages that follow.

These examples of community-led solutions should become the norm and not the exceptions. We need to look to the people dealing with family separation, see it from the parents' and the children's point of view, and put in place solutions to help them. We need to understand why some groups of parents are more likely to come to the attention of child welfare authorities and why the system is rigged against them once that happens. Governments and funders need to support the community to drive ideas, programs and solutions. Time and again, we have found that community-led initiatives identify needs in the community and know what will work to make things better. We need to listen to families and the community and let them lead us toward finding better resources to prevent family separations, and better resources to rebuild families.

We all want children to be safe and to thrive, so let's work with our community to make that happen. ○

### **FAMILY SERVICES OF GREATER VANCOUVER'S (FSGV) FAMILY PRESERVATION AND REUNIFICATION, PROJECT PARENT**

These are primarily home-based parenting programs committed to family wellness, that assist parents in finding ways to meet the needs of their children. They work with families experiencing stress and difficulty, which potentially interferes with their ability to parent, often due to generational patterns and socioeconomic factors. The programs enhance the safety and well-being of the children and increase the capacity of parents to meet their children's physical, emotional, and developmental needs.

FSGV's highly skilled, compassionate staff speak multiple languages and engage clients through a trauma-informed, strengths-based approach that puts the needs of the child at the centre and helps parents become the best parents they can be. Families are connected with a network of relevant services and supports in their communities to build their capacity and enable them to sustain longer term positive change.



**"It feels really great to be a part of a community because not everyone gets that opportunity."**

# PHIL BOUVIER FAMILY CENTRE

Where Indigenous programs bring culture and parenting together

At the Phil Bouvier Family Centre, Vancouver Native Health's Indigenous Early Years program has been successfully hosting Family Case Conferences, providing a safe space for families to meet with MCFD for this large day-long meeting. Both the families and MCFD report that those taking part feel better supported by having the meeting at the Family Centre. These mandated meetings help determine if their children will be returned to the parents or if their First Nation will be involved within the care circle. For many urban Indigenous families, learning about Indigenous culture plays a big role in reconnecting them to their community and helping provide stability to keep their families strong. For Natasha, coming to the Phil Bouvier Family Centre is a chance to get some financial help, but also a place to come for security and community. "It's an opportunity for me to grow and learn things like cedar weaving and the seven grandfather teachings, which are things in my culture I didn't know," says Natasha.

Phil Bouvier Family Centre runs many programs that offer Indigenous children and their families the support they need to thrive and to help re-create Indigenous community norms, ways and understandings within the urban Indigenous community in Vancouver. The Seven Sacred Teachings series, along with the Bringing Tradition Home group, both offer support from staff

and an elder for parents in the inner city. "We've done salve making, we've done regalia making, we've done medicine gathering, harvesting and then preparing it for use, and we've had parents go out with elders and strip the cedar from the trees, then use it for crafting throughout the year," says Mary Clifford, Director of Early Years of PBFC. "The Aboriginal cultural programs also help people build connections back to their own culture or at least a doorway to understand that there might be a different way to talk about parenting rather than the mainstream way." Clifford says the programs also empower women to understand who they are, which often helps them move forward. The regular eight-week program has helped parents create some structure in their routines. "Sometimes, the Ministry doesn't say it, but having no structure in your home, they see that as neglect or risk." Clifford notes that the programs also strengthen the parents' connections with others in their same situation. "That might help with respite or spelling people off or taking time away from your kids," she notes. "We also provide a full meal like all of our days at Phil Bouvier, which is helpful for folks, and then childcare as well."

