



Fall 2016

www.ThresholdHousing.ca

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2016

In the 2015 calendar year, Threshold received 117 applications for the 29 rooms and units it had available throughout the region. In this period, 52 unique youth between the ages of 16 and 22 years were housed under roofs provided by the Society. This was a 100% increase since 2010 when Threshold housed 26 unique individuals. This increase in demand is reflective of the national picture where youth at risk of becoming homeless remain the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.

In September of 2016, Threshold opened a fourth house, Threshold House, in the District of Oak Bay. This new location will again offer youth yet another different housing option unlike anything in Threshold's history. (See more on page 3.)

With Threshold growing to meet the increasing demand for our services in our community, the support we re-

ceive from individuals, the business community, and other organizations is more vital than ever.

Thank you for your support,

Mark Muldoon

Executive Director

The Saanich & Langford Home Depot stores selected Threshold Housing Society to be the charitable recipient of all proceeds raised in the 2016 Orange Door Project. This year was a great success and the proceeds will be used to forward the vision of an end to youth homelessness.



**CANADA
FOUNDATION**

Housing and hope
for homeless youth

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Threshold Housing Society is proud and excited to celebrate the opening of Threshold House, a home in Victoria for youth at risk of being homeless.

We are celebrating this launch with Coast Capital Savings President and CEO Don Coulter, Oak Bay Mayor Nils Jensen, Andrew Weaver MLA, and many more!

Please join us on Wednesday morning for refreshments and ceremonies as well as an exciting announcement.

Where: Threshold House, 2095 Granite Street, Victoria BC

When: Wednesday, Oct. 26th, 11:30 am

RSVP: info@thresholdhousing.ca

For details visit:

[www.ThresholdHousing.ca/
ThresholdHouse](http://www.ThresholdHousing.ca/ThresholdHouse)

Administration: (250) 383-8830

Housing: Inquiries (778) 406-0558

900 Vancouver St. Victoria BC V8V 3V7

Business Number: #87667 3369 RR0001

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 vulnera-

EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN

*By Rebekah Humphrey,
Holly House Mentor & House Supervisor*

The youth at Holly House have been embarking on a journey into themselves through a new program called the Women's Wellness Group. Each week we meet, gather and dive into a chosen topic of self-exploration, personal health, and support through group interaction.

This group also includes young women in the Safe Housing for Youth program (SHY).

The average age is between 16-20 years. The group is built around a talking circle where reflection, guided questions and a variety of focused creative works take place. Youth may be asked to close their eyes and sit quietly while they think about what they would truly enjoy having in their lives, what brings them joy. Often questions like these spark their imagination, where staff can help to guide or support a creative process or further discovery of how they can meet their own goals.

These groups build stronger bonds between the youth and between youth and staff. Also, staff get clearer details surrounding individual youth processing, growth and learning patterns. We find out about unacknowledged needs a youth might have. Coming from difficult backgrounds, some youth have never been heard or had their wishes acknowledged. The net result is

that such groups encourage self-esteem and well-being because a youth is being heard and their voice recognized, often for the first time!

In the Women's Wellness Group, there is no advice giving, simply listening, reflection and sometimes planning or follow-up. As well, the youth choose what they will be engaging in and their choices are understood with compassion and empathy, whether they follow suit with others or make their own way for themselves. Strength in their personal self-knowledge is supported and integrated into the program itself. They are openly encouraged to be themselves, to be in tune with their personal feelings and needs, along with expressing themselves through clear communication techniques such as Non-Violent Communication.

In using skills gained through training with YPQA (Youth Program Quality Assessment) approach we help bring forth leadership skills through the encouragement of youth taking on roles of guide for other youth in the group. Techniques like reframing conflict, creating safe environments and giving youth a voice has helped us to prepare a well-assessed and data proven working program schedule.

The Women's Wellness Group is a bi-weekly event that bring excitement and social outputs for the youth in our houses and programs. Safety is brought to a new level and personal empowerment is the goal. There are occasionally tears and afterwards, lots of smiles.



Friends at Dallas Road



*Whale Watching:
Who's watching who?*



*Relaxing after a
community dinner*

OUR GENEROUS DONORS



VICTORIA
FOUNDATION



Ministry of
Justice



100 DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY

By Jo-Ann Roberts,
Advancement & Community Relations Consultant

“One of the best ways to solve homelessness is to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place, and that’s what we do at Threshold,” says Mark Muldoon the Executive Director of Threshold Housing Society. Threshold provides supportive housing for youth age 16-24.

