

ISSUE 2, OCTOBER 2021

Heart to Heart

A NEWSLETTER BY ISLAND CRISIS CARE SOCIETY

AGM

THANKS TO OUR DONORS - NANCY DAY, KATIE'S KORNER, ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

BLUEBANK

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FROM THE HEART

When autumn leaves fall, we enter a season of reflection. Chill in the air outside; warmth in our homes and in the gathering of family for festivities and sharing.

During this time of year, though, driving down the street in the often-driving rain, we are also reminded of the many people in our community who don't share in the warmth. We see them, standing forlorn on street corners, hunkered down in doorways, pushing carts down alleyways. We turn our heads away, unsure what to do, how to respond, how to care...

While the clients in ICCS programs have shelter for the moment, each one has known the fear of not having a place to lay their heads for the night out of the rain, and each could easily end up there again...

In this season of Thanksgiving, it is a time to remember that all of us deserve a hope for a better future, and that hope, when shared, can warm us all.



In our 2020-2021 Annual Report, ICCS went back to our roots with a Re-Focus on who we are, the people we serve whose stories are the reason we go on working every day, and the community that we are a part of.

The past year was unexpected for all of us – a global pandemic ravaged our lives and our expectations for the future, and the on-going need globally and within our own community impacted our hearts and minds on a daily basis as we did our best to adjust to our “new normal”.

Yet at the same time, this year allowed a time of new reflection, of new perspectives, and of new hope. Communities came together like never before, rallying in new ways, and even while isolated, our collective vision went outwards to others.

For Island Crisis Care Society, the past year has been one of similar reflection, of response and of Re-Focus on the clients and the community we serve.

While we at ICCS like to think systemically, seeing the possibilities and the big picture for our clients, for individuals within our programs the focus is on their personal journeys, their stories and their own personal choices. For ICCS staff who work on the front lines of our programs, the year has been about recommitment, despite uncertainties, to the work we do and the people we serve.



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AGM - REIFOCUS



SHEILA MALCOLMSON, VIOLET HAYES, TREATS FROM THE NANAIMO BAKERY, CHOCOLATES FROM THE BAKERY, SAURYA MISHRA (NANAIMO BAKERY MANAGER) AND CORRIE CORFIELD (from top left to bottom right)

On August 19th, ICCS staff, members and friends gathered for our Annual General Meeting at the Nanaimo Bakery and Cafe, the location newly acquired by Rising Hope Services Inc., a subsidiary of ICCS. It was exciting to see so many ICCS employees and board members joined on a beautiful summer evening.

Before the actual meeting commenced, people socialized, enjoying delicious baked goods provided by the bakery and checking out the bakery. As well, there was a table with handmade goods for sale provided by Handmade for Hope.

Sheila Malcolmson joined us for the meeting and brought us greetings from Victoria.

Minutes from last year's AGM were reviewed and adopted, the auditor presented his in-depth report after which the Executive Director, Violet Hayes, gave her report. This was followed by the appointment of directors, staff recognition, new developments presented by Corrie Corfield, Assistant Executive Director, including a presentation of Project Rise, the ICCS chaplaincy program and a screening of "Everybody has a face".

To see the video or read the full Annual Report, go to our website islandcrisiscaresociety.ca



THANKS TO OUR DONORS

We are very grateful for all of the wonderful friends and donors who give generously to our programs and clients. Every donation is appreciated, and makes a positive difference. We can't mention them all, but here are a few highlights that show some of the generosity we have seen through the past quarter.

NANCY DAY



NANCY DAY AND VIOLET HAYES



In September, Parksville artist Nancy Day made an incredibly generous donation of paintings for display in ICCS programs - bringing beauty and hope for our clients.

The five paintings will go on display in the new Samaritan Place, and in the new ICCS offices on 2025 Bowen Road, We are grateful!

KATIE'S KORNER



AT KATIE'S KORNER



Special thanks to the staff, children and families of Katie's Korner in Nanaimo, who came together to donate 2 turkeys and all of the fixings of a sumptuous Thanksgiving feast for ICCS clients. Thank you for creating such a wonderful celebration!

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Through the past several months, clients and staff at Safe Harbour House have been blessed by regular donation of food vouchers from the Nanaimo chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Originally responding to a request for 2 litres of milk a day to supplement their menu, the St. Vincent de Paul Society stepped forward in generosity offering not just milk, but vouchers to supplement the monthly groceries and menu of Safe Harbour clients on an on-going basis. The attached picture shows some of the wonderful things the program team were able to collect on a recent grocery run, thanks to this generous contribution.



TURNING THANKFULNESS INTO ACTION

#BlueBank2021

CCS has celebrated the Thanksgiving season through the past few years with a unique campaign known as “BlueBank” – named for the cute little blue houses that it traditionally distributed to allow people to collect loonies and toonies during the leadup to Thanksgiving, as they contemplated all they were grateful for.