For Natasha, being at the Centre has provided stability, culture and community. "To be a part of this community, for my daughter, it means that she has a bunch of adopted aunties now and she has fun here," she says.○

# AUNT LEAH'S PLACE

A home to help moms keep their kids



Sherry is living with her daughter at Aunt Leah's *Thresholds*, a home for mothers who are at risk of becoming homeless or are at risk of losing custody of their children. Last year Aunt Leah's worked with 35 mothers like Sherry to provide a safe home with program support, and 94% of the moms maintained custody of their children. "We have two houses where it's safe, a home, and there's other moms there sharing the accommodations," explains Sarah Stewart, Executive Director of Aunt Leah's Place. "We have staff coming in every day to support and connect and to work with the moms. And there are other moms living in the home, so it addresses the isolation that happens to a lot of our moms." For 30 years, Aunt Leah's Place has been helping kids in foster care, and young mothers achieve a better future. They provide guidance, supported housing, job training, and coaching on essential life skills. Their main Youth Resource Centre is located in New Westminster in a social purpose real estate building owned by Central City Foundation.



"Once a mom is settled into the program and has done the work, she can begin to look at what are the other things that she wants to work toward, like establishing daycare, either working or going back to school," says Stewart. "We partner with another non-profit who can work on addictions and mental health counselling." Sherry says when she first arrived, she was young and scared, but the staff and residents made her feel comfortable and like she had a family. She has access to the kitchens, the living rooms, and other communal space, as well as her own room. "They taught me how to be a good parent, and if there is anything we ever need, they are there for us," says Sherry. "It is nice to have that because a lot of us have been youth in care and, not everyone who comes here has had a great start in life." After they leave the program, 92% of moms from the *Thresholds* program report finding safe housing. "*Thresholds* leads to a really positive outcome for when she moves out of our program because she is connected in with a lot of other support," says Stewart. ○

**"The Ministry basically said I could be placed in different foster homes or I could live together with my daughter in a placement at Aunt Leah's."**

# MOUNT PLEASANT NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Helping community members create supportive connections

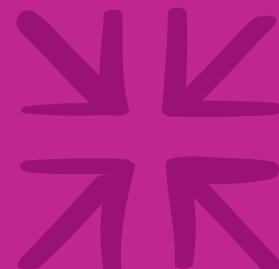


When you've moved to Vancouver from another country and don't speak English, it can be hard to meet people and learn how to adapt to this new place. That's why Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House hosts participant-led groups for new immigrants and refugees in Spanish, Arabic and Cantonese/Mandarin on a regular basis. And they are very popular. "The average meeting for these women's peer support groups is anywhere from 10-25 people at each language group," says Thanh Lam, Program Director for Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House. "They get to decide what they want to talk about and what they want to do. The groups can be quite transformative because they become spaces for community development." Coming from

Mexico, Vanessa was pleased to find a group at Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House, where she could connect with other Spanish speaking women. "The biggest challenge we face is the language, and this really affects the work we are able to get," says Vanessa. "Places like Mt. Pleasant Neighbourhood House are amazing for us because we have a vision and they can support us." The Neighbourhood House hosts dozens of programs for families. They foster social inclusion for new Canadians from over 40 countries, Indigenous people from many nations, and folks from all walks of life and every generation. Lam says the main topics the peer support groups address are life skills development and entrepreneurial skills development. "Participants

come up with their own ideas, and they have really supported these women as they navigate life in Vancouver," says Lam. "The isolation and that desire to be self-sufficient is definitely there, and they face systemic challenges in terms of being self-sufficient."

For the mothers in the groups, dealing with family issues on top of their own challenges can create mental health challenges. Lam says that through the peer support groups, "they have been able to find space where they can address their mental health challenges and together as a group, support each other." Many of the women end up as leaders in the group. "We understand that there are systemic problems to address," says Lam, "but the best way of doing that is leveraging a participant to become a leader themselves within their own communities." For Vanessa, the gatherings, which range from business seminars to open chats, offer a way to build her network. "It's good for our community because we get to connect with each other for support," she says. ○



