

CENTRAL CITY FOUNDATION

News

Fall 2018



**Together,
we build hope.**

CEO Welcome



Where others won't invest, we will.

For over 100 years, Central City Foundation has connected neighbours and resources to help transform our communities through positive change. We help improve the lives of our neighbours in three ways — by providing funding and support for programs, capital projects and social purpose real estate. We believe that providing safe, secure and affordable spaces for community organizations is the key to creating innovative and effective community programs that help people.

This past year your donations have helped fund housing, space for health clinics, addictions treatment, employment training and many other programs that help our neighbours survive and thrive. Some highlights include:

- major investments in our inner city housing, including the addition of new units and improved conditions at the Cosmo and Abbott Mansions
- investments to leverage our social purpose real estate, including renovations to our building in New Westminster to add additional programming space for youth and young moms and continued support for young people being treated for addiction at Ashnola at the Crossing
- the introduction of our Hope Dialogue Series, where community leaders and our neighbours talk about the issues and challenges faced by those in the inner city and imagine new and innovative solutions to improve lives
- our commitment to forging a new path of Truth and Reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours was demonstrated through our investment in Indigenous cultural competency training for CCF Board and staff and support for a number of programs such as the Aboriginal Mother's Centre, who assists mothers and small children

In the coming year, with your support, we plan to help even more of our neighbours in need through continued investments in social purpose real estate and grants that help fund community programs. We currently have eight approved grants for early 2019 that include innovative programs such as Megaphone's Speakers Bureau, which addresses the stigmas of opioid addiction through speakers that share their experiences. We are also looking at several exciting social purpose real estate investments that we can't wait to share with you!

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

Jennifer Johnstone

CEO, Central City Foundation

Investing for the long-term to help youth and families dealing with addictions



Central City Foundation donors know that their investments are helping make long-term changes in the lives of our neighbours.

When we first bought and renovated The Crossing, a former camp in Keremeos located along the Similkameen River, it was intended to be used as a place where young people would get help dealing with addictions. BC had nothing like it, and waiting lists for youth seeking help were staggering.

In 2009, The Crossing opened its doors as BC's only long-term residential treatment centre for youth in addictions. The Crossing is one of five social purpose real estate properties owned by CCF. More than 200 young people went through the program and started to recover their lives, and our donors saw a real human return on their investments.

But in 2015, a dispute with the operator caused the BC Government to close the program. We believed our investment was for the long term, so we didn't sell or repurpose the Crossing. Instead, we spent more than two years and hundreds of

hours in meetings, negotiating and keeping the faith. In 2017, this goal was achieved. Now called Ashnola at the Crossing, the new program provides treatment support to youth and young adults, 17-24 years old, challenged by addictions.

Now in its second year of operation, Ashnola at the Crossing is the only long-term youth residential treatment centre of its kind in BC. The 20+bed facility is operated by Pacific Community Resource Society (PCRS). Central City Foundation still owns the Crossing facility and is providing it rent-free to PHSA and BC Mental Health & Substance Use Services (BCMHSUS) who fund the program.

The program offers group therapy, one-on-one counselling, life skills and school as part of PCRS' holistic approach to treatment on the beautiful 58-acre site.

CCF donors, board and staff, travelled to Keremeos in June 2018 to celebrate the one year anniversary of the treatment centre's reopening. They experienced the magic of the Crossing and its potential to transform lives and communities, met program leaders and heard directly from a

program participant.

When Sarah (not her real name) came to Ashnola at the Crossing, she was homeless, living in the DTES and struggling with an addiction, but she had committed to getting clean. "The day I got here I knew I was going to do it, I was going to finish the six months here, and nothing but good is going to come from it," says Sarah. "I've definitely had days where I just wanted to get the heck out of here because it's so much easier to just go back and use," says Sarah. "But the hard work is totally worth it and I can't wait to get back."

The faith of Central City Foundation donors in keeping the Crossing facility ready and available for the new program shows how important it is to invest your donations for the long term. Your investment in social purpose real estate has lasting benefits to our neighbours.

"I feel incredible," adds Sarah. "I didn't think I was going to be able to bounce back, but I feel like I can do anything."



How you helped

Aboriginal Mother's Centre

The Aboriginal Mother Centre Society helps bring mothers and children at risk off the streets and uses a traditional Indigenous knowledge centred approach to rebuilding health, self-esteem and the skills needed to retain or regain custody of children. Our grant has helped renovate their facility and purchase needed furnishings.

Aunt Leah's Place

Aunt Leah's Place works to prevent children in foster care from becoming homeless and helps mothers in need maintain custody of their children. Our grant has helped Aunt Leah's Foundation renovate their facility at 307 Boyne Street that provides supported housing for young mothers and their babies.

