

CENTRAL CITY  
FOUNDATION

Being kind, calm and  
safe in the inner city

# COMMUNITY REPORT

FALL 2020

# FAIR iN THE SQUARE

## We're sorry that we missed you this year

Sadly, Fair in the Square was one of the events this past spring that was simply not possible due to COVID-19. We look forward to again joining our many passionate neighbours, volunteers, community partners, artists and everyone else who cherishes this very special annual event. Rest assured as soon as it's safe, there will again be a Fair in the Square. We'll see you there!



CO-HOSTS

**CENTRAL CITY  
FOUNDATION**



# CONTENTS

FALL 2020

## CENTRAL CITY FOUNDATION

### EDITOR

*Hagan Ainsworth*

### CONTRIBUTORS

*Leona Greene  
Carla Shore  
Deanna Wing  
Abby Wiseman*

### DESIGN

*Monica Martinez*

Please address correspondence to:  
Central City Foundation  
206-304 W Cordova St  
Vancouver, BC V6B 1E8  
(604) 683-2263

On the traditional and unceded  
ancestral homelands of the  
xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam),  
Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō  
and Səllwəta? / Selilwitulh (Tsleil-  
Waututh) Nations.

Fall 2020  
Printed in Canada by  
Horseshoe Press

Paper certification

### 3 MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

### 4 SOCIAL FEED

### 6 COMMUNITY REPORT: BEING KIND, CALM AND SAFE IN THE INNER CITY

Embracing Dr. Bonnie Henry's words with our community partners

### 8 BEING KIND: EMBERS AND CLEANSTART

A community solution to keep people working in the inner city

### 10 BEING CALM: BRINGING COMMUNITY PARTNERS TOGETHER TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

Facilitating important collaborations between community groups,  
foundations and other organizations

### 13 BEING SAFE: SISTERSQUARE

With covid-19 restrictions, respite centres for women in the inner city  
are needed more than ever

### IN EVERY ISSUE

### 16 Annual Fundraising Campaign

### 18 How You Helped

### 22 Hope Dialogue Series

### 23 Legacy Giving

### 24 Donor Profile

## 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)

**Being kind, calm  
and safe in the  
inner city.**

# Message from the CEO



Kindness is all about finding ways to help and lift-up others. It is not always nice and is more concerned with doing what is right and kind than about being popular or liked. In the face of this COVID-19 pandemic in the inner city, kindness is an act of solidarity and profound resistance.

Founded by a handful of concerned Vancouver neighbours in 1907, Central City Foundation has been practicing unflinching kindness for more than a century. Through funding for social purpose real estate and support of innovative, community-led programs, we have worked tirelessly to help people in the inner city improve their lives. 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.

Here in our inner city this past year, we have seen the devastating consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives of our most vulnerable neighbours. This includes the hundreds of people forced out onto city streets when the rest of us were asked to stay home and stay safe. The lives of people in our community who are marginalized by poverty and systemic racism, who have struggled for

generations with the resulting trauma, all while facing the deadly consequences of the ongoing Opioid Crisis and widespread gender-based violence, have been made so much harder during this pandemic.

However, we have also witnessed an unprecedented mobilization of kindness. Collaborative efforts led by community organizations in the Downtown Eastside and across Metro Vancouver have mobilized to provide critical food, shelter, health supplies, information and connection. Throughout this crisis, your donations have helped keep people safe, fed, employed and connected. This report includes information about a number of these programs and the impact they've had on lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer Johnstone".


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



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

Central City Foundation President & CEO Jennifer Johnstone joins the SFU Urban Studies panel discussion on the connections between social cohesion and public health and what it will take to insert principles and practices of kindness and sociability in urban policy, moving forward from the pandemic.

**BEING KIND: HOW MUCH DOES SOCIABILITY MATTER?**



19

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

We are very sad that we cannot invite you to join us for what would be our 14th annual #FairintheSquare but invite you to explore our "virtual" Fair in the Square featuring links to the many community partners, social enterprises and entertainers that participate in the event!



