

APRIL 2023

The April News

Sanctuary Youth Centre



A ROOM OF ONES OWN

If it takes a village to raise a child, in Victoria it also takes a strong advocate to secure them housing. For Sarah (not her real name) Bella was such an advocate this spring, helping her with paperwork, transportation to intake meetings, obtaining access to a social worker and finally, keys to a studio apartment in late April. For an 18 year old female previously sleeping rough on Pandora, the ability to lock her door and be warm, safe and dry is a monumental step towards health and healing. Sanctuary celebrated with Sarah, splashing out on housewarming items such as basic pantry items, bedding and other cozy items. Through this, Bella was able to build a relationship with MCDF, and as a result of this we now have a social worker who will liaise with staff directly.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Piano and violin music heralding spring's arrival wafted through the air on Saturday April 15th. We are thankful for the musical talents of James Malmberg and Kinza Tyrrell and generosity of Church of Our Lord, who undertook the concert as a fundraiser for Sanctuary's Let's Roll (Van) project.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



“Starbucks is here!” No, it’s not DoorDash, it’s Aaron! Discovering Starbucks regularly donates unsold food to charities, Aaron collects items from three locations across Greater Victoria and delivers it to Sanctuary each Thursday. These prepackaged snacks and sandwiches are especially useful for distribution during outreach duties. Thanks, Aaron, for engaging in this initiative on Sanctuary’s behalf!



*Sanctuary Youth Centre
imagines future where all youth
lead healthy and fulfilling lives*



SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

Students from Northside Christian School and Pacific Christian School put love into action at Sanctuary in April. Six students from Northside gave the centre a deep clean, and we received meals from the Grade 7 Leadership group and Senior Food Studies classes at PCS. Additionally, Darin was privileged to present his story to the grade 12 classes at PCS. Thank you schools and students for these connections and acts of love!



Building off the positive reactions to Isaac's hikes, Bella has reshaped Wellness Wednesdays as an invitation only program

for youth who are actively seeking to get or stay clean. The first gathering was filled with discussions around what the youth wanted, included a favorite meal (poutine!) and games.

LET'S GATHER

Sanctuary happily hosted our first post-pandemic drop-in volunteer appreciation evening in early April. It was great to reconnect, see new and old faces and enjoy a meal together. Given the concerning uptick in drug toxicity, all staff and volunteers received Naloxone training at the event.

LEADING INFLUENCE

Two board and four staff persons participated in Leading Influence's first post-pandemic MLA Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday April 25th. Seated with MLAs Suzie Chant and Adam Walker we heard an amazing speaker and enjoyed meeting with other faith based organizations.



HAIR LOVE

Youth received some TLC in April, with the resumption of haircuts and general hair care. Thanks, "Barber Jeff", for volunteering your time and abilities for our youth on a regular basis.



Let's Get Ready to ROLL!

Sanctuary is fundraising for the purchase of a centre van. With this van, we aim to develop greater Resiliency in the lives of youth we serve. We hope to do this by getting youth Outdoors, better perform day-to-day centre operations (Logistics) and facilitate Learning opportunities between youth and mentors.

Get involved: <https://www.sanctuaryyouth.org/donate>