Atira Women's Resource Society

Sisele's Kitchen, at Altira Women's Resource Society, is a program for Indigenous women elders that provides a space to engage with their community and connect with their culture by teaching and sharing traditional meals with younger women. Our grant helped to upgrade the kitchen to accommodate the 32 women who reside there and up to 75 community members who also participate.

BC Women's Hospital Foundation

BC Women's Families in Recovery Program provides compassionate, non-judgmental care for up to 150 women every year who are navigating the challenges of substance use and motherhood. With our grant, the Hospital Foundation purchased essential patient room furnishings for the new Fir Square unit which will open in early 2019.

Binners' Project

The Binners' Project is a group of waste-pickers aided by support staff dedicated to improving their economic opportunities and reducing the stigma they face as informal recyclable collectors. Our grant helped introduce a Universal Cart Program that will build and circulate 30-40 carts that will replace illegally used shopping carts.

DTES Women's Centre

The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre provides a safe, non-judgemental, low-barrier environment for women who live or work in the DTES. Their services include meals, counselling, advocacy and a variety of programs that help nurture and empower their members. Our grant helped to renovate and improve their drop-in kitchen.

DTES Neighbourhood house

The DTES Neighbourhood House community drop-in kitchen feeds 200 people each day and hosts 30 parents and children for dinner on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They also provide programs for other groups such as a fathers group, aboriginal, seniors and kids community kitchens. Our grant helped renovate their kitchen to increase capacity.

JustWork Economic Initiative

JustWork provides flexible, supportive and meaningful work for people with barriers to employment that include addictions, mental health challenges and physical disabilities. Our grant helped increase their capacity by expanding the Just Potters studio by adding two additional kilns, four pottery wheels and four stools.

Pacifica Treatment Centre

Pacifica Treatment Centre's promotes health and recovery from addiction through treatment, education and support that strengthens individuals, families and communities. Our grant helped to expand their exercise program through the purchase of stationary bikes.

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 marginalized people in the 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.



More information on these and other Central City Foundation grants can be found on our website at centralcityfoundation.ca

Help us build hope

Our annual fundraising campaign

At Central City Foundation, we believe it takes all of us to improve the lives of our neighbours in need and build hope in our community. This includes our community partners, our staff, our board members and you, our donors. This year your contributions will help us fund solutions in the inner city that offer life-changing opportunities for young people, improve living conditions, create job prospects, provide food security and support treatment for addiction.

For more information or to make a one-time or monthly gift, please visit our website at centralcityfoundation.ca or contact Cristina Lima, Philanthropy Officer at 604-683-2263 or development@centralcityfoundation.ca



A promising future: leave a legacy of caring



Your planned gift will transform 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



Generations of support

Nearly 70 years ago, Maryalice Schaffer's mother told her to donate to Central City Foundation, so she gave CCF a few dollars from her childhood riches. Today, she continues to support people in crisis through CCF. "My mother was a very generous person, but quietly," says Schaffer. "If she heard of somebody in trouble she'd go and help them, and she taught us to do the same. We all have our favourite charities. Central City Foundation ended up on my favourites list because my mother told us about you."

Schaffer spent her adult life helping people in crisis. Through an inheritance, she ended up running a men's hotel in New Westminster. "I got to enjoy it, but it was very shocking at the beginning," she says. "I'd lived a square life and never saw or heard swearing. The men got to respect me over time, and I loved working with them. "I've been very lucky to be blessed that I can do for other people," she says. "It's a nice feeling to help somebody, whether it's \$20 or \$100."

The long-time Central City Foundation donor plans to continue her support. "You help people in crisis, and my mom said it was a good thing" she says.



Central City Foundation is located on the traditional and unceded ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlilwətaʔ / Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Central City Foundation's social purpose real estate includes:

Abbott Mansion — 72 units of safe, low-income housing, commercial units, and the Crosstown Clinic

Cosmopolitan Hotel & Women's Health Clinic — 42 units of safe, low-income housing and unique health care for women in Vancouver's inner city

Aunt Leah's Place — a safe place in New Westminster for youth and young mothers who have aged out of foster care and are transitioning to adulthood

Phil Bouvier Family Centre — Indigenous childcare and hub for family services in Vancouver

Ashnola at the Crossing — a residential treatment centre for youth challenged with addictions that's located in Keremeos, serving all of BC

Some of the community partners we've recently supported through grants:

Aboriginal Mother Centre
Aunt Leah's Independent Lifeskills Society
Binner's Project
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative
The Dugout Drop In Centre
East Van Community Horse Centre Society
EMBERS

Groundswell
JustWork Economic Initiative - JustPotters
Overdose Prevention Society
Pacifica Treatment Centre
Streetfront Alternative Program
Tradeworks
WISH Drop-in Centre

On the cover:
Paul Windsor with the mural he created at Phil Bouvier Family Centre. "Over the years I've known the staff here who are very kind," said Paul. "I'm very happy to put my heart into this and leave something positive for the Vancouver community."