# FRASER REGION ABORIGINAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

## Strengthening families through culturally relevant programs

Listening to what the community said they need to help prevent children being taken into care, the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association offer parents many programs to help them overcome issues to keep their kids. Their Strengthening Families Outreach Program came out of community consultations that showed a need to bring cultural, social and emotional support to families. "Families can hit a crisis point in their lives, and in those critical transition points that we find kids are coming into care unnecessarily," says Joanne Mills, Executive Director of FRAFCA. "Our staff provide outreach and cross-cultural supports, and we wrap services around that family. Our staff work collaboratively. It's often not one single thing that is the problem." Mills says her staff can offer in-home parent support. "If a family is struggling and it looks like some short-term support would assist, we can actually put somebody in the home to help them get organized or teach them some things or figure out how to best meet their children's needs," she says. "We come in like a little hive of ants, and we just get busy fixing the problems with them and coming up with some strategies



and solutions, and then supporting them through it, and we find in a very short period of time, families are stabilized back on their feet. They no longer need our support and no child got removed." Mills says she's created a number of pilot projects like this one from ideas that came from community consultations, where community members identified where they'd need support and how they want to receive it. Some programs are preventative, where others help parents access services in a culturally relevant and safe way, honouring the diverse lived experiences of Indigenous people to ensure they are treated in a fair and respectful manner.

Thomas reached out to FRAFCA after his son went into care. "I walked in FRAFCA, and that's when I first learned about my rights as a parent," he says. "They've helped me by coming to my mediation meetings, and without them, I would not have been able to have visitation with my son."

While he works on regaining custody of his son, Thomas has received support from FRAFCA and has been able to connect with his Indigenous culture. "Being a part of FRAFCA helps me feel more confident as a parent," he says. "They also have helped me find my identity. As a residential school survivor, I didn't really know who I was, and they've helped me find me, which is also beneficial to my son." ○



CENTRAL CITY  
FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2019

**With your support, we can help thousands of vulnerable people in the inner city improve their lives.**

From access to safe, clean and affordable housing in the inner city to life-saving addiction treatment programs for youth at Ashnola at the Crossing—you will provide people in our community with a more hopeful future. For over 100 years, we have worked quietly and with determination to help our neighbours in need. We transform financial support from people like you into lasting improvements in the housing, health and hope of our city's most vulnerable people. In this coming year, we see many new challenges and opportunities to improve lives, and we need your help to meet them.



With Central City Foundation, your gift to our annual campaign can make a lasting impact by helping people in the inner city improve their lives.

**\$1,000**

Will help fund a treatment centre for youth battling addiction.

**\$500**

Will help provide housing to fight homelessness in the inner city.

**\$250**

Will help provide culturally-appropriate daycare for Indigenous children.

**\$100**

Will help provide for support for kids aging out of the foster care system.

Please support Central City Foundation by making a donation today at [centralcityfoundation.ca](http://centralcityfoundation.ca). To make a one-time or monthly gift, please contact Cristina Lima, Philanthropy Officer at (604) 683-2263 or [development@centralcityfoundation.ca](mailto:development@centralcityfoundation.ca)

# HOW YOU HELPED

At Central City Foundation, our grants are as diverse as the needs of our community partners. We help people in the inner city improve their lives by providing support for community-led solutions.

## Chrysalis Society

Chrysalis Society is BC's leading provider of trauma-specialized, trans-inclusive, long-term residential and mental health care for women healing from addiction, violence, homelessness and poverty. The grant from Central City Foundation will help complete long-overdue renovations and upgrades to their New Day recovery home.

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## City Centre Care Society

The Central City Lodge runs an Addiction Recovery Program, which takes a holistic view of addiction recovery. They have up to 22 residents in the program and 20-30% of them are Indigenous. Basics such as proper rest, nutrition and exercise are vital to their residents' recovery and wellbeing – particularly to persons in addiction recovery. The grant from Central City Foundation will help replace and upgrade furniture and gym equipment.



