

# RECOVERY CAFÉ VANCOUVER



## STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2025

CREATED WITH GRATITUDE FOR

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6 Powell  
2 Street  
5 Foundation



GIUSTRA  
FOUNDATION



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

For many of Vancouver’s most vulnerable residents, daily life unfolds on the streets, complicated by the intersecting challenges of homelessness, mental illness, substance use, trauma, and poverty. The [Recovery Café](#) offers a much-needed pathway – an inviting space where people can step indoors, take part in daily activities, form new friendships, and begin moving toward the life they choose for themselves.

The Café is built on belonging. Here, recovery extends beyond addiction to include poverty, unemployment, mental health struggles, and isolation. Members come together in an intentional community of peer support, where they can work toward personal goals while being seen, heard, and valued.

Streethome joined forces with The Kettle Society in Vancouver and the Recovery Café Network in Seattle to bring this flagship model to the city. The space is warm and inclusive, offering connection, navigation of complex service systems, a sense of belonging and a hope for the future.

Café Companions and staff support members as they navigate housing, health, and social services. Members are central to the community itself, contributing to daily operations and helping run programs that reflect their interests and needs.

To launch and sustain this initiative, Streethome has committed \$400,000 annually in seed funding until 2027 (a total of \$2 million). The Kettle Society’s Board has pledged to fundraise for any operational shortfalls over the first five years and assume responsibility for full operations thereafter. The Society will also continue leasing the space and 625 Powell Street Foundation will continue to donate the equivalent of lease costs to The Kettle Society annually, ensuring the Café has a long-term home.

## WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE ARE CLOSER TO MEETING OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL



Streethome’s Funding Goal  
\$827,775  
Left to Raise

# THE PROGRESS IN 2024

Throughout 2024, the Recovery Café proved to be more than just a gathering space – it became a springboard for members to pursue new directions in their lives. One member transitioned from a recovery house into Café life, where they reconnected with creative passions, built practical skills, and eventually secured admission to film school with a bursary. Another member, facing challenges with housing and mental health, found stability and purpose through part-time work, artistic expression, and entrepreneurship, even showcasing and selling artwork at Café events. These stories reflect the broader spirit of the Café – where members discover belonging, develop skills, and pursue recovery goals at their own pace, with support that extends far beyond the walls of the Café.