12

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

Ashnola at the Crossing is standing by! BC's first and only long-term residential addictions treatment centre for youth is patiently waiting for the time when it's safe once more help young people recover their health, reclaim their lives and reconnect with their families. [#socialpurposerealestate](#) [#centralcityfoundation](#)



24

**CCF** Central City Foundation  
Mar 15 · 🌐

[#Covid19](#) update: For more than a hundred years, CCF has been looking out for neighbours in our community who need help. We are monitoring the rapidly changing situation in the inner city. Our property managers are implementing extraordinary measures to help keep our Downtown Eastside SRO residents safe.

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


We're helping to create a buzz with social enterprise! We invest in community-led initiatives that help people in the inner city improve their lives. Learn more about our support for Hives for Humanity, an amazing social enterprise program that uses beekeeping to help people in our community who face barriers to employment.



👍❤️ 12

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

At Central City Foundation we want to add our voice to those demanding justice and an end to systemic racism. We also encourage you to register for the latest Feminists Deliver Resistance and Resurgence event.



👍❤️ 32

**CCF** Central City Foundation  
Jul 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 during these crazy times helps make a big impact on young people!



👍❤️ 21

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

New community report from @CentralCityFndt finds many parents in BC are losing custody of their children when staying together would be possible if more community supports were available.



👍❤️ 18

# BEING KIND, CALM AND SAFE IN THE INNER CITY

Dr. Bonnie Henry called on British Columbians to be kind, be calm, and be safe. We have readily embraced this call to action alongside our community partners.



While the inner city has been extremely challenged by COVID-19, we have also been truly inspired by the power of philanthropy to mobilize resources, foster connections and provide opportunities to invest in our shared love of humanity in these extraordinary times. The threat of COVID-19 has not passed, and there continues to be a profound urgency for us all to come together and support our most vulnerable neighbours as they face the devastating health and economic impacts.

When the rest of us were asked to stay home and stay safe, hundreds of people were forced out onto city streets. The lives of people in our community who are marginalized by poverty and systemic racism,

who have struggled for generations with the resulting trauma, all while facing the deadly consequences of the ongoing Opioid Crisis and widespread gender-based violence, have been made so much harder during this pandemic.

At the same time, we have also witnessed an unprecedented collaborative effort led by community organizations in the Downtown Eastside and across Metro Vancouver to provide critical support – from food, shelter, and basic health supplies to information and connection – to keep individuals and families safe in this pandemic. All of this would not be possible without the generosity of donors and our philanthropic community.

## Being kind

Kindness is about finding ways to help and lift-up others. We believe in the intrinsic value of all human beings and that everyone has value, gifts to share and the capacity to contribute to our community. Finding ways to help everyone is at the core of our work in the community. We have seen many examples of kindness led by community these past months, including the tremendous leadership shown by Potluck Café and Catering, who mobilized non-profits, social enterprises and local businesses to provide over 140,000 meals to those left hungry by the pandemic lockdown.

## Being calm

Calm is essential in the face of any crisis. As the pandemic took hold in British Columbia, it became clear there was the potential for a devastating impact in our inner city. Central City Foundation calmly connected through the hundreds of relationships we have established with you, our donors, our community partners and our philanthropic colleagues to create opportunities to collaborate and respond to this crisis through the mobilization of emergency funding and services.

For example, the Community Impact Real Estate Society (CIRES) brought together more than 50 community organizations with local businesses, Business Improvement Associations and more to form the Coordinated Community Response Network (CCRN). Central City Foundation has been deeply engaged with the coalition to foster connection, mobilize resources and ensure coordinated participation for many of our community partners. We also worked with the Emergency Community Response Fund and others to ensure critically needed philanthropic funds reached the organizations on the frontlines in our communities.

Central City Foundation worked alongside CCRN, with funding support from the City of Vancouver, to coordinate the deployment of more than 121 peer support workers daily to provide connections and check-ins with the many people in the inner city who are especially isolated. We were able to help organize the donation of more than 1,000 cell phones and data distributed to 15 of our community partners to help stay connected with isolated individuals in the inner city.

BC Women's Health Foundation also reached out to Central City Foundation to assist with the coordination of large donations of personal protective equipment. Thanks to this connection, we were able to distribute critical masks, shields, gloves and hand sanitizer to our community partners who desperately needed this equipment.