Threshold Housing Society is in the midst of a fund raising campaign to raise \$100,000 for renovations to a new project which will provide housing for youth at-risk of becoming homeless. The campaign is called 100 Doors of Opportunity. Thanks to a major donation of \$30,000 from Home Depot, as well as a large donation from Coast Capital Savings, \$20,000 from a private donor and more than \$20,000 from individual donors the campaign has almost reached its goal.

“We’ve raised \$90,000 which means we are looking for just 10 more individuals, or groups, willing to pledge \$1,000 each to open a door of opportunity for a young adult in our community,” says Jo-Ann Roberts, the Community Relations and Advancement Consultant for Threshold.



“In a community where housing is expensive and hard to find it is easy to see how vulnerable youth end up couch-surfing, or living in unsafe situations,” says Roberts. “It makes it very hard to finish school or find work when you don’t know where you’re sleeping from one night to the next. That’s why the housing programs Threshold offers are so important. Once you have a safe, secure, affordable place to live you can work to reach your goals, and with our life skills programs you leave Threshold better prepared to live a successful life.”

The greatest number of youth that are most vulnerable to homelessness are hidden and do

not have a street presence. These youth are vulnerable in several ways. They are escaping abuse, have been abandoned or are ageing out of foster care; they are in the midst of adolescence; they are untrained for a good-paying job; and they are often prohibited from finding safe housing because of their age.

On average, Threshold receives about 120 applications from youth for transitional housing while having only 30 rooms and units available. The program lasts two years and it aims to equip youth for adulthood emotionally and practically by teaching life-skills.

In the recent point-in-time shelter count (February, 2016) conducted in Greater Victoria, it was discovered that most homeless people began their journey into chronic homelessness at the age of 18 years or under. Preventing youth from becoming homeless today is one of the best ways to prevent adult homelessness in the future.

The new project, Threshold House, is a partnership with Oak Bay United Church. Threshold is leasing the former Easter Seal House on Granite Street from the church. Renovations were completed over the summer. The Oak Bay United congregation and clergy, along with the church board have been extremely helpful in assisting Threshold in preparing the house by providing furnishing and cleaning and being a warm and welcoming neighbour. Home Depot pitched in with almost 40 volunteers to paint the entire interior of the house. The grounds were cleaned up and the landscaping and gardening were done by volunteers from Harbourside Rotary Club.

We hope to unveil our special 100 Doors of Opportunity Quilt at the Grand Opening of the new Threshold House at the end of October. We hope to see you there.

To learn more about the 100 Doors of Opportunity contact Jo-Ann at:

Advancement@ThresholdHousing.ca
Phone: 250-884-6676

Jo-Ann Roberts is available to speak free with groups and organizations of all sorts. Contact her to book Jo-Ann as a guest speaker at your next meeting or event!



2016 STATS

The 2016 Point-in-Time Count conducted in the CRD revealed 12% of enumerated (sheltered) population were under 24 years of age. More startling, however, was the revelation of the age at which many people began their journey into homelessness. Canadian research on experiences of youth and adult homelessness draw a strong connection between experiences of homelessness as a child or youth and the likelihood of experiencing homelessness, and even chronic homelessness as an adult.

Almost half of the 2016 survey respondents identified that their first experience of homelessness was as a youth.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Upon entering the Threshold program all youth receive a quilt. These beautiful pieces of functional art are created & donated by Fran McArthur and her quilting colleagues.

The Board of Directors

The 2016-2017 Threshold Board

Dennis Anholt (Chair)
 John Reese (Vice Chair)
 Karen Blakely (Treasurer)
 Michael Shepherd Q.C. (Secretary)

Sean Dhillon Carol Martin
 Davona Harlow

And welcome to our new board members:

Guy Dagenais Andrew Reeve
 Rev. Gillian Hoyer Donald Storch



Volunteers putting the finishing touches on furniture they refurbished for Threshold House. Great fun for all! *July 16, 2016*

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.

Recycling Days

- October 22nd
- November 26th
- December—None
- January 7th
- January 28th
- February 25th

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



Support Threshold Housing!

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.

Pledge a Door!

We are still seeking 11 individuals or groups to pledge \$1000 for one of our 100 Doors of Opportunity to support renovations of Threshold House opening September 2016. Please contact Jo-Ann to learn more: Advancement@ThresholdHousing.ca

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal: _____

Phone: _____

Alt. Phone: _____

Email: _____