## The Dugout Drop In Centre

The Dugout is a community drop-in centre that Central City Foundation helped establish in 1967. This space provides a crucial place to break the isolation for many people in the inner city community and is the only soup kitchen serving breakfast seven days a week. Our grants help provide food, support and friendship to 600-700 people each day.

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## Four Directions Trading Post

The Four Directions Trading Post, formerly the DTES Street Market, began operating in Summer 2010 with support from Central City Foundation. This peer-run community market creates economic opportunity for the low-income community in the DTES and offers a safe and legal alternative for DTES street vendors. The grant from Central City Foundation will fund two twin-peak marquee tents with walls, and weight blocks to protect vendors and visitors from the elements.



Image courtesy of speakersbureau

## Megaphone's Speakers Bureau

Megaphone's Speakers Bureau is a program that helps train inner-city people who have faced prejudice and injustices to share their lived experiences. Through speaking events and workshops, this program helps to build understanding and compassion throughout our broader community. The speakers in the program are people who have experienced judgement and stigmatization due to their drug use. In many instances, these attitudes prevent people from accessing important social resources such as social supports, housing opportunities and health care. Central City Foundation provided financial support to launch this innovative program.



Image courtesy of justwork.ca

### JustWork

JustWork provides flexible, supportive and meaningful work to people with permanent barriers to work such as addictions, mental health challenges and physical disabilities. JustWork helps employees learn new skills and develop confidence. With this supportive employment, employees can often obtain safer housing, secure better food, access service providers and maintain relationships with support networks. A grant from Central City Foundation allowed JustWork to acquire needed supplies and equipment for their social enterprises.

### Mission Possible

Mission Possible is a non-profit organization in Vancouver's DTES that provides opportunities for people challenged by homelessness and poverty. This program helps people achieve a renewed sense of purpose through meaningful work. Participants receive soft-skill training, bi-weekly one-on-one coaching and transitional employment opportunities that builds their capacity and confidence necessary to sustain employment. A grant from Central City Foundation was used to purchase equipment that will allow them to increase their capacity for program participants.

### Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Service

Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services provide holistic support services that culturally and spiritually strengthen Aboriginal families. The Culturally Relevant Urban Wellness Program brings Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth-in-care, together with youth mentors, to connect with community and greenspace to further cultural engagement and develop positive identity, emotional intelligence, leadership competencies, and skills to assist in transitioning to independent living. Held at the UBC Farm, the youth engage in land-based culturally relevant, holistic and sustainable urban wellness activities and learning. The grant from Central City Foundation funded a smoker and food dehydrator to share traditional knowledge of food preservation practices. Working with elders, the youth will be able to dry traditional plant medicines to be used in making teas, salves and other traditional medicines.



Image courtesy of Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services

## THERE'S MORE!

For more detailed beneficiary reports about how you've helped these and other community-led solutions, visit [centralcityfoundation.ca](http://centralcityfoundation.ca)



## HOPE DIALOGUE SERIES

Central City Foundation launched the Hope Dialogue Series in 2017. These events bring together local leaders and influencers for an in-depth dialogue about the issues faced by people in the inner city. We hope this dialogue will deepen our understanding of the challenges faced by our neighbours and the community organizations supported by Central City Foundation. We also hope this dialogue will lead to the envisioning of new, innovative community-led solutions.

Across the three events, we have learned more about the context that has led us to where we are as a community:

- Colonialism, patriarchy, stigma, racism and poverty and the intended or unintended negative consequences of decades of government policy imposed on the inner city all resonates as contributing factors with participants
- Generational effects of trauma from residential schools, ongoing trauma and stigma reinforced by the foster care system, all serve to reinforce challenges for women, children and youth in the inner city

For more detailed reports from Hope Dialogue Series discussions and information about the innovative, community-led solutions we support, visit [centralcityfoundation.ca](http://centralcityfoundation.ca)

# A PROMISING FUTURE: LEAVE A LEGACY OF CARING

Your planned gift will help people in the inner city improve their lives

When you include a gift in your will to Central City Foundation, you will be helping to ensure that the most vulnerable people in the inner city receive the support they need in the future. Your legacy will not only give inner-city residents the resources they need to improve the quality of their lives, but it will also enable us to fund innovative and effective organizations.

