

Heart 2 Heart

From the heart...

Elspeth Erickson, ICCS Staff

So many of us have struggled in 2020 – being far from loved ones, “socially” - distanced even from friends who live close, living with frightening uncertainties, struggling with masks as our glasses steam up, struggling to make ends meet as businesses fail – difficult things.



Yet there remain so many in our community for whom, even with the end of COVID in sight, there remain even more unimaginable difficulties ahead.

Today I met a man called “Rob” who had set up his shelter under the eave of a building I know. He had his meagre belongings in a cart, most of them soaked through from the ever constant rain we see on Vancouver Island. Rob was kind, and decent, and grateful for someone to talk to. When a friendly police officer came along and told him he had to move on, he was not belligerent, he was not angry, he was not slow to respond. He smiled gently and started to pack his things to move out into the rain, apologising, cleaning up not only his own things but the mess left by a friend who had stopped by to chat with him in the night. He may go to one of the city’s shelters tonight, but now, at 9 in the morning, he faces a day out in the driving rain. He’ll arrive at a shelter – if he manages to make his way there – soaking wet, vulnerable to chills, cold and alone, with nothing but the prospect of another rainy day tomorrow.

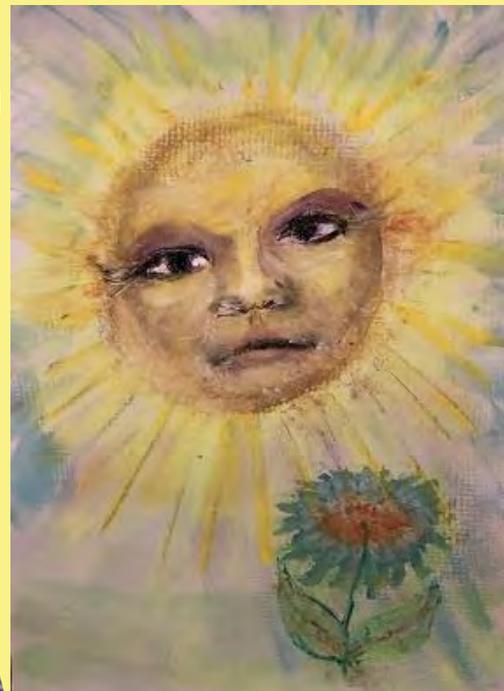
There are an estimated 700 + people on the streets in Nanaimo today. Investment is being made in more housing alternatives, and lots of agencies and organisations and individuals are trying to help. Together we can and will make a difference....

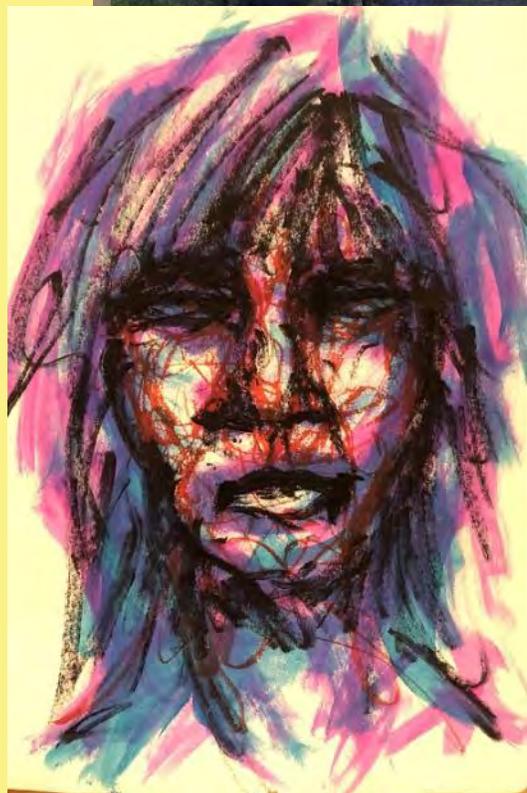
But for Rob, today, as he goes out into the rain with just a plastic tarp covering the things in his shopping cart cupboard, tomorrow will be much like today: wet, lonely, lost.



Newcastle Art Show

There was an explosion of art, recently, at Newcastle Place. Clients and staff alike came together to share and show their creativity, celebrating art and community!





Christmas giving

This time of year is one of sharing and care. We have been moved to see the incredible generosity of so many of you this year, as you have spread care and love to our clients. Thank you!



to

Happy givers and recipients!



A thanksgiving meal donated by the kids and staff from Katie's Korner, Old Town



Socks from the North Nanaimo Rotary Club!





ICCS was the grateful nominee for the Helping Wheels initiative in December—a collaboration between Nanaimo Mitsubishi, Nissan of Nanaimo and Nanaimo News Now.



We are also so very grateful for the many donors who send money through cheque or on line donations to keep our programmes running. Your generosity makes a difference, and brings hope!



ICCS received a donation of PPE from the national “Masking Together initiative—keeping our valuable staff and clients safe!



Coldest night is coming!!!

It is that time of year again! Coldest Night of the year is happening! The date is set for February 20th, with options for walking in person on the day (COVID permitting—stay tuned!) or walking “virtually” on your own or as a part of a team any time during February. Go to cnoy.org to sign up, join a walking team, donate, or find a map for your virtual walk!



Want to know more about what “virtual” walking is? Go to our ICCS-CNOY info page at: <https://www.islandcrisiscaresociety.ca/coldest-night-of-the-year-2021/>

This year’s Coldest Night of the Year theme is particularly compelling—talking about how all of us are different, but we need each one to fit into the puzzle to complete our community. Why not join in—walk and raise funds to support the most vulnerable people in our community!

