



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

A Message from the President & CEO

As the holidays approach, we received a heartwarming tale from Olivia, a participant of the Homeward Bound program.

We were so pleased that Olivia and her family are doing well and to hear about how far they've come since we first heard their story from the Homeward Bound Coordinator, who was planning the transition for the family. The move was complicated, with the Coordinator needing to move the family quickly, coordinate storage for their belongings until they were able to move from her family's home into their permanent housing, and a moving company for when that happened.

Homeward Bound brings together organizations doing

similar work of reuniting individuals with loved ones in another community – bringing together limited resources, adding flexibility, and broadening the eligibility for the program.

Without these collaborative efforts, isolated individuals and families in Vancouver would not be able to take advantage of moving to another community where they have existing supports. Thank you to our donors, partners, and service providers for helping Olivia's family to thrive. We hope you enjoy reading Olivia's story and wish you the best of the holiday season.



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

Year in Review



UGM Women and Families Centre Opening

The new Women and Families Centre opened its doors in February. Evidence-based programs will support women and their families to minimize stigma while providing practical and emotional support for both recovery and parenting.

Want2 Launch

Want2 - the Life Intentions Action Planner app launched in June to empower individuals in setting goals and finding free, self-referrable supports to help them move along their preferred life path.

Recovery Café Opening

The first Recovery Café in Canada opened its doors in September to provide a space of hope and possibility, and support for up to 300 members in their collective recovery.



Olivia's Story

17 years ago, Olivia moved to Vancouver with her partner, and had a happy, healthy son. A lot has happened since – her family has grown, and she recently separated from her partner. Six months ago, she received an eviction notice from her landlord, who wanted to renovate their home.

As Olivia scrambled to try and pull money together to move her family before the eviction deadline, her mother-in-law told her about the Homeward Bound program, and how it could help. Homeward Bound presented an opportunity where she could return to the community she grew up in, and be closer to her own family and support system.

“The community’s support was overwhelming. My cousin and

aunt were helping make phone calls when we were searching for housing, and the schools were able to provide winter jackets and boots for the kids – our first winter was a wakeup call,” Olivia laughs.

Olivia has since moved into a townhome operated by BC Housing, and the Homeward Bound Coordinator was able to hire movers to bring her belongings to her.

“I’ve always wanted to be with my family – I would see them attending community events on Facebook and just wanted to be there. Now we can celebrate birthdays together, and my family can get to know my kids.”

Seven months later, the family is getting the fresh start they deserve.

“There’s so many opportunities living here. I was able to run into my ex-foster parents and they’ve offered to visit and take us around. My kids haven’t been around farm life, so just driving around the country and seeing the wild animals – they’re finding it fascinating. And of course, they love the lake nearby.”



“The community’s support was overwhelming.”



A Q&A with Tracey Harvey, Streetohome Administration and Donor Manager



Tracey Harvey has been a part of the Streetohome team for the last eight years, working as the Administration and Donor Manager, and leading our substance use and recovery initiatives portfolio. As she moves onto new adventures, we'd like to take the time to share her journey and accomplishments at Streetohome.

Where and when did your interest in homelessness come about?

I previously worked for United Way, where one area of focus was on seniors. There was an increased concern about the number of seniors struggling financially, and homelessness looked like a reality for many seniors with limited means. It

was especially impactful to me at the time as I was dealing with the housing and care needs of my mom.

My friend and former colleague, Pam, was in the role at Streetohome and, given her family's need to relocate, reached out thinking I would be a good fit because of my work experience and my interest in seniors' homelessness. So, I followed Pam's lead and joined the team.

What has been your favourite initiative that we've funded?

There are many Streetohome initiatives that I think are amazing, but my favourite is the recently opened Recovery Café. On a study trip to Seattle, we knew from the moment we walked through the door of the Recovery Café flagship that we needed to bring it to Vancouver. Recovery Café Seattle was a very powerful space that exuded hope and possibility.

The Recovery Café is an inclusive and safe place for members to pursue recovery and wellness – whether it's from, poverty, homelessness, isolation, mental health challenges, trauma, unemployment, crime, or substance use. Its members find friendship, acceptance, support and a roadmap for moving forward. The Kettle Society's passionate and skilled Recovery

Café team (Damian, Ruth and Chad) are helping members realize their individual dreams.

What's your favourite memory or story from working at Streetohome?

I have a couple. My first homeless count with Lloyd Craig (Vice Chair) was a very enriching experience – we spoke with 15 people and were able to get a better understanding of the various pathways into homelessness. A second memory is accompanying John McLernon (Board Chair) to a radio interview to provide support on the sidelines and unexpectedly being invited on air.

What's one lesson you've learned from working at Streetohome and want to share with others?

Connection is key to building a healthy community – people thrive in inclusive environments where they have a voice, personal agency, a sense of belonging, and mutual accountability. Such a culture is a prominent feature of the Recovery Café, the Adapted Therapeutic Community day program model (that Streetohome and BC Addiction Recovery Association are sponsoring), and Delancey Street (a new live-in therapeutic community that Streetohome is currently brokering).

What are your hopes and expectations for Streetohome, having contributed significantly to our footprint?

My hope is that Streetohome continues to look for and implement innovative solutions that can be adapted for Vancouver to prevent individuals from becoming homeless in the first place; or provide a variety of pathways out of homelessness offering choice, care, and sensitivity.

What's next for you?

I will be in Spain for the month of December. It will be great to meet up with friends, eat tapas and paella, have some fun and just maybe... learn to speak some Spanish. When I return, I look forward to exploring new opportunities to grow in 2023.

Thank you for your passion, energy and hard work over the years Tracey.

We need your help:



Recovery Café 5-yr Operations Seed Funding

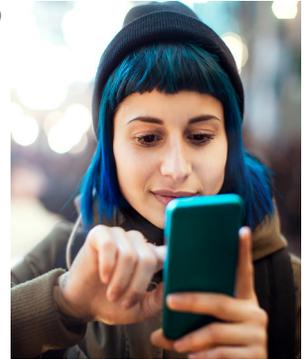
The Recovery Café is a place of refuge, support, care and community. Members pursue recovery from substance use, unemployment, mental health, poverty, trauma, homelessness, crime, and/or loneliness.

Help us fundraise: \$1.7 Million

Want2 - The Life Intentions Action Planner App

Want2 helps individuals with unmet needs – including youth, adults, seniors, families, immigrants & refugees, LGBTQ2S+ and Indigenous – to prioritize their personal goals and find free resources that fit their unique needs and preferences. Want2 then empowers individuals to make plans that effectively meet their needs, one step at a time.

Help us fundraise: \$325,000



Adapted Therapeutic Community (ATC) Facilitator Training

The Adapted Therapeutic Community is a flexible model that empowers groups of individuals to help each other achieve their mental health and/or substance use goals. Join a group of international faculty to learn about the power of group process and experience what goes into making any group or working environment genuinely therapeutic.

Help us fundraise: \$45,000



about us

Streetohome 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. Streetohome 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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