Image source: The Recovery Café Vancouver 2024-2025 Impact Report

# PROGRAM IMPACT

**4,013**

Total member entries

**1,639**

Total attendance at  
Recovery Circles

**1,980**

Total attendance at  
Recovery Café  
Programming

**128**

Annual member intakes

**12**

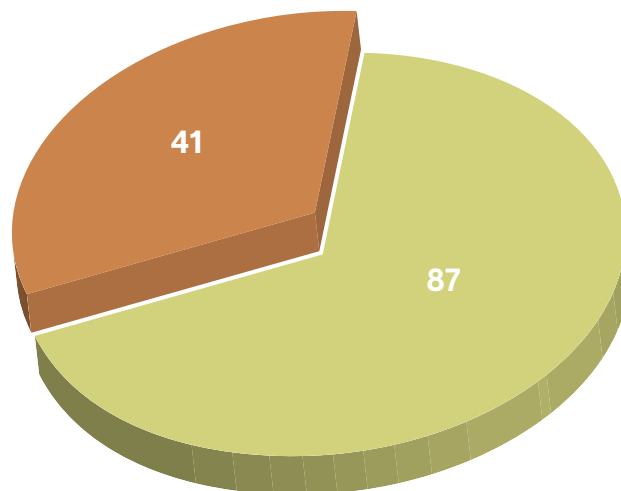
Weekly Recovery Circles

**4,184**

Meals Served

## NEW MEMBERS vs. RETURNING MEMBERS

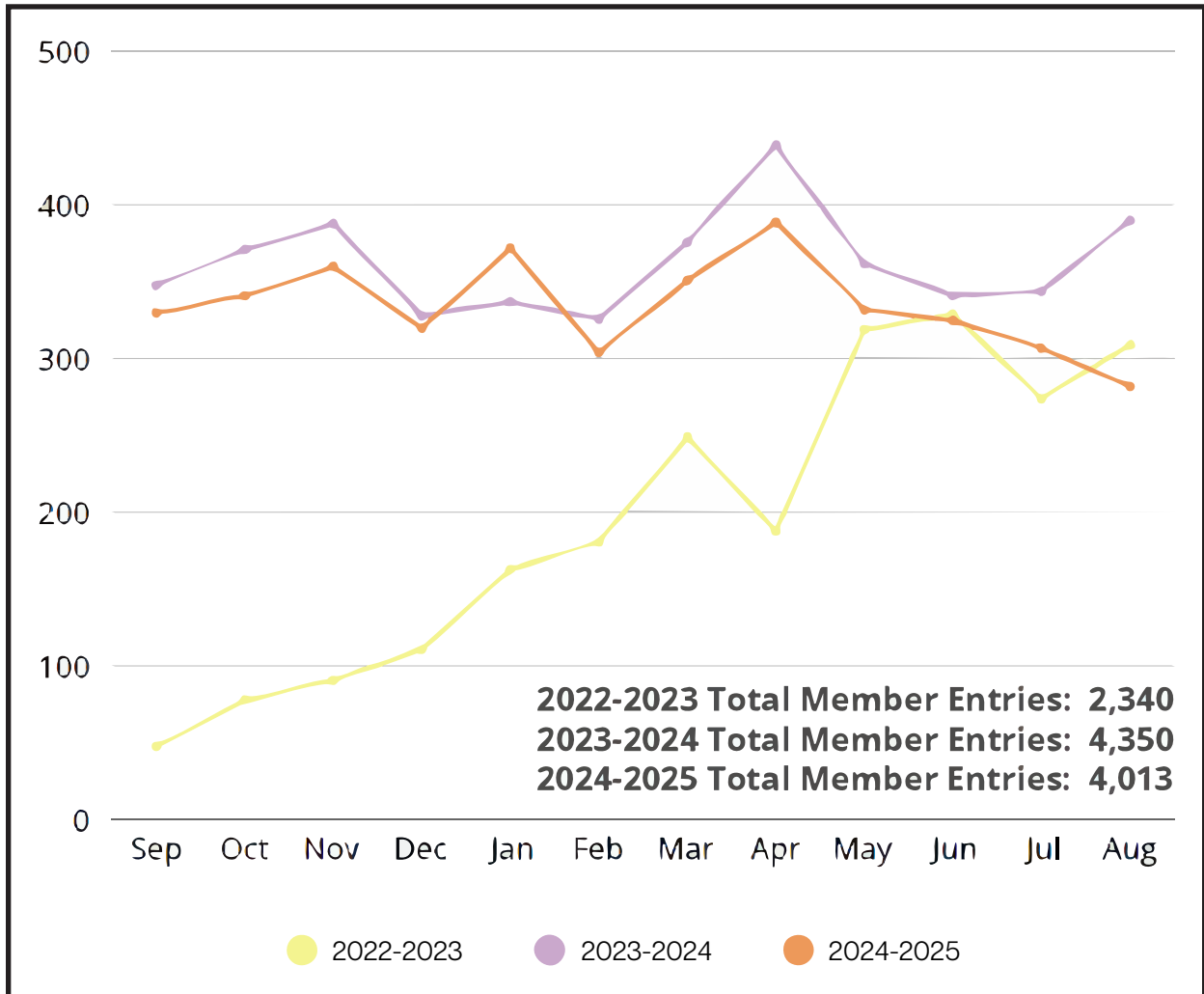
2024-2025 Total Member Intakes: 128



Returning Members    New Members

Data source: The Recovery Café Vancouver 2024-2025 Impact Report

## MEMBER ENTRIES (UNIQUE VISITS TO THE CAFÉ) YEAR OVER YEAR



## MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2024

In 2024, 56% of members joined directly through intake, having heard about the Café in the community. While this showed strong outreach, some chose not to enroll after learning about expectations. The Café encourages guest visits before intake to ensure informed participation.