## Being safe

One of the most devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and our necessary public health response was the dramatic increase in violence against women across the globe. Locally, with the closure of so many community spaces during the lockdown, there was an urgent need for safe spaces for women. While organizations such as the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre and WISH Drop-in Centre worked tirelessly to maximize their safe spaces, Atira Women's Resource Society, with funding from Central City Foundation and other donors, was able to open SisterSquare, an enclosed, heated tent staffed 24/7 that provides information, overdose prevention, food, hygiene, access to support services and more.

## Coping with continuing challenges

We are working hard to ensure the community's needs continue to be heard and that community-led solutions receive essential support and funding. If you want to join us in this effort, please support our annual fundraising campaign by making a gift to Central City Foundation at [centralcityfoundation.ca](http://centralcityfoundation.ca)



# BEING KIND: EMBERS AND CLEANSTART

A community solution to keep people working in the inner city



**"This collaboration has allowed these people to connect back to work and with work, everything changes. It's much more hopeful. People feel a whole lot better, and a few people got onto some other career paths and moved ahead in their lives."**

— Marcia Nozick, CEO of EMBERS

When community groups come together in partnership, great things can happen. That's what occurred when Central City Foundation invested in the collaboration of two social enterprises in the inner city, leading to dozens of workers from the Downtown Eastside being employed during the pandemic lockdown.

EMBERS, the Eastside Movement for Business and Economic Renewal Society, provides economic and employment opportunities for people living on low incomes. Over the past 18 years, EMBERS has helped thousands of people facing barriers to work lead productive, fulfilling lives. During the start of the pandemic, many of the workers placed in construction jobs lost employment.

Meanwhile, another social enterprise that employs folks from the inner city, CleanStart, was looking for staff. CleanStart provides junk removal, pest control and cleaning services in Vancouver. In the spring, they took on additional contracts in the DTES to clean at SROs and other locations and needed additional workers.

Central City Foundation, with a matching contribution from our friends at Vancity Credit Union, helped these two social enterprises collaborate through the Community Coordinated Response Network. Central City Foundation donors made a grant to EMBERS to provide funding for CleanStart to hire and equip EMBERS staff for this work.

Through this partnership, EMBERS provided workers with more than 4,100 hours of employment, giving more than 60 people work opportunities, eventually providing 20 workers with full-time employment.

"We took on people who were not working, who had lost their jobs," says Marcia Nozick, CEO of EMBERS. "A lot of them were people who were looking for work who had lost their jobs because of the pandemic. This created new employment opportunities for people."

For CleanStart, this partnership had a big impact as well. "The first thing was the immediacy of being able to hire people, and then the second thing was they were able to bring in the professionalism," says Dylan Goggs, CEO of CleanStart. "They actually had a bunch of PPE (personal protective equipment). All of the EMBERS people had all of their own respirators provided from EMBERS."

Nozick says this all had multiplier effects as well. "With the workers that we were employing there, we were able to retrain them," she adds. "Some of them became traffic control people, some we were able to deploy onto other

worksites in construction. Some are still working in other areas doing sanitizing."

While the cleaning work with CleanStart has ended, for the time being, Goggs believes there will be an increase in cleaning jobs soon through new contracts, and they will need to hire cleaning staff from EMBERS again.

And remarkably, EMBERS and CleanStart are also talking about combining their infrastructure in a brand new partnership around construction site cleanup! "They have trucks, and we have labour, and we have connections and partnerships in the construction industry," says Nozick. It looks like we will probably strike up a new partnership and create more jobs for people in the Downtown Eastside."

Both Nozick and Goggs say that none of it would have happened without the involvement of Central City Foundation. "Jennifer (Johnstone) was such a leader at a time of crisis for many of the social enterprises, and we really valued her demeanour and her approach to the crisis," says Goggs. "When you think about it, the multiplier effect, people's lives changing, all these new jobs, new training and potential new partnerships with companies beyond that, none of it would have happened without that grant."



