

Vision: The Interfaith Collective envisions a diverse community where all have a home, safety and belong.

Mission: Guided by those with lived experience of homelessness, we will accomplish this vision by

- Bringing information and education about the experience of homelessness to our own communities of faith,
- Advocating, supporting, and creating opportunities for people to be housed.

THIS MONTH, THE STEERING CIRCLE SPOTLIGHT IS ON:

Scattered sites & Emergency rent assistance

This month we focus on two programs that provide rent subsidies. The Scattered Sites program from Canadian Mental Health works with landlords and clients in market housing located across the community to build capacity and work toward positive tenancy. Read of their amazing success

And from St Vincent de Paul, a lay Catholic organization, a program that can help in emergency situations with rental assistance. There is opportunity for you as individuals or for faith communities to financially support the ongoing work of these two programs.

SUBSIDIES HELP MAKE RENT AFFORDABLE

Scattered Sites

(Cassie Hager, Homelessness Services Manager, Canadian Mental Health Association or CMHA)

Canadian Mental Health Association started a Scattered Site housing program in 2015 with five units from one landlord. Over the past 7 years this program has grown to 80 units and partnerships with 18 landlords in the community. A Scattered Site is a market rental apartment that CMHA rents from a local landlord and then sublets to a client in our program who is experiencing or is at-risk of homelessness. The client meets with a case-manager on a weekly basis to access community resources and develop the life skills needed to maintain their housing. These meetings take place in the client's home or in the community. The intention of the program is for clients to build independent living skills and a positive tenancy until the landlord is comfortable with the client signing the lease in their own name.

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Saint Vincent de Paul

Invincible Housing programme

(Submitted by Elaine McMurray)

This special project provides rent support once per year with a cap of \$450.00 per household. This is not a government fund, and it is often used in conjunction with other rent subsidies provided by CMHA, NOW Canada, Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society and sometimes crisis grants through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

To be considered, we meet the person seeking support either in person or by zoom, or conference call. We ask for information about the situation, income, expenses, what led to the need for support, etc. We try to determine if we proceed with support will the situation be tenable going forward, etc. We ask about other programs they may have accessed such as credit counselling, TELUS for seniors and TELUS low-income plans, have they filed taxes, what is child support situation if applicable and anything else that seems appropriate.

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SCATTERED HOUSING, cont. from page 1

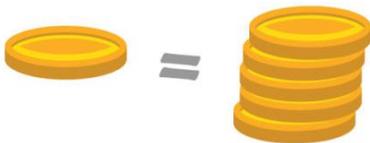
This program gives low-income and marginalized individuals access to market rentals while providing assurance to the landlord that rent will be paid, and any damages repaired.

Here is a video highlighting the impact that the Scattered Sites program has on our clients:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08Hg3CbPz5Y>

Scattered Sites are made affordable through the use of monthly rent supplements. The current average cost of a 1-bedroom apartment in Kelowna is between \$1400.00-\$1700.00 /month. Monthly rent supplements of up to \$450.00 /month are used to help make housing costs more affordable for low-income clients. The rental market in Kelowna continues to be unattainable for many people without financial support. Our goal is for our clients to spend no more than 50% of their income on housing and rent supplements are an integral part of this. CMHA also supports clients to learn budgeting and financial literacy skills, and to access community resources to lower their living costs.

When clients first move into their new home, they are often in need of basic housing supplies such as furniture and household goods. Start-up kits are created that provide the basic essentials to each client moving into their unit for the first time. For anyone looking to contribute, gift cards to Walmart, Superstore, or other home goods stores assist our program in purchasing the move-in essentials. For more information on the Scattered Sites program please reach out to Cassie Hager cassie.hager@cmha.bc.ca



A research study done by BC Housing in 2018 found that for every dollar invested in CMHA Kelowna's Scattered Sites programme, nearly five dollars in social and economic value is created.

INVINCIBLE HOUSING, cont. from page 1

Once we have completed the interview the lead Vincentian writes a report and shares with our team, asking for suggestions and ultimately a vote

If we do agree to provide rent support, then we contact the landlord and arrange to make the payment

A special project such this has a budget that must be raised. We do have a cap of \$5000 per month and most months this amount is fully utilized.

Call 250-258-6233 for more information about **Invincible Housing**.

If you would like to donate and support our project we accept e-transfers at ssvpinvincible@gmail.com or cheques can be made out to: SSVP Okanagan Valley Particular Council and mailed to: St. Vincent de Paul, 839 Sutherland Ave, Kelowna, BC V1Y 5X1

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is an international lay Catholic organization that has been delivering food hampers (yes, we deliver to your door) for over 175 years in Canada and over 30 years in the Okanagan area. In Kelowna food hampers are delivered once every three months. If you know a family in need of food hampers, call:

- Rutland: Corpus Christie 250 765 0800
- Lower Mission and East Kelowna:
St. Charles Garnier 250 860 2536
- Downtown- Glenmore:
St. Pius X 250 762 2577
- Capri- Pandosy areas ICC 250 826 5562
- West Kelowna and Peachland:
Our Lady of Lourdes 250 801 5905

Training Opportunity: Human Rights

In partnership with BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner, the Central Okanagan Journey Home Society invite you to an interactive, 90-min virtual learning session on your rights and responsibilities as they relate to the BC *Human Rights Code*.

This session will provide information on the following:

- Defining 'human rights and situating B.C.'s *Human Rights Code* within other human rights laws
- Recognizing terms used in the B.C. human rights system, and the role of the BC Human Rights Tribunal, BC Human Rights Clinic, and BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner in the human rights system in the province
- Identifying discrimination under the BC Human Rights Code, particularly in service provision
- What protected personal identity characteristics can be used to make human rights complaints under the BC Human Rights Code
- The obligations of service providers under the BC Human Rights Code, including the 'duty to inquire' and 'duty to accommodate'

When: Jun 7, 2022, 10:00 - 11:30 am PST

Topic: BCOHRC Education Session, BC Human Rights Code for Service Providers & Volunteers

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XLHG-eKWQcKwPcRdcjIzBw

OR

When: Jun 9, 2022, 06:00 - 7:30 pm PST

Topic: BCOHRC Education Session, BC Human Rights Code for Service Providers & Volunteers

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JHp9T9QbReOvScS_c8B-NQ

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Update:

Neighbour to Neighbour Project

Dr. John Graham

Principal Investigator
Kelowna Homelessness Research
Collaborative (KHRC)
<https://khrc.ok.ubc.ca/>

The Neighbour-to-Neighbour inaugural planning meeting occurred via zoom, April 27, 2022. The group created two task groups – one for education, the other for logistics of collaborating across three faith groups.

The 8-month pilot is intended to start shortly after Thanksgiving 2022 and will involve individuals who are transitioning from homelessness to housed, being in networks of neighbourly community and friendship with upwards of three people from Kelowna faith communities (Cathedral Church of St Michael & All Angels Anglican, Central Okanagan United Church; Metro Community.

Education/training of those involved will occur in the late spring, summer, and early fall. Metro Community and Kelowna Gospel Mission will exercise care in selecting individuals; particular promise resides with those who are older, have no involvement in the criminal justice system, and no substance misuse issues. John Graham at UBC and graduate students under his supervision will lead monthly process evaluations and two outcome evaluations (at the beginning and ending of the pilot). We anticipate reciprocal relationships of mutual support and community that will give tangible examples of community building community.