



streethome

changing lives, building futures

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Keeping Chosen Family Pods at the Forefront

During the winter season, housing instability amongst our at-risk populations becomes more immediate. While the reasons and circumstances surrounding this instability vary greatly, the result for too many is singular and dire.

The Chosen Family Pods (CFP) shared housing model is the innovative strategy Streethome is championing and broadcasting to various public and private interests this year to address this growing problem.

For those unfamiliar with CFP, it's a model of living where tenants choose each other to form a family group and share communal living areas while maintaining their own private bedroom spaces. The tenants can be a mixture of friends, students, co-workers, relatives, or even ex-partners.

This voluntary grouping presents a social dynamic that can give its members a sense of belonging, safety, responsibility, and social support that is otherwise missing from traditional landlord / tenant rental models.

CFP's tenant advantages extend beyond the social to include financial ones, allowing members to spread the burden of rent in increasingly unaffordable neighborhoods. Chosen family pods can also serve the interests of BC's municipal governments, social service providers, and private real estate / rental developers and landlords.

Of interests to governments, CFP considerably increase development density, lower populational carbon footprints, and free up resources that would otherwise

address homelessness and other city services. For social service providers, CFP can provide a supportive housing exit pathway, freeing up beds in high demand. And for developers and landlords, CFP represent less unit turnover, less maintenance, and similar or incrementally better ROI figures to single bed / studio apartment developments when factoring in municipal density development incentives.

Homelessness is a pervasive problem that affects all of us on many different levels. To read the business case for CFP, go to <https://bit.ly/3R5Lbvk>. Help us spread the word, and if you want to get involved, write to us at Streethome foundation at info@streethome.org.

NEWSLETTER

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YEAR IN REVIEW

John McLernon passes the torch to Kevin Bent

John McLernon, Colliers International Co-founder, passes the reins to Kevin Bent, President of Hula Management, after 15 years at the helm as Streethome's Board Chair.

Chosen Family Pods (CFP)

The CFP business case is approved by the Streethome Board after extensive research and consultation, with plans to educate stakeholders, including the public.

Streethome releases its Strategic Framework

Strengthening the Stool Towards Greater Outcomes reaffirms Streethome's focus on filling gaps in homelessness services - <https://bit.ly/3sYkSPK>

Delancey Street BC

A Canadian adoption of the live-in community model from San Francisco (that combines recovery housing, life skills, and vocational training) approaches reality, with property procurement plans underway.

A Message from the President and CEO

It's been another year of unprecedented change throughout the world. However, the problems of poverty, mental health, addiction, and homelessness remain a persistent issue in our communities. As a champion of policies, programs, and services that seek to address and mitigate these problems, Streethome has set about to introduce a new, innovative concept of Chosen Family Pods (CFP) to the discussions surrounding solutions to these societal challenges. With myself, my staff, and our Board,

headed by our new Board Chair, Kevin Bent, we will advocate for zoning changes and development incentives that support the successful adoption of CFP throughout our province in the coming year.

Wishing you all the best in the New Year,



Rob Turnbull

Rob Turnbull Ph.D., CHE
President & CEO

John McLernon honoured at the Recovery Café

On Tuesday, November 21st, the Recovery Café welcomed John McLernon, and his wife Peggy to inaugurate a custom wood bench made to honour of John's 15 years of service as Streeto-home's Board Chair. The bench was made and delivered by Colin Hamilton, owner / craftsman of Thuja Wood Art of Pender Island, BC. Made from reclaimed cedar wood, it was hand-engraved with one of John's popular quotes, "Stay Curious."

Prior to the delivery of the bench, John and Peggy were given a tour of the Recovery Café by staff member Ruth Fleming and Michelle Vanderzon, The Kettle Society's Director of Development. They were shown the Café's meeting, dining, and art room facilities where its participants

find connection and community with one another on their path to recovery. John's tenure as Streeto-home's Board Chair during the inception of the Recovery Café was pivotal in its opening and its permanent home location at 620 Clark Drive in Vancouver.

The Recovery Café operates under the Kettle Society, a Vancouver social service, non-profit organization dedicated to empowering and supporting people living with mental illness, poverty, addictions, homelessness, trauma, and unemployment. The Recovery Café model has been reproduced in over 65 communities throughout the US. The Vancouver operation has capacity to support up to 300 individuals on their recovery journey.



If you live in Vancouver and want to volunteer or become a member of the Recovery Café, contact Damian Murphy via email at dmurphy@thekettle.ca or call 604-559-1771.

To read more about the Recovery Café, go to <https://bit.ly/3744qiZ>. To learn more about John McLernon's impact in the community, go to <https://bit.ly/3Rk4Bhv>.



The People Power behind Homeward Bound

Since its launch, Homeward Bound has had 129 success stories of reunion, healing, and connection. Homeward Bound has given its participants the ability to get the supports they need amongst their own families, friends, and home communities. There are many people involved in making that happen.

One of those people is Caroline Bognar, a Community Integration Specialist at the Ministry of

Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Caroline is one of the keys to Homeward Bound's success, being the person that meets with participants and coordinates the resources needed.

Caroline acknowledges that her successes are not possible without a network of community partners, outreach workers, hospitals, housing supports, and more, working across Canada

to holistically help individuals and give her the knowledge and support to do her job well.

"I just love working with other community partners and learning about their work. I ask a lot of questions, and I gain a lot of knowledge from them. It helps me with my job for sure," says Caroline.

Caroline's latest success, CW, highlighted this network in action. CW, who is originally from Nova Scotia, came to BC and fell onto hard times, becoming a resident of the Vancouver Downtown Eastside. He suffered for years

from undiagnosed schizophrenia. CW was treated and stabilized at St. Paul's Hospital. CW's probation officer and the courts arranged his probation to be served out in Nova Scotia. Caroline's travel agent oversaw CW's flight while the community treatment team in Dartmouth, NS secured medical support for him when he arrived.

CW's case is a testament to the people power behind Homeward Bound's mission to achieve client success in their home communities through collaborative, client-centered support.



Homeward Bound for the Holidays

Those who find themselves at risk for homelessness in Vancouver have the challenges of high rents, a tight job market, and life events including break-ups and job loss, pushing them towards homelessness and emergency supports. The Homeward Bound program helps them return to a preferred community with familiar faces waiting for them with housing and support. The program works with individuals to set goals for a successful transition, so they can begin to reset themselves toward a better future.

To connect with the program, reach out to Caroline Bognar at Caroline.Bognar@gov.bc.ca.



\$70,000
left to raise

Project Launch Date:
Fall 2019

Funding Commitment:
\$125,000



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ABOUT US

Streeto-home transforms lives of individuals at risk for, and/or with lived experience of homelessness. We do this by brokering the private sector into taking smart risks in integrating evidence-based models that fill gaps in current systems to better meet their needs.

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