# BEING CALM: BRINGING COMMUNITY PARTNERS TOGETHER TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

Facilitating important collaborations between community groups, foundations and other organizations



As always, we are working hard to ensure the community's needs are heard and met, and that community-led solutions receive support and funding. With the urgent response needed to face the COVID-19 pandemic in the inner city, Central City has found ways to help facilitate important collaborations between community groups, foundations and other organizations.

## **Coordinated Community Response Network**

Representatives from over 50 community organizations, local businesses, Business Improvement Associations and others came together at the invitation of the Community Impact Real Estate Society (CIRES) to form a response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Downtown Eastside. Central City Foundation staff have attended every meeting of the coalition to foster connection, mobilize resources and ensure coordinated

participation for many of our community partners, including WISH, DTES Women's Centre, Atira Women's Resource Society, EMBERS, Dugout and Vancouver Women's Health Collective.

### Emergency Community Response Fund

A collaboration led by the Vancouver Foundation, this fund included contributing partners Vancity, City of Vancouver and United Way. Central City Foundation played a key role with other community advisors on the judiciary panel for funding and helped to distribute over \$17.5 million in unrestricted operating grants to more than 509 community groups across Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. These grants included more than \$1.4 million to over 40 of our community partners.

### Feminists Deliver

In addition to preparing a Feminist Economic Recovery Plan in response for the Provincial Economic Recovery Task Force, the coalition has continued to engage in movement building, activating their Strategic Plan and amplifying the voices of Black, Indigenous and Women of Colour across all social media channels. As a co-convenor of Feminists Deliver, Central City Foundation is extremely proud of this collaborative effort.

### Vantage Point Capacity Funders Network & Funders Connect

Central City Foundation has been participating and hosting other funder networks to mobilize resources for community-led solutions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately \$500,000 in additional funds have been directed to our community partners through these efforts.

### Ensuring safe, suitable and affordable space for community

Central City Foundation was able to continue our critical support for community space by ensuring the security of tenure and affordability for all our social purpose real estate tenants. With the support of our property managers, Central City Foundation has also been working to ensure the safety of our residential tenants in Vancouver's inner city during this pandemic with increased cleaning and sanitation services, meal programs and peer supports. While many of our community tenants had to temporarily close their sites, or change how they delivered their services, all were safe and secure in their community tenancies thanks to the continued support of our donors. Vancouver Aboriginal Health Services hosted traditional knowledge sharing and cooking lessons through Facebook live from their Indigenous Early Years program at the Phil Bouvier Family Centre and found many opportunities to continue to support Indigenous families in local parks and outdoor venues.





### **TRRUST Collective Impact**

TRRUST CI, with McCreary Centre Society as its backbone, is a collective of 150 members, 44 community agencies and 20 youth with government care experience working together to improve outcomes for youth leaving government care in Vancouver. TRRUST CI was established in 2014 as a community-led solution when youth in care and the agencies who support them identified that the lack of support for youth aging out of the foster care system resulted in a gateway to homelessness. Interim funding from a Central City Foundation grant this year ensured the momentum gained by TRRUST CI to date, as well as the funding secured for future years, would be harnessed by this collective to build on their successes and bring us closer to the critically needed long-term, sustainable systems change and measurable improvements in the health and well-being of youth transitioning out of care in our community.

### **Coordinating Personal Protection Equipment**

As the COVID-19 pandemic began to unfold, BC Women's Health Foundation engaged Central City Foundation to assist with coordinating the donation of personal protective equipment throughout the inner city. As a result, many of our community partners received these essential supplies for front-line staff use and for distribution to women throughout the community. These supplies included 68,800 masks, 400 face shields, 13,700 pairs of gloves and 10,944 bottles of hand sanitizer.

### **Cell phones to stay connected**

Central City Foundation secured and coordinated, in partnership with the DTES Response Group, the donation of 1,053 mobile phones (including 6-month usage plans) from TELUS and SPARC. These mobile phones were distributed to peer workers to support their efforts to relay important information throughout the community, coordinate services such as food and health care for DTES residents while they were staying home. Some of these phones were also provided to community members who would otherwise have no method of connecting with their supports.