Returning Members accounted for 25% of re-enrollments over three years, reflecting a welcoming, shame-free environment that supports continued recovery.

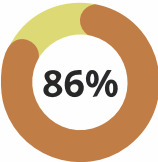
Engagement in both circles and programs grew notably in 2024, supported by expanded offerings and a renewed emphasis on consistent member participation.

# MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

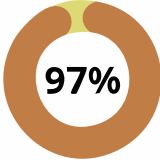
Members complete Recovery Café Network baseline surveys when they join the program, followed by voluntary, self-reported surveys every three months. These check-ins help track progress and experiences over time.

Each August, Recovery Café Vancouver conducts a program survey with active members to gather feedback on programming and activities. Insights from these surveys guide improvements and ensure offerings continue to meet the evolving needs of the Café community.

## Since joining the Recovery Café...



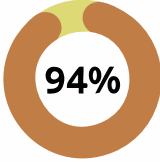
Agree that the participation has increased hope in their lives



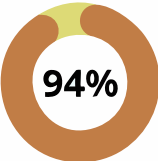
Agree they have met new people and made new friends



Agree that they have taken better care of themselves



Agree they have increased confidence in themselves



Agree that they have increased motivation to do things and a better outlook on life

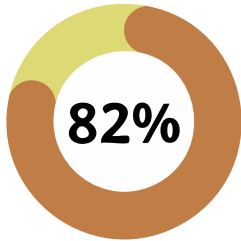


Agree they have seen an improvement in their nutrition

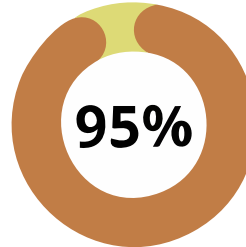
*“When people offer me a drink on a night out, I think about my circle – Would I rather tell my circle that I drank again or tell them that I declined the drink and have them cheer for me? – then I decide to decline the drink and maintain my recovery.”*

- Recovery Café Member 2024/2025

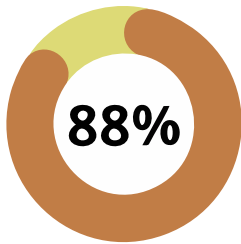
## OUTCOMES REPORTED IN SURVEYS AT THE 12-MONTH MARK



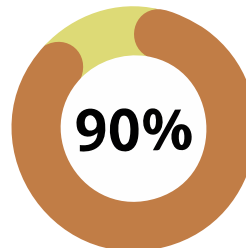
Reported that participation in the Recovery Café helped prevent a relapse in drug use



Reported an increased desire to be in recovery



Reported that participation in the Recovery Café helped prevent a relapse in alcohol use



Reported experiencing mental health stabilization

***“The community has been so supportive every time I have relapsed which is more than I’d like to admit. Without The Recovery Café I would have continued in my relapses and gone down a bad path. But with weekly circles I always have a routine to snap me back into reality and bring me back to myself and into recovery.”***

*- Recovery Café Member 2024/2025*

# BRAD'S INCREDIBLE STORY



In early 2023, Brad was navigating a difficult period in his life – waiting for a residential treatment spot and searching for stability and connection. He picked up a Recovery Café pamphlet in detox and decided to give it a try. What he discovered went beyond a program; he found a community that welcomed him. *“Everything they did just made me feel incredibly welcome right off the bat,”* Brad recalls. *“The Café became one of my anchors. It kept me busy a few days during the week with healthy activities and healthy people. It really kept me focused on my way to treatment.”*

At the Café, Brad participated in weekly Recovery Circles, explored art and music therapy, and accessed counselling, acupuncture, and group outings. The Circles became central to his healing, providing consistent support, connection, and accountability. His path had been challenging – years of substance use starting in his teens, mental health struggles, and periods of homelessness or living in SROs.

