



Stepping Up to Create a Two-for-One Solution

In times of crisis, individuals and organizations show leadership by stepping up to fill a need. As we faced the initial onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, one such leader was Frank Giustra, CEO of the Fiore Group, and founder of The Giustra Foundation.

“We’ve seen this compassion and generosity in our neighbourhoods, nation and globally throughout this pandemic.”

Frank, a long-time supporter of Streetohome, as well as a founding board member, immediately partnered with Savoury Chef and Streetohome to provide a meal distribution program for seniors who were experiencing the brunt of the virus.

“We’re achieving two things – feeding seniors and helping them to self-isolate and avoid venturing out to buy groceries or meals; and helping to sustain employment for those in the hospitality sector that has been hard hit by the crisis,” says Frank.

“The idea came to me in the middle of the night. Vancouver, with its many restaurants and catering companies, had an

immense capacity to feed those who were most vulnerable and could benefit from limiting their contact with the greater population.”

Frank describes The Giustra Foundation as having a specific approach – get it done quickly and efficiently.

“The quick action and cooperation from all made this idea come to fruition,”

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says Lara Dauphinee, Managing Director of the Fiore Group, director of The Giustra Foundation, and a Streetohome Board Member. “With the immediate funding approval from Frank Giustra, and assistance from the city manager’s office and B.C. Housing, we identified vulnerable seniors living in SROs and low-income buildings. We discussed the program concept with Streetohome Chair, John McLernon, and CEO, Rob Turnbull, and within a few days Savoury Chef was delivering meals to the senior’s buildings.”

“Savoury Chef has had a solid track record in providing affordable, nourishing meals for those in need for several years,” says Anna Wallner, President and Co-owner of Savoury Chef. “When people’s food supply



is threatened, you can’t wait for many days or weeks for a program to be developed – you have to act quickly. We had the systems in place for this type of meal service and we were able to rapidly scale our operations to meet the need.”

“We’ve seen compassion and generosity in our neighbourhoods, our nation and globally throughout this pandemic. After this crisis, I hope we emerge as more empathetic and caring societies,” says Lara.

The Giustra Foundation Streetohome COVID-19 Emergency Meal Distribution Initiative provided daily meals to 310 vulnerable seniors living in non-profit housing. Since its start on April 6, 2020, to the end of the program in May, the program delivered 24,780 meals.

“A friend once told me that early when a crisis hits, the first thing we do is take care of our family. Then you look after your community, and once it’s okay, you look at the rest of the world,” says Frank. “We knew there would be a lot of pain and that we needed to help in anyway we can.”



Savoury Chef prepared nutritious meals for vulnerable seniors living in non-profit housing.

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National Bank Delivers Meals to Families Across Canada

On a sunny day in Vancouver, three National Bank Private Banking 1859 employees were busy loading their cars with freshly prepared meals. The meals were a part of National Bank’s Canada-wide community event to unite employees and clients alike in supporting their local communities by providing nutritious food to vulnerable families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This is a challenging time for everyone, and it’s moments like this where we all need to play a leadership role,” says Darwin Schandor, Vice-President of Private Banking 1859. “We need to be there for the community to ensure that no one is left behind.”

National Bank has supported Streethome since 2016 and

Darwin has played a role on Streethome’s Employment Access Committee to provide his perspective on how the business community can play a strong role in addressing homelessness.

“During this global crisis, I can only imagine homelessness and unemployment will worsen.

When the meal delivery initiative was conceptualized, my first thought was to call Rob Turnbull and gain his insight on where National Bank’s commitment could have the greatest impact,” says Darwin. “YWCA Metro Vancouver provides vital programs and services to families, and helping women and children during



Darwin Schandor and Rob Turnbull drop off prepared meals to the YWCA Crabtree Corner.

these uncertain times resonated with us.”

Partnering with Emad Yacoub, CEO, Glowbal Restaurant Group, National Bank delivered three-course meals to YWCA families. It was hoped that for one night, families would get a temporary reprieve from the stress of living under the threat of COVID-19.

“Emad is such a strong leader in the restaurant community and his restaurants have been providing meals to frontline workers during this crisis. It was a natural fit that we would connect with him to help facilitate this support initiative,” says Darwin.

“Now is the most important time in all our lifetime to help, and together, we will all get through this.”

A Message From Our CEO

As our city begins to re-open, we asked our Board Chair, John McLernon, “What makes an organization a leader during these uncertain times?”

His response? “The ability to step forward without hesitation.”

We hope that you enjoyed this issue and meeting some of the leaders who stepped up without hesitation to provide meal programs to vulnerable individuals, including seniors, and women and families in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Not only are these leaders helping those at-risk of homelessness, but they are also

ensuring that local businesses are able to keep going, thereby limiting unemployment that may contribute towards additional homelessness.

Our community is stronger because many have stepped up and demonstrated the incredible leadership needed during this crisis. Thank you to all who contributed their time, knowledge and resources to these initiatives – I am grateful for your leadership and generosity.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Turnbull'.

Rob Turnbull
President & CEO

Thank You

Thank you to our donors, healthcare, housing, frontline and outreach workers, and volunteers who have given their time, resources and compassion to help various COVID-19 efforts in Vancouver.

Together, we are changing lives and building better futures.

about us

Streethome is changing lives and building better futures by working with the private sector to broker and leverage new funding, innovative ideas, and opportunities for collaboration between public and nonprofit sectors to implement sustainable solutions to homelessness in Vancouver. Through these collaborations, individuals are able to realize their housing, health & wellness, legal & advocacy, education, employment & volunteering, and community & belonging goals, empowering those at-risk or with lived experience of homelessness to move along their preferred life path.

Homelessness is a community challenge. Join us and become a part of the solution.

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