# BEING SAFE: RESPIRE CENTRES FOR WOMEN

With COVID restrictions, respite centres for women in the inner city needed more than ever



Women in Vancouver's inner city are not just dealing with COVID-19, but also a crisis of gender-based violence on top of the poisoned drug crisis. Countless studies have shown that community-based services specifically serving women and non-binary people provide essential safety and security to access critical programs from counselling and support to overdose prevention and addiction treatment. That's why Central City Foundation stepped up right away to work with community partners to set up respite centres for women and quickly brought funding to ensure more of these could be operating.

Because of this spring's public health restrictions, many women's centres and support organizations had to reduce services that were already highly in demand, leaving many women in the inner city lacking access to safe spaces where they can get community services, addiction and treatment help.





"COVID has laid bare inequities in the inner city, and made it all the more visible that there has been a loss of safe spaces for women, with tragic consequences," says Jennifer Johnstone, President and CEO of Central City Foundation. "That's why Central City Foundation acted quickly to help address the situation, and why we want other funders and organizations to recognize these needs and act to help facilitate community-led solutions to offer women places of respite."

Central City Foundation was able to approve a large grant to Atira

Women's Resource Society to set up SisterSquare. This enclosed, heated tent is staffed 24/7 to provide information, overdose prevention, food, safe bathrooms and showers, access to support services, counselling, legal advocacy and more.

"We're seeing about 90-100 women at SisterSquare throughout the day," says Anne M'Mithiaru, Director of non-residential programs for Atira. "We are able to offer women counselling services, housing services, legal advocate services. The peer support workers in the tent can also

assist the women in accessing medical services, as well as harm reduction supplies. Some of the women are coming just to take a nap, knowing they'll be safe here."

WISH Drop-in Centre has also opened a respite tent at the back of their building for women.

"As soon as restrictions related to COVID hit and places started to close or reduce their hours, we immediately started to see the impact," says Mebrat Beyene, Executive Director of WISH. "There were just no spaces to be – no spaces to access meals,

spaces of respite and spaces for sanitation. For the women that come to WISH, it's pre-existing issues that now have been laid completely bare and that have been deeply exacerbated."

WISH was able to rally funding and community support to set up two large marquee tents on their back lot, with picnic tables, a washroom trailer, and funding to keep both the back lot and their drop-in centre, with distancing requirements, open 24/7.

"There has just been so much increased desperation and vulnerability that women are facing right now, so women are grateful just to have a place to come and know that they are not going to get kicked out," adds Beyene. "We're able to provide a continuity of care that we couldn't before, and that was desperately needed before, regardless of COVID."

The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre has been able to re-open their drop-in centre to offer respite as well, although with some distancing requirements. They have set up tables outside their Centre as well to extend their space and offer more women a place to access services, get some food or clothing, use bathrooms, showers, and sit and relax.

"What's so hard for the women is the level of violence on the street that has escalated since COVID, says Kate Gibson, Acting Executive Director of the Centre. "That's a big stressor for the women. Also, the loneliness. It's hard on people who aren't marginalized, but it's very hard on women who are marginalized."

The Centre is slowly bringing back volunteers to the Centre and doing some programs, like

a recent socially-distant movie night. "It's much better than it was, but who knows when we'll ever be full on again," adds Gibson."

While these examples of community-led solutions offer women respite in these difficult and dangerous times, Central City Foundation is calling for more spaces like these to open and provide a safe space for inner-city women.

"Funders, governments, businesses and others need to move quickly to create more safe spaces for women," adds Johnstone. "This is a problem that existed before COVID-19 but has now been made much worse. It is possible to act quickly to support community-led solutions, as we've proved with SisterSquare. Others need to take the same approach. Especially as we consider the impacts of a second wave."



