

OPENING DOORS FOR YOUTH

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS



THRESHOLD
HOUSING SOCIETY
*Transitional
Housing for Youth*

Invest in today's youth and leave a legacy for the future. / Contact 250-383-8830 or visit ThresholdHousing.ca

Summer 2017

www.ThresholdHousing.ca

BERNARD RICHARD CHARMS AND CHALLENGES CROWD

JUNE 2017

BC's new Representative for Children and Youth, says it is unacceptable that in a province as successful as British Columbia that "11,000 children live outside the parental home." Bernard Richard says his office is committed to investigating the underlying causes of this statistic and then putting forward ways to make improvements. "I don't want to be measured by the number of reports we make but by the number of youth we impact," he added.

At a luncheon hosted by Threshold Housing Society on April 28th in the Ballroom of the Hotel Grand Pacific, close to 100 people heard from Mr. Richard as he outlined his hopes for his term as the Representative for Children and Youth. He said, "I'm here to work hard every single day." Richard explained that he is here for one 5-year term. He added that he thinks the position should not be a renewable, so there is no fear of any-

one feeling the work is being done to ensure re-appointment, but rather is always aimed at leaving a legacy for the youth of BC.

Mr. Richard said he wants to issue a report on ways to deal with young people aging out of care, including what programs are working and what is still missing. He says, "As a parent, I can tell you it's a role you have your whole life, and our programs need to take a similar approach." He also is very concerned and wants to work on addressing the large, and disproportionate, number of Indigenous children and youth in care. Finally, he hopes to work to improve the relationship between his office and the Ministry of Children and Families and investigate ways to increase adoption rates.

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Donate \$2
to help
homeless
youth

The
Orange
Door
Project

Housing and hope
for homeless youth



The Home Depot Canada Foundation is dedicated to taking action to put an end to youth homelessness in Canada.

Between June 1 and July 2, purchase a \$2 paper door at the check-out of the Saanich & Langford Home Depot store.



Threshold is grateful to receive a grant from the Harbourside Rotary Victoria.

This grant is for the Foundation Skills Program — a THS initiative that supports youth in gaining the necessary skills to transition to independence.

Administration: (250) 383-8830
900 Vancouver St. Victoria BC V8V 3V7
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General Email: assist@thresholdhousing.ca



Our Mission... To help vulnerable youth attain self-reliance through long-term supportive transitional housing.

Our Vision... Greater Victoria's vulnerable youth confidently fulfilling their potential.

LUNCHEON

WITH BENARD RICHARD



Bernard Richard



Muldoon, Jared, Ivy & Richard



Muldoon, Jensen, Roberts, Richard, Rankin, & Anholt

BERNARD RICHARD CHARMS AND CHALLENGES CROWD

Continued from front page

Mr. Richard also referred to the importance of the work done by Threshold and other groups that do essential work without being “designated agencies” which fall under his mandate. He said he was impressed by the presentation of two youth who are clients of Threshold. Jared told the crowd, “If I didn’t have Mitchell House, I’d be living on the street.” And Ivy added her story of aging out of care and spending two months couch surfing before moving into Threshold House. “If it weren’t for Threshold House I don’t think I would be here...at all,” she said.

Mr. Richard’s message and an understanding of the work of Threshold Housing Society was heard by a number of key players in the field of work with vulnerable youth who were in the audience and by politicians at all levels including federal MP, Murray Rankin, provincial candidate, Barb Desjardins, and Oak Bay Mayor, Nils Jensen and Victoria Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe. Former federal MP and cabinet member, David Anderson was also at the event.

At the beginning of his speech, Mr. Richard took time to acknowledge the work of retired Justice Ted Hughes and his wife Helen Hughes (who were in the audience)

in establishing the position of the Representative of Children and Youth. “I greatly admire Ted Hughes and consider him a mentor as I take on this task” he added.

Executive director, Mark Muldoon and Jared and Ivy presented Mr. Richard with a modern quilt with a citation stating it was in recognition of his many years of working for vulnerable youth. Mr. Richard said he was very touched by this gift because his mother was an avid quilter and he knows how much work it represents.

The luncheon was not a fund-raiser but intended to be a source of information and outreach to the community. Thanks to ticket sales and support from the Hotel Grand Pacific we are pleased to report that we were able to recover all costs. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Jo-Anne Roberts, Threshold Housing Society Advancement and Community Relations consultant.

Upcoming Events

YYJ Car Free Day— June 18th

Gay Pride Parade — July 9th

Push for Change — September

OUR GENEROUS DONORS



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS: KNOWING THE FACTS

There is no more desperate feeling for an adolescent than not having a safe home and environment in which to grow, stumble and feel wanted.

For those who are homeless at an early age the risks are incredible. They are more likely to: experience multiple episodes of homelessness; be involved with child protection services; experience bullying; be victims of crime, including sexual assault; have mental health and addictions; attempt suicide; and become chronically homeless.

The first national survey on youth homelessness: *Without a Home: The National Youth Homelessness Survey* was released in April, 2017 by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.

This survey canvassed 47 communities across ten provinces and territories. Victoria was one of the communities surveyed. In Canada, homeless young people (aged 13–24) make up 20% of the homeless population. Over the course a year there are between 35,000 and 40,000 young people experiencing homelessness, and on any given night, between 6,000 and 7,000. Of those surveyed, 57.6% identified as male and 36.4% as female, with 6.1% identifying as transgendered. A further breakdown shows 29.5% identifying as LGBTQ2S, 30.6% as Indigenous and 28.2% as members of racialized communities.

The most telling statistic is that 40.1% of those

surveyed were younger than 16 when they first experienced homelessness. This figure mimics closely the statistic revealed by the *2016 Victoria Point-in-Time Count* of sheltered people which found that 36.9% of adult respondents indicated beginning their homelessness journey at 18 or younger.

Both studies have significant implications for Greater Victoria. Namely, helping such youth must happen at a younger age. This is not occurring today. We wait too long. We delay until these youth (now adults) become too visible and then scramble for quick but temporary solutions. These temporary measures have merit but they do not prevent homelessness from happening in the first place.

One of the recommendations in *Without a Home* is the need for greater government involvement. Youth homelessness is a fusion policy issue: to address youth homelessness, federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal governments must take an integrated systems approach. It must involve different parts of government responsible for housing, healthcare (including mental health and addictions), children and family services, municipal affairs, education, employment and training, and justice. Without integrated planning, non-profit organizations like Threshold Housing Society remain a vital life-line to this vulnerable population.

Mark Muldoon, Executive Director

WHAT OUR YOUTH ARE SAYING

“I was so happy when I first got to see her chubby face and hold her tiny hands. I was very close with my sister, she was my everything. Our mom worked a lot and would go out with friends/boyfriends almost daily so I was usually left to take care of her and myself. My mom used to call me her little “husband” and I hated it. I had to grow up before I even knew what that meant. Keeping myself alive was hard enough without looking after a kid and my mom when she would have mental breakdowns/episodes . . .

{At Threshold} we were treated like humans and equal adults. When the staff advocated for us. When staff felt like family. Threshold has helped me. This is my story and my thoughts — Thank you.” A.S — [One of the THS Writing Contest Winners.](#)

Thank you [Coast Capital Savings](#) for committing to supporting vulnerable youth in the community. Your investment in the future of Greater Victoria youth is an inspiration to our organization, other supporters, and most importantly the youth we serve.

Threshold is indebted to the multi-year financial funding offered by [Coast Capital Savings](#). Thank you for your presence and support at the Luncheon with Bernard Richard. Thank you for sponsoring the Threshold T-Shirts. *Special thanks to **Maureen Young**, Community Partnerships and Investment Manager, for your dedication to the youth of Victoria.*

To find out more about [Coast Capital Savings](#)' investment in youth and their future, search [#YouthGetIt](#).

YOUTH POVERTY

Young people who are homeless (ages 13–24) make up approximately 20% of the homeless population in Canada

40.1% are younger than 16 when they first experience homelessness

Three Factors in Youth Homelessness

Family Conflict & Breakdown of Relationships



Poverty, lack of affordable housing & unemployment



Aging out of care, mental health & corrections.



The Board of Directors

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#ChrissySentMe

The staff at Threshold wish to pass on their condolences to the family of Chrissy Archibald. Chrissy—one of seven killed in London’s terrorist attack—worked with homeless visitors to Alpha House in Calgary and “welcomed anyone who arrived in search of some help with open arms.” Working with a vulnerable population takes courage and conviction and the non-profit sector is poorer for the loss of such a big-heart as Chrissy.

Support Threshold Housing!

Your support of Threshold Housing isn’t just about housing. As important as housing is it is just one part of the equation for giving a vulnerable youth a chance at the future of their dreams. A portion of every dollar donated goes towards our Lifeskills programming.

Youth are given the opportunity to learn hard skills such as financial literacy and resume preparation as well as soft skills including Learning Through Loss, Women’s Wellness, and Goodfellows for young men. This programming ensures our youth have the skills, strengths, and community support needed to move forward once they leave Threshold.

There are many ways to donate!

By Cheque

Please complete the form below and mail it in with your cheque to:

Threshold Housing Society
900 Vancouver St.
Victoria BC V8V 3V7

By Credit Card

Visit www.ThresholdHousing.ca/Donate. You will be guided through a simple online donation process.

Or if you would prefer, contact our office 250-383-8830. Recurring monthly donation options are also available.



The Holly House Youth made meals made up entirely from donated food! Thanks to the Food Rescue Project of The Mustard Seed.

THS Monthly Recycling

4th Saturday of Each Month 9:00—11:00am

The fourth Saturday of each month, in partnership with St. Matthias, we hold a Recycling Day! Bring your plastic packaging, styrofoam, meat trays, plastic bags and other plastics as well as your beverage and other deposit containers.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out at our busy Recycling Days. A fun, team atmosphere! No experience required.

Contact: Gerry Howell Jones
By Email: ghowellj@telus.net
By Phone: 250-383-2501

Recycling Days 2017

- June 24th
- July 22nd
- August 19th
- September 16th
- October 21st
- November 18th



Extremely grateful for the delivery of new sneakers from Sikh Youth of Victoria. Donated by Best Sneakers. Giving in the name of #ChrissySentMe



First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
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