Connections through the Café, including Kettle housing, helped him regain stability and independence. Today, Brad leads a Recovery Circle, participates in outreach, and refers new members to the Café, helping others find the support he once needed.

*“I have truly enjoyed every step of what I’ve done here. I’m so grateful there are groups willing to look past the stigma of substance users and realize that we have a lot of good to offer the world. Substance use does not define the person.”*

*- Brad, Recovery Café Member*

# MUSIC THERAPY



**A**t the Recovery Café, music therapy plays a vital role in supporting members’ emotional healing, self-expression, and connection.

The program provides a safe, creative space where music becomes both a form of reflection and a means to build confidence and community. Weekly onsite sessions are open to all active members, offering a consistent opportunity for personal growth and engagement.

Certified Music Therapist James began his journey with the Café in 2023, completing his practicum and 500-hour internship before earning certification. Since then, 102 members have taken part in the program, using music to process emotions, tell their stories, and reconnect with themselves and others.

Music therapy at the Café is more than a creative outlet – it is a bridge between healing and belonging, nurturing resilience through sound, story, and shared experience.

Participants can engage in three distinct areas of programming:

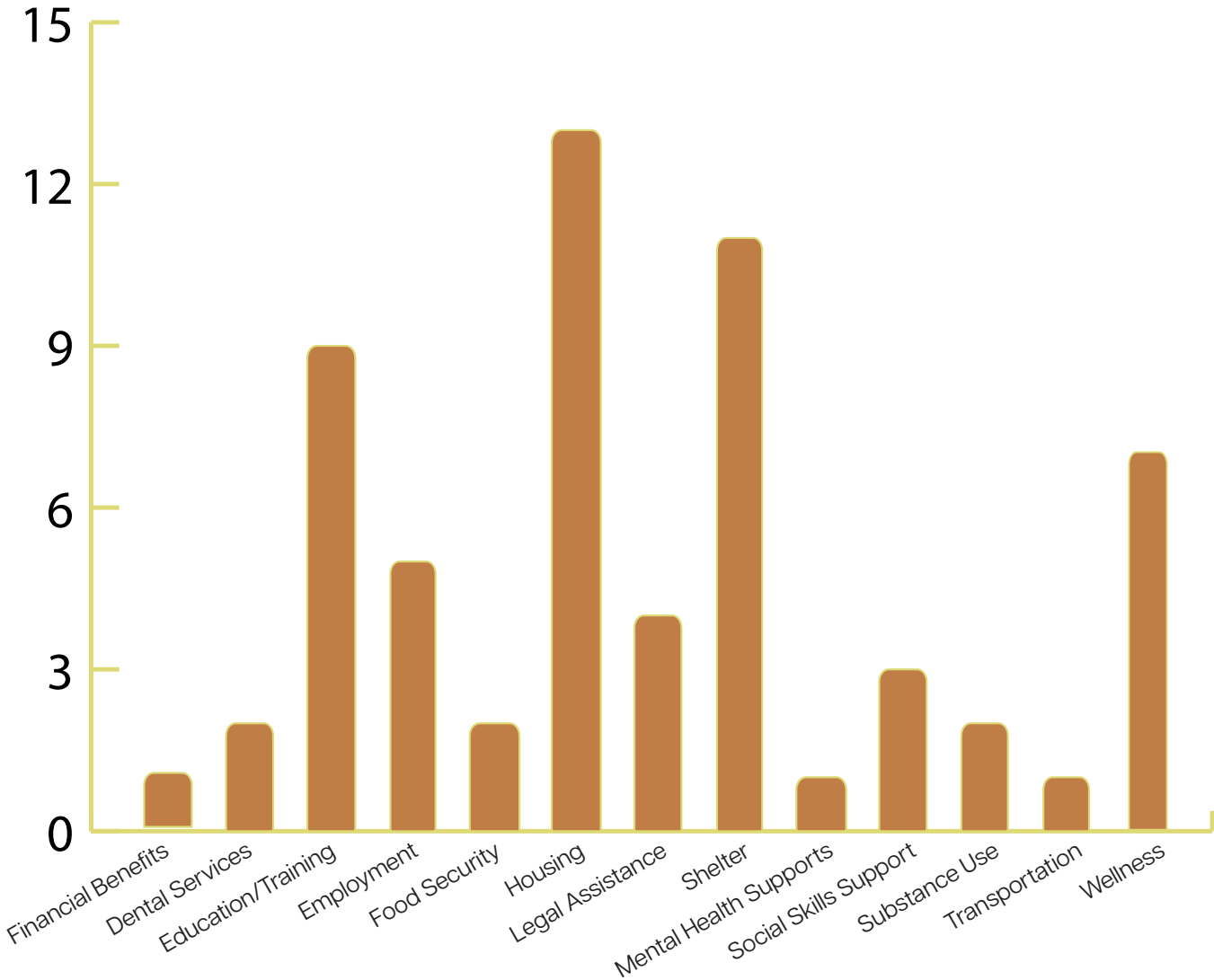
**Autobiography in Song** – An introspective exploration of music that has shaped participants’ lives, from childhood to the present. These sessions invite reflection on meaningful songs tied to personal memories and life milestones.