Though the “banks” themselves have figured less prominently in this time of reflection during the past two years, we still held the BlueBank “campaign” encouraging people to pause and remember the blessings of home, family and well-being – and to be grateful.

We also used the time to think about some in our community for whom the season is not such a thankful time. Instead, it brings memories of pain, loneliness and isolation that may feel overwhelming. It can even be a moment of fear, when days get cold, and shelter is scarce.

The BlueBank campaign gives us all have the chance to be thankful in a tangible way and to reach out a hand of support to others in our community for whom the season of thankfulness may be bleak, turning our Thankfulness into Action.

It's not too late to take part! Go to <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/BlueBank2021> to be a part of #BlueBank2021 and turn your Thankfulness into Action.

PROJECT RISE UPDATE



PROJECT RISE



STEPHEN COCHRANE
Project Rise Coordinator



Program Participants



*Baking Workshop Instructor teaching how to make
apple crisp*

Project Rise is a new ICCS program aimed to support people who have experienced trauma in their lives move forward into independence. The focus of Project Rise is to deliver pre-employment and employment skills training and work placement opportunities to people who have experienced homelessness, but are now ready to re-integrate fully into community life.

Program participants are identified and referred through existing ICCS programs and partner organizations, but actual participation in Project Rise will be completely voluntary. Each training and placement program is tailored to individual capacities and potential trajectory, and the Project Rise Coordinator and team will work on unique case plans for each participating client to ensure optimal self direction.

Project Rise components have three distinct phases of intervention.

Phase 1 – Life skills and connection

Phase 2 – Pre-employment training

Phase 3 – Work experience placements

Project Rise swung into action in August, with the planning and design of the first work experience training and preparation for work placements at Orca Place in Parksville. After several weeks of planning centred on curriculum development, and preparation of materials and learning resources, 6 candidates were selected to dive into the new program. Commencing on September 20th, the first weeks of the program were dedicated to group-based learning and workshops, leading into work experience modules to prepare participants for potential future employment.

Without questions, this opportunity is life changing for participants, allowing them to move from uncertainty towards confidence and skills development. As the program has commenced with the first participants, other clients at Orca Place have started to notice and expressed interest in future rounds of Project Rise training.

STORIES

A STEP AHEAD

BY KATIE COLE, *Former Communications Intern*



“He’s strutting around here somewhere...”

The words hang in the air as I accompany one of Newcastle’s program managers on my first attempt to interview Jay, the recent recipient of an anonymous donation of work boots.

In response to a Community Wishlist ad in the Nanaimo News Bulletin requesting donation of work clothing for clients re-entering the workforce, a donor decided to take action. She priced what a pair of men’s steel toed boots would cost and sent the cash so

the program could furnish one client with footwear for work.

For many ICCS clients, work has long been an out of reach dream. While some have worked in the past, many have been out of the working world for a long time due to the changing circumstances that have led them at last to ICCS programs. Others have never been able to hold down a job. Through the support they receive in ICCS programs and by following their case plans towards recovery, reaching out to a job is a significant milestone towards independence and hope.

“When we were thinking of who should get this gift, we knew who was currently working,” explains Nora, a member of Newcastle staff. “Talking to Jay, he let us know he was just waiting for the call back [for a new job].”

“He was probably the best person to receive them,” says Nora with a smile, “He’s just so grateful for everything. You could tell getting those work boots made his day, and [by extension] they made mine as well.”

It’s evident that Jay’s excited to get working, though his start date has been temporarily delayed due to an unusual heat wave across the Island. He has found a job framing houses – familiar to him as he’s done similar work in the past. He estimates that he’s framed approximately 250 houses in Nanaimo in past years.

“I could do it in my sleep...” he jokes.

When asked if there was anything he’d like to say to the anonymous donor, his face breaks out in a grin.

“Oh my goodness... something better than ‘thank you.’ It feels weird to have a new pair on my feet for work. I’ve always gotten second-hand.”

“They’re highly appreciated... respectfully, thank you.”

BACK TO NATURE

BY SANDRA FOX, *Manager Newcastle Place*



On a beautiful sunny June day, Newcastle outreach staff Nora and Donna took 2 clients from Newcastle Supportive Housing for a field trip to North Island Wildlife Recovery Center. The Center is a non-profit and were kind enough to donate free passes to their rehabilitation facility to ICCS for some of our residents!

Newcastle residents saved up pop cans which were exchanged for some cash and that bought burgers and fries at Papa’s Burgers in Parksville for the whole, hungry crew after the wildlife tour.

Highlights for clients Susan and Yvonne were the bears and the beautiful eagles.

The day was enjoyed by all. Yvonne told outreach staff later: “That was probably the best day of my life!”

FORTHCOMING

- Newcastle Art Show
- Coldest Night of the Year

Christmas is just around the corner, and at this time of year we get lots of queries about gathering gifts for our clients. This year we will be putting together special gift bags with the hope that all clients will have something special for the holidays. If you are interested in learning more, contact development@iccare.ca