



## *Update from The John Howard Society of North Island*

# The Station Youth Housing Opens in Courtenay



A long-held dream to fulfill an identified community need came true in late 2018. The John Howard Society of North Island is pleased to announce that The Station, a supportive, independent youth housing facility, opened its doors on December 7. Youth who are served by The Station are those who are not able to live in their family home, but need support and guidance to learn how to live safely and develop on their own. Circumstances beyond their control force them from their homes and they become one of the most vulnerable sections of the population in the Comox Valley. Exact numbers are difficult to obtain, but there are an estimated 50 youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the Valley at this time. The Station is a name chosen by young people to reflect the start of a new life journey and in honour of the area's historic connection to the railway tracks.

John Howard has successfully operated a supportive youth housing program in Campbell River for 10 years. The agency had been searching for an appropriate building for a similar facility in the Comox Valley. Thanks to a very generous gift from

the Abbeyfield House of Comox Valley Society, John Howard became the owner of a building that is well suited to meet the local need for youth housing. "We are so pleased to provide this much needed housing for young people ages 17-22 in the Comox Valley," said John Howard executive director Wendy Richardson. "The Station offers a youth friendly setting with private rooms, communal spaces, and a feeling of community."



*The Station's dining room*

Following extensive renovations, The Station welcomed the first five youth in December. John Howard would like to thank the Abbeyfield House of Comox Valley Society for the generous gift of the building and property, Comox Valley Regional District (through the Homelessness Support Services tax) and Comox Valley Community Foundation (Community Fund) for renovations and furnishings funding, and The Home Depot Canada Foundation for a stainless steel range. This project was also supported by the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness. The Station's onsite programming is funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

[www.jhsni.bc.ca](http://www.jhsni.bc.ca)

Ask about our  
CARF accreditation



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The John Howard Society of North Island's programs are situated in the territories of the Kwakwaka'wakw, Nuuchahnulth, and Coast Salish peoples.

## Message from the President



**Terry Moist**

I hope the start of the year has been good for all of you. It certainly has been at John Howard. Another accreditation cycle has been completed with another brilliant result. The visiting site team were overwhelmed by the professionalism of all aspects of our society, from executive

director to management to frontline staff to programs. Recommendations for improvement were minimal. We are sound. Thank you to all who contributed so much. Courtenay's The Station, our housing complex for youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, is open and occupied by five youth, with a waitlist and availability for five more people. This is a most exciting project, building on the amazing success of Barnett House, with a few interesting innovations. I look forward to its success. Thanks to all involved!

The provincial government's adult supportive housing project is proceeding on an adjacent property to The Station and, while being an incredible challenge to us, is also an incredible opportunity for us and for our future residents.

The Strategic Plan for the society has been presented by management and staff, and recently approved at the board's annual retreat. The outlook is very optimistic. We are a highly visible, extremely efficient, and profoundly strong advocate for social and criminal justice in our communities. It is a credit to our exceptional staff.

On a less enthusiastic note, I announce the resignation of two valued board members. Dr. Anna Kindy, a director for the past few years, finds her practice requirements prevent her from continuing on the board. With regrets we accept Anna's resignation. Thanks for your valued contribution. I also regretfully announce the resignation of long-time director, Patrick Field. Pat served on the board for 28 years, as our

treasurer for most of them, and has been a calming and professionally sound voice on every issue. Pat kept the best interests of those availing our services as our top concern. The board will miss his caring; I will miss his wisdom.

In conclusion, thank you to all members of the society for your continued support. Thanks to the board for their dedication and, most of all, thanks to our employees for all you do.

- Terry

## Message from the E.D.



**Wendy Richardson**

We are busy on all fronts these days, with many exciting developments launched or in the works. Of particular note was the opening of The Station, our new youth housing facility in Courtenay, in early December. After many months of anticipation and hard work, The Station is now home to young people in need of

transitional housing as they learn how to live independently. We are excited about the adult supportive housing project that will open next door to The Station this spring.