**Songwriting Sessions** – A creative space for translating words and emotions into music. No prior musical experience is required – just a willingness to express and share.

**Café Jam** – Lively, inclusive group jam sessions using a variety of instruments, including guitar, piano, drums, and culturally specific soundmakers. Members can choose to play, listen, or simply enjoy the shared experience.

Image source: The Recovery Café Vancouver 2024-2025 Impact Report

# SERVICE NAVIGATION AND ADVOCACY



***Beyond regular Café programming, staff worked closely with 26 members in 2024, offering direct service navigation and advocacy. This personalized approach reflects the Café’s commitment to meeting members where they are – helping them navigate complex systems, address barriers, and access the external resources needed to support their recovery and stability.***

Data source: The Recovery Café Vancouver 2024-2025 Impact Report

# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS



As the Recovery Café concludes its third year, partnerships with local organizations have continued to grow – expanding opportunities for connection, learning, and healing.

### Dude’s Club

Our relationship with our neighbours at Dude’s Club has deepened through shared initiatives like the community garden, now in its second year. This season, they guided members in growing traditional medicines such as tobacco, from planting to drying. Members also joined cultural workshops including cedar hat weaving, drum making, and the ceremonial harvesting of eagle feathers returned to local elders.

### Turning Point Recovery Society

Collaboration with Turning Point Recovery Society remains strong. Their Registered Clinical Counsellor facilitates recovery workshops twice a week, exploring Wellbriety, resilience, and strategies for maintaining recovery. This year, 22 members took part. Direct referrals from Turning Point continue to offer individuals a welcoming space as they transition from residential treatment to community living.

Together, these partnerships strengthen the Café’s mission to foster belonging and support diverse pathways to recovery.

Data & Image source: The Recovery Café Vancouver 2024-2025 Impact Report

# 2024 AT A GLANCE



Over the past year, The Recovery Café has continued to grow as a space where members are supported not only in their recovery but also in rebuilding meaningful lives beyond the Café. Members take an active role in daily operations, peer support, and community life – developing confidence, skills, and a renewed sense of purpose along the way.

In 2024, 17 members completed barista training, 10 were trained as circle facilitators, 7 returned to school, 8 gained employment, and 10 earned FoodSafe certification. Together, these achievements reflect the Café's commitment to holistic, wraparound support that fosters personal growth and community belonging.

