

THE BEAT

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR THE
SENIORS SERVICES SOCIETY OF BC



The Grand Parade was grand indeed!

On Saturday, June 1st, 108 walkers and 67 volunteers gathered at the River Market on New West Quay to make the Seniors Services Society's newest fundraising event a success. The sun shone, everyone was in good spirits, and \$22,255 was raised for homeless and at-risk seniors!

A very big thank you to everyone who supported this event, from our volunteers and walkers, to our donors, and to the special dignitaries who came out. Thank you to Honourable Peter Julian, MP for New Westminster, Honourable Minister Judy Darcy, MLA for New Westminster, and of course our New Westminster Mayor the Honourable Jonathan Cote!

We would also like to thank our sponsors, including BC Housing and the amazing folks from Bria Communities who sent out their own team of walkers and hosted a Grand Parade rest stop! Thank you so much for being part of The Grand Parade!



To view more photos of The Grand Parade, please visit us at:
<https://thegrandparade.org/location/newwestminster>

SHINE BC AT THE GRAND PARADE

The Honourable Judy Darcy, provincial Minister of Mental Health and Addictions made a very special announcement during the opening ceremonies of The Grand Parade. The Ministry is providing funding in the amount of \$500,000 to the Seniors Services Society for our Seniors Housing Information and Navigation Ease (SHINE BC)!

We are very grateful to the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions for their support!

Details on how the funding will be used are on Page 2 of The Beat.



SERVICES WE OFFER

- Housing Information & Referrals
- Housing Outreach Support & Rent Bank
- Temporary Housing
- Housing Navigation Training
- Light Housekeeping
- Meals on Wheels
- Medical Transport
- Grocery Shopping
- Tax Clinics
- Bus Outings
- Social Programs
- Support Calls
- Santa for Seniors

FROM HOSPITAL TO HOUSING

Many seniors face a serious challenge when they undergo a lengthy period of hospitalisation; unable to pay rent, they are often evicted while still in hospital. This happened to one senior who underwent a lengthy stay due to prostate cancer. His daughter called Seniors Services Society's (SSS) Housing department, desperate to help her father avoid homelessness.

SSS Housing Outreach Worker Ana took on the case. Her first priority: help the father establish an income in order to secure housing once he was officially released from the hospital. This meant working with his daughter to fill out forms and applications to ensure he would receive his Canada Pension Plan, as well as helping him access other resources and apply for housing.



With his recent release from the hospital, the father has taken a temporary suite through the SSS Temporary Housing Program while Ana continues to help him and his daughter with their housing search. The daughter sent Ana a handwritten note: it is with the daughter's permission that we would like to share the note with you.

Dear Ana,

Thank you so much for all the support you are continuing to provide my dad. I can't express how grateful I am for your care and attention to my dad. I'm especially grateful that you're looking out for him in way that I can't due to my history of trauma and loss concerning him. He said on Father's Day that his life "feels cracked" here and there - thank you a million times over for fixing those cracks and providing him with the services he needs.

With gratitude,
Name Withheld Upon Request

SHINE BC FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

We are happy to announce the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions has generously awarded \$500,000 to Seniors Services Society to further the development of mental health and addictions resources for seniors across the province. This funding will be used to launch the newly branded SHINE BC program (Seniors Housing Information and Navigation Ease) which will help deliver housing supports to seniors in our communities that work to prevent depression, anxiety, addictions, and other mental health issues which may arise from or contribute to insecure housing.

As part of this expansion of services, Seniors Services Society plans to implement a 1-800-SHINEline that seniors from around the province can call to access information and navigation assistance about housing and housing services. In addition, this funding will help Seniors Services Society develop a brand new online resource of mental health and addictions services for seniors which will be easily accessed through the Seniors Services Society's website in the near future.

Along with these information and navigation resources, this funding will be used to pilot Seniors Mental Health and Addictions Outreach programs across the province and to support the formation of a Seniors Mental Health Task Force which will assist seniors whose housing is threatened by social isolation or challenging mental health conditions including hoarding.

We are excited to be advocates for seniors mental health and to raise awareness about the need for mental health and addictions supports for seniors across BC. Stay tuned for further developments of this project.



SHINE BC

AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

The Seniors Services Society is pleased to announce our new fall fundraising event: *Age is Just a Number*! The evening, co-hosted by the Royal City Rotary Club, will include dinner, live and silent auctions, a wine raffle, and a performance by King Fish, the Jamaican fire limbo dancer!



Be sure to save the date! Tickets are already on sale! *Age is Just a Number* will be held on Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019 at Roma Hall in Queensborough. Doors open at 6 pm.

Tickets for *Age is Just a Number* may be purchased online at <https://tinyurl.com/y4uyr6cp> for \$75 each. Proceeds from *Age is Just a Number* will fund programs such as Meals on Wheels and Better at Home, through Seniors Services Society's Support Services.



In February this year, the Seniors Services Society launched our giving campaign 'Give 60+' to raise the funds necessary to support the seniors we serve. Whether it's 60 dollars a year or 60 dollars a month, the support of our community members makes all the difference.

Some examples of how \$60 helps seniors-in-need:

10 hot meals a month to a senior needing assistance

3 nights of temporary housing to a senior in a housing crisis

1 month of social outings for a lonely, isolated, or low-income seniors

To support the Seniors Services Society at Give 60+, please visit us at:

www.seniorsservicessociety.ca/autodonate

Registered Charity Number #80138 8547 RR0001

Thank you for your support!



VOLUNTEER VIBES

Volunteer Income Tax Program

This spring, we participated in Canada Revenue Agency's 'Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)'. Agencies all across Canada offer free tax clinics where volunteers complete tax returns for eligible people who have a modest income and a simple tax situation.

Each year, people struggle to complete their tax return, which jeopardizes their access to the credits and benefits they may be entitled to.

The program's success depends on volunteers who generously give their time and expertise to help individuals in our community file tax returns. This year, our volunteers completed close to 670 tax returns for seniors 60+! A big thank you to our volunteer tax preparers and program booking assistants!

The Grand Parade

Close to 70 volunteers from various communities came out and gave their time on June 1st to make the Grand Parade possible. The support of volunteers has a tremendous impact on our ability to operate The Grand Parade and raise money for homeless seniors.

Volunteers cheered, guided, welcomed and served food to all the walkers to make this year's Grand Parade a fun and enjoyable experience for all!



SPOTLIGHT ON STATISTICS

March - May 2019



HOW YOU CAN HELP - BE A VOLUNTEER!

The Seniors Services Society is happy to be offering opportunities to engage with older adults (60+) in a friendly, vibrant setting. We encourage you to come and connect with others who share your interest in helping others, and learn about issues that impact the people we serve.

Contact us today to become part of our dynamic volunteer team! Email us at volunteer@seniorsservicessociety.ca, or call by phone at 604-520-6621.

To learn more about our volunteer program, visit us at www.seniorsservicessociety.ca!

"No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another."

— Author Unknown