



Empowering the Poor Since 1991

Anawim News

 **2020**

A Letter from Our Board

Dear Friends,

Well I think it would be an understatement to say 2020 has been a year like no other. Like all of us, COVID-19 has disrupted our lives in unimaginable ways from a short 12 months ago. First and foremost, we all hope that you and your families have been safe and healthy as we adapt to this pandemic and all its stresses. I think it's fair to say that this great reset has brought out the best in many people and shone a light on the opportunities to improve. From the onset of the pandemic, it became very apparent that the poor and homeless were going to face serious obstacles in getting outreach services.

As a Board, we had to make the very hard decision to close our doors until we got the clearance from Island Health and had established safety protocols for our staff and residents. I am happy to say that we re-opened in July, on a modified basis, to the public and continue to try and deliver services to those that come through our doors. We also partnered with a group called the Justice Van, where our staff prepared meals and they delivered them to the people in need. It turned out to be a win-win-win scenario that we hope to continue for the foreseeable future.

I want to make a special mention about our staff. Through all this, our staff have shown incredible determination to continue to make a difference in the lives we touch. Though we took all the precautions we could, it still takes a certain element of courage to do the work we ask our staff to do. And for that, on behalf of the Board, we want to thank our staff for their dedication.

As I write this letter, the Women's Residence is in the queue at the City of Victoria. The application has been completed and submitted. We hope to have our rezoning application heard by Council by the late Fall. I want to thank the hard work of Aryze Developments and D'Arcy Jones for their vision and persistence in getting this project moving forward. Once we are successful in rezoning, the fundraising will begin in earnest.

Financially, we have been blessed this year with numerous donations, large and small. We were successful in accessing the federal wage subsidy (CEWS), which was significant help to ensure we maintained our staffing levels. We were also successful in accessing emergency relief funds through the Victoria Foundation and The United Way of Victoria. We are very, very fortunate that through your generous donations and prudent expense management, Anawim is going to be OK for now. I don't know what 2021 will hold, but we will continue to have faith that people will notice our great work and choose to support us.

As we approach the end of this long year, I think we all can say that nothing is more important than our health and family. Isn't it ironic that those are exactly the two things Anawim has chosen to focus on for over 30 years: people's physical and mental health, while trying to provide a family support environment. If you strip it all down, isn't that what it's all about?

On behalf of the Board, may 2021 bring you hope and a refreshed sense of renewal. We will get through this! Humans have always been a resilient bunch. See you on the other side.

Sincerely, Dan Greco
President

**Christmas
Tree Fundraiser**



**LOCAL
Culture
TREES**

**Starts
Nov. 27**

Anawim would like to thank:

Presenting
Sponsor



ODLUM BROWN
Brian Howe, Portfolio Manager
Gareth Dickson, Associate Portfolio Manager

Gold
Sponsors



Silver
Sponsor



Bronze
Sponsors



Thank you

Fundraiser

Thursday,
November 12
@7:30pm

Online Auction

Hear stories

Listen to two interviews with our graduates about their struggles on Victoria's streets, and how they made lasting changes in their lives.



Bid on fun prizes

Participate in our online auction and bid on weekend getaways, rock climbing lessons, and more!



Support your community

Admission is by donation. As of October 28, visit:
www.anawim-victoria.myevent.com.



To watch the livestream, donate, and bid on auction items, visit our event page:

WWW.ANAWIM-VICTORIA.MYEVENT.COM

Auction opens Nov. 5th and closes at 8pm on Nov. 12



The chalkboard in Anawim's entrance - fabulous artwork by staff member Tahani Peters!



Thank you to Save on Foods for providing fresh bread for the sandwiches that were given out through the Justice Van!



Thanks to the Victoria Foundation and United Way for their ongoing support of Anawim House.



Covid-19 Response

Anawim reopened our drop-in program on July 27, with new hygiene measures in place. We currently provide showers, laundry and food on a one-by-one basis, plus a clothing giveaway. Our residential program has been running throughout the pandemic.



food and drinks on 3 other days the Van increased its presence to 6 nights a week.

Anawim has graciously provided 40-50 sandwiches, drinks, chips and wagon wheels on those 3 days. This has really impacted the Street community as so many people rely on the consistent service due to so many normal food options being closed due to the pandemic. During this COVID-19 crisis the desperation and sense of helplessness has increased on the street. Anawim's willingness to step up and meet their needs has had big impact on the community's well being as many street people are in survival mode. The van is always met with eagerness and amazing gratitude.