**"What we've seen during this time of COVID is that there is the ability to pivot quickly, to move resources around and respond. We don't want to go back to the normal. For us in the DTES, the normal was hugely dysfunctional, dangerous and broken. We are hoping that there is a bit of an understanding of a different baseline and that all of these programs that have come online as a result of responding to COVID, remain in place and that this type of community-led response remains the norm."**

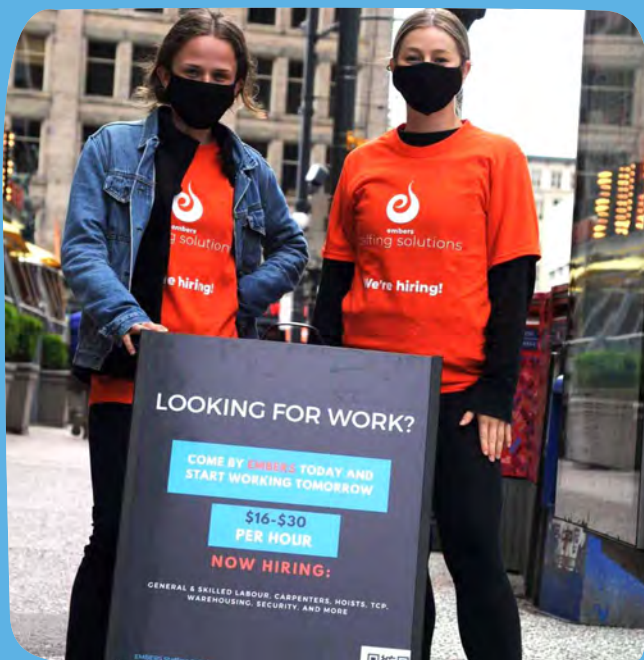
— Mebrat Beyene, Executive Director of WISH

CENTRAL CITY  
FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2020

**With your support, we are helping literally thousands of vulnerable people in the inner city stay safe, fed and cared for through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

From safe, clean and affordable housing to respite spaces for women to food security and employment programs—you have helped people in our community cope with the current challenges while building 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 continuing 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.

## BE KIND

# \$1,000

Will help provide employment for people who are helping to feed the inner city through this crisis

## BE CALM

# \$500

Will help provide peer support for those in the inner city who are suffering isolation due to social distancing

## BE SAFE

# \$250

Will help provide pandemic-appropriate respite centres for women

Please support Central City Foundation by donating today at [centralcityfoundation.ca](http://centralcityfoundation.ca). If you have questions or would prefer to make an offline donation, please feel free to contact our office at 604.683.2263 or [development@centralcityfoundation.ca](mailto:development@centralcityfoundation.ca)



# HOW YOU HELPED

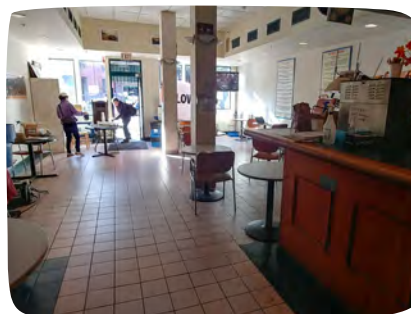
At Central City Foundation, our grants are as diverse as the needs of our community partners. Together, we're helping people in the inner city cope with the current challenges while building a more hopeful future.



## Dugout Drop-in Centre

The Dugout is a community drop-in centre that Central City Foundation helped establish in 1967, and that continues to assist people in the Downtown Eastside. It provides a crucial place to break the isolation of many marginalized people in the community. The Dugout is the only soup kitchen serving breakfast seven days a week. When COVID restrictions took effect, the Dugout quickly pivoted their services to provide their daily food support as takeout. In addition to expediting the annual grant that provides

operational funding for the organization and its programs, Central City Foundation also arranged for access to borrowed tents from Four Directions Trading Post to use to provide some shelter for this outdoor distribution.



## Atira Women's Resource Society– Sisters Square

Women in Vancouver's inner city are not just dealing with COVID-19 but also a persistent epidemic of gender-based violence on top of the poisoned drug crisis. With the closure or severe restrictions on usage of the already inadequate safe spaces for women in the inner city, women have had very few options to escape violence and access critical services. The COVID-19 pandemic has made a terrible situation even worse. That's why Central City Foundation stepped up with a \$100,000 emergency grant to Atira Women's Resource Centre to help SisterSquare, an enclosed, heated tent that is staffed 24/7 to provide information, overdose prevention, food, safe bathrooms and showers, access to support services, counselling, legal advocacy and more.