A gift of any size will help make a difference. Even a small percentage of the residue of your estate will help make a better life for people living in the inner city.

For more information on planned giving with Central City Foundation, please contact Cristina Lima, Philanthropy Officer at (604) 683-2263 or [development@centralcityfoundation.ca](mailto:development@centralcityfoundation.ca)



With Central City Foundation your Legacy Gift can make a lasting impact on lives in the inner city:

**\$1 million**

Can build a treatment centre and save young lives.

**\$100,000**

Can build housing to help fight homelessness in the inner city.

**\$50,000**

Can equip an inner city daycare to ensure quality early childhood development.

**\$25,000**

Can buy equipment that will provide training to women working to overcome barriers to employment.

## DONOR PROFILE

# Roger Sweeny

The memory of a heartbreaking story told to him by his mother has lasted a lifetime.

A supporter of Central City Foundation for over 30 years, Roger Sweeny remembers his mom telling him about the day she watched the Indigenous Peoples of the Senákw Village forcibly removed from their homes that were located in the area that is now Vanier Park near the entrance to False Creek. This story had a profound impact on him and has remained with him his entire life.

"Indigenous peoples should have the opportunity to fully participate in all decisions pertaining to this land. They are fully capable and have a marvellous culture. I am committed to doing everything I can to support organizations working with Indigenous peoples, so they can have their voice heard. I support several organizations, and this is one of the main reasons why I support Central City Foundation. It's because I know you are serious about Truth and Reconciliation."



CENTRAL CITY  
FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2019



**With your support, we can help thousands of vulnerable people in the inner city improve their lives.**

From access to safe, clean and affordable housing in the inner city to life-saving addiction treatment programs for youth at Ashnola at the Crossing—you will provide people in our community with a more hopeful future. For over 100 years, we have worked quietly and with determination to help our neighbours in need. We transform financial support from people like you into lasting improvements in the housing, health and hope of our city's most vulnerable people. In this coming year, we see many new challenges and opportunities to improve lives, and we need your help to meet them.

Please support Central City Foundation by making a donation today at [centralcityfoundation.ca](http://centralcityfoundation.ca). To make a one-time or monthly gift, please contact Cristina Lima, Philanthropy Officer at (604) 683-2263 or [development@centralcityfoundation.ca](mailto:development@centralcityfoundation.ca)

# Who is Central City Foundation?

Central City Foundation is the legacy that was created in 1907 when a small group of men and women in Vancouver came together to help their neighbours in need. We believe in the intrinsic value of all human beings. Each individual has gifts to share. Each individual has abilities. Each individual has the capacity to make positive contributions to our community. By providing supports and addressing barriers, we are working to build an inclusive community where everyone can participate, prosper and reach their full potential regardless of the injustices they have survived. This is why we are committed to Truth & Reconciliation with our Indigenous hosts. As a matter of respect, we acknowledge our occupation of unceded territories whenever we display the Foundation's address.

We believe there can be a healthier, more vibrant inner city that is a valued part of our larger community. Healthy and vibrant communities value social justice. People care for one another. Basic health and social services are assured. Safe and affordable housing is available. People have jobs, reliable income and other opportunities. Arts and recreation flourish. Children have the chance to play and learn. Streets are safe and neighbours are connected. To this end, we mobilize our capital for good. We help people in the inner city improve their lives by investing in social purpose real estate, capital grants, programs and subsidies. We are committed to community-led solutions. To respond to the evolving needs within our community, we continually seek to expand our deep understanding of the history and context of the issues. We are prepared to tackle the difficult problems that others will not.