



A New Opportunity to Pursue Recovery

The clear sound of a singing bowl brings everyone’s attention to Damian Murphy, manager of the new Recovery Café pop-up located at 637 East Hastings Street in Vancouver. He asks for a moment of reflection and then proceeds with a few announcements before members come together to participate in the day’s workshops and recovery circle.

The Recovery Café is a place of belonging where people pursuing recovery – whether it’s from poverty, homelessness, mental health challenges, loneliness, physical injury, trauma, unemployment, or a substance use disorder – can participate in an intentional

community of mutual support, and work towards their goals.

“For many who have lost everything, this will have a huge impact – just to be a part of something and to belong,” says Damian. “Very often, people in recovery are isolated and separated from the community because of shame and stigma, and this can be detrimental to one’s goals and aspirations. It is through community and knowing others deeply that one’s recovery becomes possible and can be maintained and sustained.”

An evidence-based recovery model originating in Seattle and replicated in over 30

Recovery Café Core Interventions



Recovery Circles

a mandatory weekly meeting with a trained facilitator and 8-10 peers where individuals hold themselves and each other accountable for achieving their goals

School of Recovery

Life skill development, activities and classes such as budgeting, job-readiness, conflict resolution, meditation & mindfulness, creative writing, walking, gardening and choir

Service navigation

of complementary support services and opportunities in Vancouver

Communal meals

Nutritious lunch and/or dinner

In-reach services

including health, legal, veterinary, and social services

communities throughout the United States, the Recovery Café will open a permanent location at 620 Clark Drive in Vancouver this summer – the first in Canada. In the interim, its operator, The Kettle Society, opened a pop-up location, thanks to a handful of donors who came together to ensure individuals could benefit from the model immediately, and begin working to improve their lives.

“Whenever we engage in a project, we want to focus on efforts that promise a broad impact on improving lives. The Recovery Café is a space where individuals can find a place to belong, get help navigating support services, attend life skills workshops, and connect with others working on their personal goals. This opportunity for daily structured meaningful activity will enrich their lives,” says Lara Dauphinee, Streethome Board Member and Director of Giustra Foundation, which contributed

towards the pop-up operations seed funding.

The Recovery Café not only positively affects its members, but also housing and homelessness service providers, and local neighbourhoods by providing a new resource and opportunity for marginalized people to come inside, enjoy a specialty coffee and experience hope. Members are supported through a set of core interventions, including recovery circles with a trained facilitator – groups of 8-10 peers who hold themselves and each other accountable for achieving their goals each week.

“It gives you a different way of relating to others, to create that sense of belongingness and mutual concern for one another, and that’s a big part of what makes it successful!”

- Damian Murphy

“Working through one’s struggles in the presence of others who are there to listen, provide suggestions, and unconditional support can be transformative. These circles are an opportunity to share one’s challenges and successes, and to express intentions for the coming week,” says Damian.

Members are a part of the same circle with the same people each week, creating a community within the bigger Recovery Café community. This helps create a deep bond and true sense of belonging – members know they are loved and accepted and come to realize that they have gifts to share with each other and the larger community.

“There is a guiding principle here of ‘loving accountability.’ By holding each other to account in a supportive way, members, staff, and volunteers will play a pivotal role in the success of the program and the achievement of members’ goals,” says Damian. “It’s not just a place to go and receive services – it’s a safe place for recovery that is created and maintained by and for the members.”



Two members flank Damian Murphy, Manager, Recovery Café, during the pop-up opening.



“The idea of being welcomed into a safe space with opportunities to share meals and life journeys... and feel a real sense of hope – it resonated with me.”
Tanjit Kalhar

A Place of Radical Hospitality & Loving Accountability

Streetohome is proud to partner with the Kettle Society to open the first Recovery Café in Canada. A property was

purchased by a donor, five-year operations seed funding support was committed by Streetohome, and prospective members were excited at the news. When the opening was delayed due to extensive renovations needed, three donors stepped up to fund a pop-up location ensuring prospective members wouldn't need to wait to start building a better future for themselves.

says Tanjit. “I was more than happy to donate space to The Kettle Society so that they could host such a place of community and connection.”

With a space secured, Giustra Foundation contributed operations seed funding and Vancouver Police Foundation contributed funding to equip the location with furnishings to create a cozy atmosphere. With soft rugs underfoot, comfortable couches, secure lockers for members' possessions, and a commercial espresso machine, members and guests can explore the opportunity and share experiences while having a specialty coffee together.



Guiding Principles

Connect with the inherent love in ourselves and others

Demonstrate respect for one another

Cultivate curiosity and compassion

Practice gratitude and forgiveness

Encourage growth and development

Empower each other to contribute their knowledge and skills

Giustra Foundation, Vancouver Police Foundation, and Tanjit Kalhar came together to ensure the Recovery Café could open its doors and start inviting people into a warm and welcoming space to experience its radical hospitality and loving accountability as soon as possible.

“When I first learned of the Recovery Café from Streetohome, the idea of being welcomed into a safe space with opportunities to share meals and life journeys, help find support services, and feel a real sense of hope – it resonated with me,”

“The Recovery Café offers a place to be known, loved and experience the deep bonds of support and connection.”
- Frank Giustra

“Many people in our community are living with complex needs. The Recovery Café provides opportunities for connection that promote a sense of belonging and renewed hope so that individuals regain authorship of their own story,” says Andrea Wright, Executive Director, Vancouver Police Foundation.

“Some of their trauma and challenges will heal and fall away when they have meaningful opportunities to pursue and a strong community of support.”

The Recovery Café is a free membership model that asks three things of members – refrain from drugs and alcohol before attending; participate in a weekly recovery circle with 8-10 peers and a trained facilitator; and contribute to the running of the community (e.g., food prep, cleaning, leading groups, etc.). Members can attend School of Recovery workshops as well as recreation and social events. Above all, members deeply connect with one another, gain a sense of belonging and personal agency, and develop mutual concern for each other. This connection helps provide them with the support they need to be accountable to themselves and others as they pursue the next steps in their life journey.

“I’m pleased to support the Recovery Café Vancouver, which is the first in Canada. This evidence-based, participatory and low-cost model has been proven in other jurisdictions. The Recovery Café offers a place to be known, loved and experience

the deep bonds of support and connection so that the people in our community can heal, recover and participate fully in their lives,” says Frank Giustra, CEO, Fiore Group, and Founder of Giustra Foundation.

“The Recovery Café provides opportunities for connection that promote a sense of belonging and renewed hope so that individuals regain authorship of their own story.”

- Andrea Wright

A Message from the President & CEO

The Recovery Café has been close to our hearts since visiting the Seattle flagship location in 2019, where we were impressed with this inclusive and replicable evidence-based recovery model. We hope you enjoyed reading about the pop-up location.

The leadership and generosity of Tanjit Kalhar, Vancouver Police Foundation, and Giustra Foundation were key in opening the pop-up while the permanent site was being renovated. Individuals can now gather, connect, support each other, and embrace recovery together.

Streethome invites you to join us on this exciting journey and contribute towards \$2M in five-year operations seed funding for the permanent site at 620 Clark Drive. The Recovery Café opens this summer, supporting up to 400 at-risk individuals in their collective recovery.

Please see <https://bit.ly/Recovery-Cafe>.



Rob Turnbull, Ph.D., CHE
President & CEO

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 with public and nonprofit sectors to implement sustainable solutions to homelessness in Vancouver. Streethome strives to address gaps in services to meet the housing; employment & volunteering; education, skills & training; health & wellness; legal & advocacy; and community & belonging needs of vulnerable individuals with lived experience of, or at-risk for, homelessness.

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

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