Since late March, Anawim House and Justice Van Society have partnered in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The Justice Van used to serve the street community 3 nights a week with food, drink and resources but with Anawim agreeing to provide

As resources and meal options have opened up for the street community, we have reduced our schedule to 4 days a week (July 1) with Anawim House still supplying the food/drinks 3 nights a week. This has not only benefitted the Street Community but also the Justice Van Society has

been able to focus their limited resources on other needs such as tarps/tents/flashlights/clothing, etc.

The Justice Van Society cannot express their gratitude enough to our growing relationship with Anawim House. The Anawim staff's professionalism and kindness is second to none. The Van always tries to give out quality products and the products supplied by Anawim is of highest quality.

Many, many thanks to Anawim House as their presence in the Community continues to be life changing.

Regards,
Frank Woods

President of Justice Van Society



Anawim had a socially distanced Sock Toss this year. Participants threw socks over the fence instead of into the field, but everyone still had fun! Our thanks to the Victoria Harbourcats.

Kitchen Renovation



We had to dispose of our old sinks, the broken down gas range, dishwasher, oven & fridge. Thanks to RALMAX Group who looked after this disposal problem at no charge to Anawim at Ellice Recycle.

Thank You

Thanks to the following people and organizations for making our kitchen renovation possible:

- Built-Rite Structural Services
- RALMAX Group (Ellice Recycle)
- Quality Victoria Drywall
- Absolutely Electrical
- Harbour City Kitchens
- Colonial Countertops
- Tile Town
- Lifetime tile & Stone
- Landsdowne Appliance
- Russell Hendrix
- Harbour City Kitchen
- Island Blue
- Builder's Choice Shower Door & Innovative Glass
- Charles Gabriel Glassworks
- Christian Webber Construction
- Harbourside Foundation

New electric lines and plumbing was installed. Insulation was re-installed & ready for drywalling. Thanks to Quality Victoria Drywall for drastically reducing the cost to install, tape & mud the drywall.



Thanks to Harbour City Kitchens for supplying & installing the cupboards, cabinets and Island at half price. The installation was on time, complete and professional.

Colonial Countertops supplied and installed all the countertops at no charge to Anawim. The installation was professional, quick and no fuss. Very impressed!



Resident Stories



Corey

I became homeless for the first time when I was 14 years old, when I ran away from an abusive home. I have been homeless off and on since then throughout my life, having no family, parents or any real friends.

I travelled up and down the island and on the mainland trying to get established, and found Anawim House when I was 22. I'm 28 now, and it was the only place that I could go to eat, shower, do laundry, and be in a safe sober environment. There was something different about this place that always made me feel welcome, supported, and genuinely loved by the staff and people who live here.

I applied for residency at Anawim House not for sobriety reasons, but for help with stability and trying to break the cycle of homelessness I was trapped in.

They gave me an opportunity. Even though the resident program is for recovery, they gave me a chance, and I got in 3 weeks before Covid-19 struck and everything changed. I was really lucky to have gotten in at that time.

I've been here for about 7 months now, and so much has changed in my life. I recently got employed with The Existence Project, an organization I found through Anawim house. I wouldn't have gotten to where I am or even survived homelessness in this city if it wasn't for this house.

Everywhere else was based around addiction, and I didn't want to be exposed to those elements while I'm trying to recover from trauma myself. Anawim House was the only place I could go to not be influenced by the things in the street; It felt like a real home, and the staff actually were sincere and you could really feel the difference. Most of the people who work here have lived experience themselves with homelessness, trauma, and addiction and have overcome it.

I believe this is the key ingredient that makes a place like this so successful and helpful to people like myself and others that are struggling with addiction or recovery. The staff here actually feel like family and really the love that's needed for one to heal. It's unlike any place I've ever experienced, and I have accessed homelessness services all over Canada.

I've also never made so much personal growth and progression in such a short amount of time, and seen such positive change in my life, until I came to Anawim House for help and housing. It just allows someone like me to grow and heal so we can take the next steps in life to become independent and function in society.

I'm really just grateful I found this place and feel blessed to have these people in my life, and in my corner it makes life doable. I have more confidence in my future now thanks to Anawim House. The staff here do care, are authentic, and really know how to empower people and help them heal. I wish there were more Anawim Houses in Canada.

-Cory Resilient

Billy

Well where do I start? At Anawim that's where! I honestly doubt I would be alive right now if it wasn't for Anawim House and the support I receive here as a resident. I truly believe this!

After 10 years clean, I lost a career government job, lost my home and became homeless. Both my parents had recently passed and I found myself

alone, on the streets and battling a serious drug addiction. This was compounded by PTSD, major depressive disorder and suicidal tendencies. Over the course a four year period I ended up in the hospital at least 10 times. I was also arrested multiple times and tried to end my life on 3 occasions and nearly succeeded.

I honestly didn't think I wanted to get better or even could get better. Years of relapsing and negative thinking had left me bitter, angry and spent. It was after my last suicide attempt though that something clicked in me. I knew with all I had gone through that my door was closing. I didn't feel like I had many relapses left. I figured the next time would probably be the last time.

I managed to check myself into the hospital one last time. That led me to stabilization at Royal Jubilee Hospital. Even committing to 30 days at stabilization seemed unreal to me. I still had that voice inside of me telling me to go and do it on my own. I managed to complete my 30 days and stayed clean. I could barely stay clean for more than a few days for the last 4 years, but somehow I did it.

The staff at stabilization recommended I try second stage housing. At first I wasn't interested, but I then met another person in recovery at 12 step meeting who was a resident at Anawim House. A place

where I could have unlimited support, my own room, free counselling, affordable rent and food, and the opportunity to really stay clean and find myself. It really did seem too good to be true.

Well needless to say I started coming around and got involved and then became a resident. Well fast forward sixteen months. I am still a resident at Anawim and am also over 16 months clean. Something I never thought I'd accomplish. I know my efforts need to be recognized, but so do the efforts of the staff and volunteers at Anawim.

For the first time since I lost my parents I actually feel like I have a home. A place where I am appreciated and valued. A place where I feel safe and secure. I also love the aspect of contributing and giving back as I feel like I'm part of the community again.

Anawim has also allowed me to pursue the interests I once had that had faded with addiction and homelessness. It allows me to think and feel that I have a larger purpose and can make it again on my own in the world. The difference this time is that I know I'll never be truly alone after becoming part of the Anawim family.

-Billy



THANKS TO KEN WYLIE AND ARCHETYPAL FOR ONCE AGAIN TAKING RESIDENTS ON OUR ANNUAL HIKE!



ALSO A BIG THANKS TO ARCHTERYX FOR SUPPLYING THE NECESSARY GEAR.

Thank you to all our individual donors, who are responsible for keeping Anawim House running. The greatest share of our funding comes from individual donors like yourself. Thank you for supporting Anawim for 29 years!

How You Can Help

Donate:

Money



Canada Helps pledges
Leave a Legacy
Send a Cheque
Attend our fundraiser

Food



Non-perishable items
Tomato sauce
Cereal
Tuna

Toiletries



Toothbrushes & toothpaste
Shampoo, soap
Deodorant, razors, etc.
Toilet paper

Socks & Underwear



New socks, underwear for men and women
Winter essentials

Towels



Bath towels
Hand towels & facecloths

Drives in your local community, family or work

Spread the Word:

Social Media



Follow us on social media; like, share, and comment!

Talk to People



If you know of someone who might help us, let them know about us!



THANKS TO PROLINE MANAGEMENT LTD FOR THEIR FUNDRAISER!

Anawim would like to extend our sincere thanks to Proline Management Ltd for their fundraising efforts (\$11,287.33). Sam, Paul, and Andy ran a 28k trail run to raise funds for Anawim house. Sam, the organizer of the event, pledged to shave the beard he's had since he was 13! In this photo, the three newly beardless organizers are presenting their cheque to Terry, the director of Anawim House.



YES! I would like to help the Anawim Companions Society*

☐ Single Gift Amount:

☐ Monthly Pledge Amount:

- ☐ Post-Dated Cheques Enclosed
- ☐ Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD)

Anawim now accepts Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD). If you have selected the PAD option, please fill out the contact information below. The appropriate forms will be sent to you. Charitable tax receipts will be mailed annually.

Name:

Address:

Prov: Postal:

Phone: () -

☐ Yes, I want to save paper and postage and receive the Anawim newsletter by email.

Email:

Leaving a Legacy

How we will be remembered after we're gone is worth thinking about. How can we continue to support the homeless and the working poor of Victoria when our lives are over?

This is an important question that takes into consideration our broader family: our fellow citizens and the community in which we live. A "legacy gift" to Anawim ensures that its future is securely funded for the hundreds of people who rely on our help.

Whether a bequest in a will, stocks or mutual funds, life insurance or RRSPs, a legacy gift is a way for your charitable work to continue after your lifetime. Please call us if you would like to discuss planned giving.

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO:

ANAWIM COMPANIONS SOCIETY
973 CALEDONIA AVENUE
VICTORIA, BC V8T 1E7



*Tax receipts are mailed annually. Registered Charity No. 119212256 RR0001



THANK YOU TO OUR 2019-20 CORPORATE AND AGENCY DONORS

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