## EMBERS and Cleanstart

EMBERS (Eastside Movement for Business and Economic Renewal Society) provides economic and employment opportunities for people living on low incomes. Over the past 18 years, EMBERS has helped thousands of people overcome employment barriers and lead productive, fulfilling lives. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the people EMBERS had placed in the construction sector lost their employment. At the same time, Cleanstart, a community organization that provides rubbish removal, pest control and cleaning services, found themselves in need of additional employees to service several new contracts to clean at SROs and other locations



in the Downtown Eastside. Central City Foundation donors made a grant that was matched by our friends at Vancity Credit Union to EMBERS to provide funding for Cleanstart to hire and equip EMBERS staff for this work. Through this partnership, EMBERS provided workers with more than 4,100 hours of employment, giving more than 60 people work opportunities, eventually providing 20 workers with full-time employment.

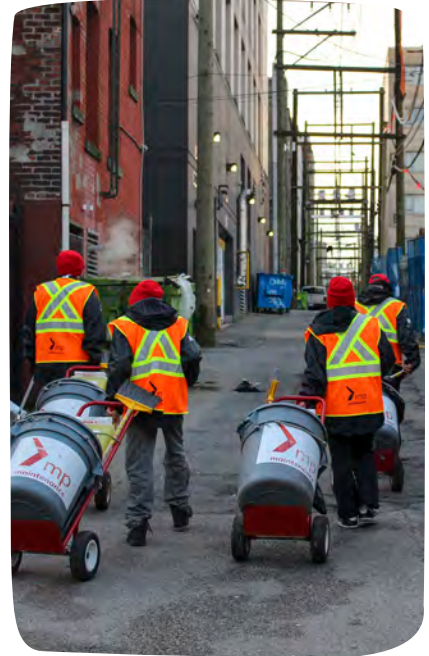
## Sole Food Street Farms

Each year, on large parking lots in the heart of the city, Sole Food Farms produces 25 tons of fresh food. In the wake of COVID-19 public health measures, many of their usual markets collapsed. With the closing of restaurants, the flow of donated food provided by restaurants to the inner city also decreased. In response, Sole Food Farms decided to keep the farm productive and continue providing employment while helping to feed Vancouver's most vulnerable people through donations of produce to front-line organizations serving the inner city. Thanks to a grant from Central City Foundation donors, Sole Food was able to purchase an upright cooler to ensure food quality and provide them with more flexibility and capacity to distribute food to the inner city through front line community partners including Potluck Catering Society and HAVE Café Society.



### Potluck Café Society

Potluck Café Society transforms lives by creating jobs and providing healthy food for people living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Potluck led efforts to bring together social enterprises like HAVE Café Society with local restaurants and businesses to provide 1,200 meals a day to 30 private SROs and feed unhoused community members. Not only did this collaboration keep the community fed, but it also kept people working. Working with funders and other philanthropic organizations, Potluck and their partners secured funding and support to serve more than 140,000 meals served in two months, including meals from A Better Life Foundation/Save On Meats. A grant from Central City Foundation donors provided a much-needed contribution toward the renovation of their new location.



### Mission Possible

Mission Possible provides connection and purpose through training and employment for DTES residents with barriers to employment. With an increase in demand due to COVID-19, Mission Possible added additional workshops, including a newly designed women-only training and employment program. Central City Foundation provided a grant that helped fund the purchase of women's workwear for the first 20 participants.





### **Thunderbird Neighbourhood Association**

Thunderbird Neighbourhood Association provides education, cultural, recreational and social service programs to the community. This neighbourhood includes many low-income families. The association provides access to food services and teaches life skills through community-based recreation programs. Their Youth Incentive Program provides youth with a positive environment to gain employment skills, weekly life-skills workshops, volunteering and leadership experience. A grant from Central City Foundation donors was used to purchase kitchen and youth room equipment that allowed for the expansion of their family, youth and seniors programming.

### **Vancouver Second Mile Society - DTES Seniors Centre**

The Vancouver Second Mile Society is dedicated to improving the quality of life of seniors through its drop-in centres and outreach programs in Vancouver. The DTES Seniors Centre has been running since 1958. With the rapid pace of redevelopment of buildings in the area, seniors

in the neighbourhood are finding fewer and fewer safe places to meet and find social support together. On average, 70 seniors visit the DTES Seniors Centre as their community living room daily and receive affordable and nutritious meals. Their drop-in program helps reduce seniors' isolation and connects low-income and marginalized seniors to social recreational programs, educational and health-related services, community resources and peer/staff support. These connections, in turn, help to promote community development and capacity building. A grant from Central City Foundation donors helped purchase furniture, recreation equipment and a freezer that will be used to store food donated to the program. The storefront was also updated to improve visibility and guide seniors to the centre.