## **Volunteer Impact and Member-Led Initiatives**

Volunteers and member leaders continue to be the heart of The Recovery Café, contributing over **900 hours** across kitchen leadership, counselling, art therapy, and creative programming. Highlights include **430 hours** from the Kitchen Committee Lead, **148 hours** from Clinical Counsellor, **73 hours** from Art Therapy, and **229 hours** from podcast and theatre volunteers. A new Life Coach volunteer joined in summer 2025, **engaging about 30% of active members** in goal-setting and personal development.

Together, these collective efforts embody the spirit of mutual aid and shared growth that defines The Recovery Café community.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## THE KETTLE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY - RECOVERY CAFÉ STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 12/31/2024

	2024 YTD ACTUAL	2024 YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE BUDGET
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Sponsor Contribution- Recovery Cafe	401,537	400,000	1,537
Donations - Choir	15,752	-	15,752
Donations - Recovery Cafe	151,042	246,501	(95,459)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE (A)</b>	<b>568,331</b>	<b>646,501</b>	<b>(78,170)</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>WAGES AND BENEFITS</b>			
Wages - Recovery Cafe	224,569	218,535	6,034
Wages - Relief, Recovery Café	27,305	22,501	4,804
Wages accrual, Recovery Café	497	-	497
Employment Insurance, Recovery Café	4,660	4,638	22
Canada Pension Plan, Recovery Café	12,845	13,072	(227)
Extended Benefits- Recovery Café	8,948	17,593	(8,645)
Long Term Disability, Recovery Café	17,103	5,779	11,324
WCB Expense, Recovery Café	6,499	5,144	1,355
MPP-Employers Contribution, Recovery Café	20,952	20,355	597
<b>TOTAL WAGES AND BENEFITS (B)</b>	<b>323,378</b>	<b>307,617</b>	<b>15,761</b>
<b>PROGRAM/OPERATING COSTS</b>			
<b>FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT</b>			
Furniture & Fixtures - Recovery Café	-	1,000	(1,000)
IT/IM Maintenance - Recovery Café	1,540	1,000	540
Insurance - Recovery Café	3,967	5,700	(1,733)
Laundry/Housekeeping - Recovery Café	3,602	1,000	2,602
Maintenance/Repair - Recovery Café	1,591	1,000	591
Organization Fees - Recovery Café	61,560	89,812	(28,252)
Office Overhead/Audit - Recovery Café	6,334	15,000	(8,666)
Rent Expense	95,113	113,000	(17,887)
Taxes, Property, Recovery Cafe	45,044	44,897	147
Utilities - Recovery Cafe	12,510	12,000	510
<b>TOTAL FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT COSTS (C)</b>	<b>231,260</b>	<b>284,409</b>	<b>(53,149)</b>

**CLIENT SUPPLIES/SERVICES**

Advertising & Postage - Recovery Café	821	1,700	(879)
Choir	15,752	7,500	8,252
Consulting - Recovery Café	19,840	15,750	4,090
Health & Safety Supplies - Recovery Café	383	1,000	(617)
Food - Recovery Café	9,453	11,250	(1,797)
Memberships & Dues - Recovery Café	3,431	5,000	(1,569)
Staff Development Recovery Café	464	2,000	(1,536)
Supplies, Kitchen - Recovery Café	365	1,500	(1,135)
Telephone - Recovery Café	6,833	6,275	558
Travel - Client	106	875	(769)
Volunteer/Staff Expense - Recovery Café	1,317	1,625	(308)
<b>TOTAL CLIENT SUPPORT/SERVICES COSTS (D)</b>	<b>58,766</b>	<b>54,475</b>	<b>4,291</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM/OPERATING COSTS (C + D)</b>	<b>290,026</b>	<b>338,884</b>	<b>(48,858)</b>
<b>Furniture &amp; Equipment additions (E)</b>	<b>10,606</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,606</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE (B + C + D + E)</b>	<b>624,010</b>	<b>646,501</b>	<b>(22,491)</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(55,679)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(55,679)</b>

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT**