



**THRESHOLD**  
HOUSING SOCIETY



**OUR VISION** A community where all youth thrive.

**OUR MISSION** Threshold works to prevent adult homelessness by providing safe housing, support services, and community to at-risk youth.

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## Board Chair Report



On behalf of the board of directors I would like to use this report to say a heartfelt thank you!

Thank you to our members, community partners, corporate sponsors, and individual donors for your ongoing commitment to supporting youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Your involvement with the Threshold Housing Society makes a daily and lifelong difference in the lives of our youth!

I would like to thank our ED, Colin Tessier, for his passionate advocacy for youth, for his excellent leadership, and for his commitment to stakeholder engagement, especially through this pandemic year.

I would like to thank Jasmine Campbell, our Development Manager, for creating media opportunities and a social media profile to keep us informed about the work of Threshold. This year our social media presence has given members a way to feel connected and to encourage more people to support the mission of Threshold.

I would like to thank Jared for sharing his story both in the “19 & Homeless” documentary, and on local radio to help the wider community understand the realities of youth homelessness and youth aging out of care. The youth who allowed their stories to be shared during our 30th anniversary celebration helped us see the challenges they have faced and the variety of strengths and goals they have.

I would like to thank all the staff who create trusting relationships with youth, support youth with creativity and care, and create homes where youth can thrive. This has been a challenging year with the added stress of COVID protocols. The staff worked through this pandemic with calm and kept our youth safe in so many ways!

This year the board has continued to work on the goals of our strategic plan related to service delivery, organizational excellence, and financial stability. Thanks to the expertise of past board members, Carol Martin and Thomas Denner, and consultant Rev. Victoria Andrews, we have a clear governance framework that reflects the work of Threshold with policies and bylaws that support our organizational structure and ongoing growth. In the coming months we will be updating our strategic plan and doing some work to clarify our organizational values.

This is a time of significant growth.

Threshold has taken on a supportive recovery contract specific for youth through Island Health, and we have bought a property on Niagara Street that is perfectly suited for this new program. We are working with Boundary Design to redevelop Forrest House on Oak Bay Avenue, and we are in conversations to purchase Threshold House from Oak Bay United Church.

We are in good financial shape. We have a Strategic Plan Task Force in place to help guide this growth, and to balance risk management with the opportunities to expand supports for youth.

It is an exciting time to be involved with Threshold Housing Society. It takes a wide circle of people with a variety of skill sets, resources, and life experiences to keep Threshold going and growing. It takes a wide circle of people to create a community where youth can truly thrive!

Thank you for your ongoing support of youth through the Threshold housing Society.

Ruth MacIntosh  
Board Chair



## Executive Director Report



The fiscal year that was 2020-2021 will surely go down in the history books as one of the most memorable in the 31-year

history of Threshold Housing Society. A year filled with challenges brought on by the global pandemic, but for Threshold, a year also marked with great success. It would be fair to say now that Threshold has completed an exciting turnaround that has been three years in the making. This past year we have grown the number of safe homes we offer, we've significantly expanded our service delivery model, and have achieved a significant surplus after three years of deficit budgets.

Although Threshold has seen success this past year, it has not been without its challenges and hardships. When Covid hit our community and the world seemingly shut down, our staff stepped up and answered the call. Their dedication and bravery in the face of uncertainty and increased risk will be what I remember most about this year. When other programs and services shut their doors or reduced capacity, our staff stepped into the void and carried a significant burden for many months.

They are essential workers, and they steadfastly stood beside the youth we support as they navigated the changing world around them. Thanks to generous Covid-specific funding from the Victoria Foundation and the federal Reaching Home program, we were able to offer in house counselling services, outreach to youth on our waitlist who had no other place to go, and financial support for help with things like rent and food. These expanded services met an urgent need in the community as at-risk youth became more vulnerable due to isolation and increased marginalization.

Perhaps the most significant expansion came through the implementation of our new Supportive Recovery Program. In partnership with Island Health, Threshold has implemented a 9-bed program focused on youth who are struggling with substance use issues and are seeking help toward recovery. The implementation of this program represents the largest ever expansion for Threshold. During a 4-month period we saw our staff team double in size from about 15 staff to 30.

The success we've seen is proving sustainable and will carry into the years ahead. It is a direct result of so many caring and dedicated supporters who are seeking care for at-risk youth in our


community. The stakeholders we get to interact with at Threshold are inspiring, and their generosity remarkable. I want to share my deepest appreciation to everyone who has offered support to Threshold during this challenging year. Thank you to our donors, our funders, our community partners, our staff, our Board of Directors, and our volunteers. Threshold is a community-based organization and our success toward impacting young lives toward brighter futures is a direct result of the collective efforts of many.

We can end youth homelessness in Greater Victoria. We can create a system where prevention becomes normal and vulnerable young people receive the support they need when they need it. It can become a reality that youth in our community don't have to experience the trauma that comes from not having a safe place to call home and people around who love them. At Threshold, we believe deep down in our core that this is possible, and we will keep pushing boldly into the future toward these ends.

Best,

Colin Tessier  
Executive Director

## Program Services Update



The Housing Program team has had a busy and eventful year. Trying to navigate a pandemic, keeping everyone safe, and at the same time maintaining our support services to youth has been one of the biggest challenges of my career. 2020-2021 forced our staff to continuously adapt their method of practice. Building on the lessons learned from 2019-2020 I felt our team was able to deliver outstanding support to the youth in our houses, as well as our SHY apartments.

In addition to the youth in our program we also supported applicants on our waitlist. At times, the list would balloon to 30 or more individuals who saw no other avenue for housing or support. The pandemic made it extremely challenging for these individuals who under normal times would have been able to participate in house programming, or more easily access community services. Access to housing for youth wanting to graduate was also more limiting because of pandemic restrictions.

Our dynamic team had some major changes this past year. Everything from new Residential House Supervisors to a completely new Youth Engagement Liaison team. Although we had some sad goodbyes, the new staff continue

to add their incredibly diverse skill sets, and empathy for youth support to our work. With a now fully funded Intake Coordinator, this important part of our team has expanded into an array of services for new applicants.

Lastly, our scattered site units (SHY) expanded substantially this year by 9 units for a total of 19 units. We have added apartments all over the CRD. Two units in Brentwood bay, two in View Royal to name a few of the areas we can now support within. In February, we transitioned Forrest House into the new home of the Supportive Recovery Program and when we moved our youth from Forrest House into SHY apartments, they were part of the searching process. These youth had a hand in picking their own future housing and were all successfully moved. This is just one example of our youth centered approach to practice.

With reopening on the horizon, I am hopeful this new year will allow us to again expand our Foundations programming, to include more gatherings among the youth at the homes, to include waitlist youth, and invite guest speakers, re-examine a fully operational youth counsel, and invite community members to public events.

Jason Walsh

## 2020-2021 Statistics

TOTAL  
REFERRALS

133

TOTAL  
ACCEPTED

21

AGENCY  
REFERRALS

67

SELF  
REFERRALS

66

AVERAGE AGE  
FOR AGENCY  
REFERRAL

18

AVERAGE AGE  
FOR SELF-  
REFERRAL

17

55 TOTAL YOUTH HOUSED

49% EMPLOYED

27 OF YOUTH SERVED ARE EMPLOYED

27% IN SCHOOL

15 OF YOUTH SERVED ARE IN SCHOOL

25% INDIGENOUS

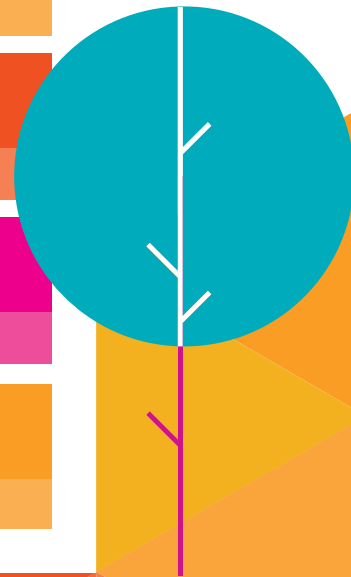
14 OF YOUTH SERVED ARE INDIGENOUS

20% LGBTQIA+

11 OF YOUTH SERVED ARE LGBTQ2IA+

24% GRADUATES

13 OF YOUTH SERVED ARE GRADUATES



## Youth Interview

*Being off the streets and having stable housing – I began to think who am I as a person? Who am I beyond the trauma I have endured? I started hiking with friends, playing video games, practicing my religious beliefs, and re-connecting with friends.*

### **How long have you been at Threshold and what brought you here?**

I have been at Threshold for over 2 years. I was on the streets heavily addicted to crystal meth, and I wanted to get off the streets to complete a culinary arts program. I used to cook at a restaurant before being homeless.

### **How has your recovery been at Threshold?**

Early on it wasn't easy, I had a few relapses. After a couple months of being at Threshold I began my recovery. I got the support I needed from my case worker at Threshold. I've now been in recovery for over a year and a half and in October it will be 2 years clean from meth.

### **How has your experience been at Threshold?**

I'm non-binary. The level of support I have around my sexuality and gender identity at Threshold has been amazing. My Threshold suite has been the first safe place I have been able to hang my pride flag.

Back in December, I had left the Threshold program to go to Ontario to reunite with my biological family. It didn't work out and I came back to BC, and I didn't want to be homeless again. I reached out to my previous Threshold worker and a week later I was signing the papers to come back into the program.

### **How has Threshold helped you?**

When I got into Threshold I had big goals, in terms of culinary arts. I knew I needed stable housing and to apply for school. I was in the foster system, and I knew I had supports through that for school, but I needed help navigating those supports. I also had ongoing support through Threshold after I got into school for all the little things I didn't think of. My case worker helped me figure out all the bursaries around school supplies.

### **What is one thing you wish people knew about Threshold?**

It's not just a supportive housing program, it's more than that. It's a way to restart. So now you've got your apartment, let's teach you some critical life skills. A lot of us haven't had guidance or parents. It's a plan for when you age out of the system.

### **What advice would you give a youth starting at Threshold on their recovery?**

Use the supports you have and reach out. Staff aren't mind readers. Don't lie to your supports when you relapse. It never ends well!

At Threshold, don't be afraid to make friends. People are very sweet. I still talk to people in the communal homes, and it's been a year and a half since I lived there. Advocate for yourself and be loud!



## Community Support

We could not do the work we do without the support from our community and people like you! We are so grateful to be surrounded by generous sponsors, organizations, and individuals who share our vision: a community where all youth thrive. Your support allows us to continue providing safe homes and brighter futures for the youth we serve.

Thank you to Coast Capital Savings, The Home Depot Canada Foundation, Victoria Foundation, Anglican Diocese of British Columbia, Proline Management, Pondering Turtles, Robbie Hancock, Peninsula Co-op, Victoria Residential Builders Association, Silk Road Tea, and Hour Movers for your support.

If you are interested in getting involved and supporting Threshold Housing, you can make a difference in the following ways:

### By donating

**Online** Visit our website [thresholdhousing.ca/donate](https://thresholdhousing.ca/donate) to make a one-time donation or to become a Brighter Future Funder and donate monthly.

**By Mail** Threshold Housing Society, 1524 Fort Street, Victoria BC V8S 5J2

If you have any questions about making a donation or the impact your donation will have at Threshold Housing, please contact Jasmine Campbell our Development Manager at [Jasmine.C@thresholdhousing.ca](mailto:Jasmine.C@thresholdhousing.ca) or by calling 250-383-8830.

### Volunteer with us

We are always looking for volunteers to join our team. Email [Assist@thresholdhousing.ca](mailto:Assist@thresholdhousing.ca) to learn more about current opportunities.


### Sponsor an event

If your team or organization is looking to make a difference please consider sponsoring an event. Fundraising through events is essential for our ability to continue to provide safe housing, support services, and community to at-risk youth. To learn more, please email Jasmine Campbell our Development Manager at [Jasmine.C@thresholdhousing.ca](mailto:Jasmine.C@thresholdhousing.ca).

### Become a member

Join our membership to advocate the mission and vision of Threshold Housing Society and spread awareness and understanding of youth homelessness in our community. Join us for our Annual General Meeting to help bring real positive change. Please go to [thresholdhousing.ca/membership](https://thresholdhousing.ca/membership) to sign up to become a member today.

## Events



2020 was the year of virtual events! Due to the global pandemic, Threshold Housing like many organizations had to shift their model of events and fundraising to being solely online. In September 2020, we celebrated our postponed 30th Anniversary with a virtual gala in a box. We invited critical stakeholders, donors, and community members to join us virtually with a gala in a box, this included a 3-course meal, delicious local wine, and gifts. We had the Lieutenant Governor of BC Honourable Janet Austen, MP Laurel Collins, B.C's Representative for Children and Youth Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth, Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps, View Royal Mayor David Screech, Colwood Mayor Rob Martin, and Oak Bay Mayor Kevin Murdoch. The evening was filled with inspiration, reflection, youth voices, and hearing from our incredible guest speakers. Thank you so much to Peninsula Co-op for sponsoring our 30th Anniversary Virtual Gala. We want to thank each and every individual who helped make that evening a success. Fundraising through our events help us continue providing safe homes, support services, and community to the youth we serve. By attending and supporting our events, you are helping provide brighter futures to the at-risk youth in our community.

## 2020-2021 Financials

Year Ended March 31, 2021

Revenue	2021	2020
Government funding	\$690,614	\$302,982
Grants	\$276,409	\$325,084
Rental income	\$229,340	\$222,293
Donations and fundraising	\$292,309	\$178,239
Investment revenue	\$30,875	\$26,719
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	\$11,543	\$9,655
Unrealized gains (losses) on investments	\$106,114	\$(76,244)
Realized gains (losses) on investments	\$(1,536)	\$13,686
Loan forgiveness	\$10,000	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,645,668</b>	<b>\$1,002,414</b>

Expenses	2021	2020
Administrative expenses	\$99,569	\$90,186
Amortization	\$17,129	\$10,118
Bad debts	-	\$12,854
Interest and bank charges	-	-
Fundraising	\$45,000	\$42,681
Housing program	\$350,454	\$219,051
Insurance	\$8,051	\$7,108
Investment management fees	\$4,064	\$3,369
Life skills program	\$10,726	\$11,539
Professional development	\$15,158	\$5,049
Professional fees	\$38,610	\$28,770
Salaries and benefits	\$824,975	\$681,516
Travel and meetings	\$5,747	\$6,528
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,419,483</b>	<b>\$1,118,768</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	226,185	(116,354)