### **WISH Drop-in Society**

The mission of WISH is to improve the health, safety and well-being of women who are involved in Vancouver's street-based sex work. For 35 years, WISH has been a refuge and essential point of contact for women whose lives are characterized by trauma, violence, addiction and extreme poverty. WISH is the only overnight drop-in centre in Vancouver supporting sex workers, who are vulnerable to physical, emotional and sexual violence, 365 nights a year. And, most recently, WISH has opened the first shelter serving women involved in street-based sex work. Thanks to Central City Foundation donors, WISH received a grant to replace their ageing, mismatched and oversized office furniture, allowing them to accommodate their growing team in a more productive and functioning workspace.



## **THERE'S MORE!**

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

# From our history

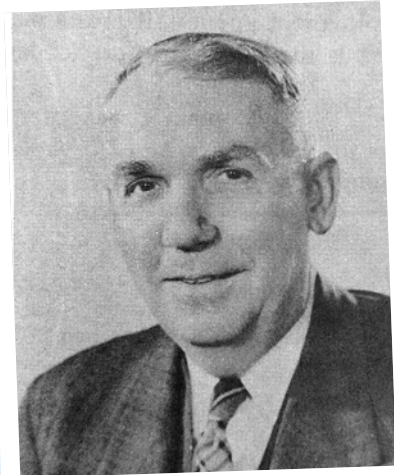
Dr. Howard Turnbull James served as president of the Central City Mission (predecessor of the Foundation) for more than 20 years.

Born in Manitoba in 1898. Howard and his family moved to a farm at Main Street and 12th Avenue when he was six years old. Henry, his father, was one of the original founders and board members of the Central City Mission in 1907.

After serving in the First World War, Howard graduated in mining engineering from UBC in 1921. He married Ruth Layton after graduation, and they had three children. He went on to earn a Masters in geology, a PhD from Harvard and enjoyed a successful career in the mining industry.

Throughout his life, Howard was deeply involved with his church and community. but it is his legacy with Central City Mission that stands out. Following in his father's footsteps, Howard was president of Central City Mission for nearly two decades, overseeing the expansion of the Mission's work beyond the city centre to include foster homes for young people in need of help.

In 1979, Howard tragically died in a car accident. He left behind daughter Margaret and sons Donald and Robert, along with eight grandchildren and many great grandchildren. "Howard died at the age of 80, active and well to the end." said his friend Henry Gunning at his memorial. Henry's son, Donald and daughter-in-law Patricia are still regular donors to Central City Foundation.



**"A private organization, such as the Mission, can undertake the various projects without waiting for legislation, city council, and red tape, as long as it has sufficient financial support from the public to get it started and establishes its worth. Our experience has been that once the value of the project is established, there are public funds available to carry a major part of the operating load. We then take full advantage of these funds as long as we are assured of complete independence of operation. This provides a flexibility of action which could not otherwise be obtained and seems to be valued by agencies with whom we deal."**

— Dr. Howard Turnbull James, 1967,  
Central City Mission midterm report

CENTRAL CITY  
FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2020



**With your support, we are helping literally thousands of vulnerable people in the inner city stay safe, fed and cared for through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

From safe, clean and affordable housing to respite spaces for women to food security and employment programs—you have helped people in our community cope with the current challenges while building 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 continuing challenges and opportunities to improve lives, and we need your help to meet them.

Please support Central City Foundation by donating today at [centralcityfoundation.ca](http://centralcityfoundation.ca). If you have questions or would prefer to make an offline donation, please feel free to contact our office 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.

On the traditional and unceded  
ancestral homelands of the  
xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam),  
Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish),  
Stó:lō and Selilwəta? / Selilwítlh  
(Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

**CENTRAL CITY  
FOUNDATION**