In Campbell River, our Full Time Attendance and 180° Programs are doing a fantastic job of connecting Indigenous youth to cultural activities with the support of Elders and knowledge holders. Our Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services team recently completed a "road show" to showcase YFPS services to referral agencies and other stakeholders in the Comox Valley, Campbell River, and Port Hardy. Foundry Campbell River continues to offer a wide variety of greatly needed services to youth and their families in collaboration with our community partners.

As always, we are grateful to our funders and donors who support our work. Without their generosity, we could not fulfill our vision of "building safer and healthier communities".—Wendy

## Yes! I Want to Help Children & Youth in KidStart

I am enclosing a KidStart donation for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to The John Howard Society of North Island.

I would like to support a child or youth in KidStart by becoming a KidStart Champion monthly donor. I would like to give:

\$100/mo. (Gold)     \$50/mo. (Silver) or     \$25/mo. (Bronze)

I've enclosed post dated cheques or an annual cheque made payable to:

The John Howard Society of North Island, 140 10th Ave., Campbell River, BC, V9W 4E3

I would like to donate using my credit card:

Visit [www.jhsni.bc.ca](http://www.jhsni.bc.ca) to make a secure online donation. Click on the **Donate Now** button. Charitable Registration #107542524RR0001.

# Courtenay Supportive Housing to Open in March

Due to the significant need for supportive housing for adults facing homelessness in the Comox Valley, BC Housing is funding the construction of a 46-unit facility on land provided by the City of Courtenay. The John Howard Society of North Island was selected to operate the facility, located at 988 8th Street, and provide 24/7 services to the residents.

“There has been incredible support from the community for this much needed project and a high level of interest from potential residents,” said John Howard executive director Wendy Richardson. “We are very pleased that we will be providing these important services.”

The building is constructed of modular units that were lifted into place by a crane. The contractor, Horizon



*Construction of supportive housing.*

North, indicates they are well on schedule for a March 31 completion date.

We are actively hiring for several new positions to be based at the

housing facility. These include supportive housing workers, cooks, maintenance worker, and community support worker roles. The Job Shop in

Courtenay supported John Howard with a hiring fair on February 15 for the supportive housing positions.

This particular model of housing is meant to meet the needs of Comox Valley residents who are chronically homeless. We will be prioritizing those applicants who have been unable to maintain housing for longer than six months in the last three years and, additionally, are facing physical health, mental health, and/or substance use challenges. A Coordinated Access and Assessment (CAA) Committee has been set up and will meet regularly to review all applications that meet the criteria and make decisions regarding placement. The committee’s members represent community agencies who provide services to people facing homelessness in the Comox Valley.



*Work goes on despite the snow.*

## CARF Accreditation

From October 15-17, 2018, a team of four surveyors from CARF International visited The John Howard Society of North Island to assess our services against 2,282 standards. Over the three days, they interviewed staff, clients, funders, board members, and other volunteers and stakeholders. They also observed, reviewed, monitored, and discussed our programs and documentation in detail. We are thrilled to announce that we were awarded a three-year accreditation. During the exit conference, the surveyors highlighted the commitment and longevity of our board of directors, and our “excellent financial management policies, longstanding reputation of services in the region, and solution focused, collaborative leadership team.” They also praised our staff’s “compassion for clients that really shows through.”

*Ask about our CARF accreditation.*



## Community Spirit Award

We were very pleased to receive the Community Spirit Award from the Campbell River Chamber of Commerce in September 2018. This award recognizes an organization that has demonstrated exceptional commitment to developing, nurturing, and enhancing community spirit through its actions and clearly demonstrating a commitment to sustained and continuous community betterment and stewardship.



*Front centre and right: Natalie Meredith and Stacy Folk accepting the Community Spirit Award for The John Howard Society of North Island.*

# Happy Retirement, Heather!



Heather Cowper worked for The John Howard Society of North Island for 25 years before retiring in spring 2018. Heather came to Campbell River from Edmonton, where she'd worked as a Psychologist after earning her Master's degree in Clinical and School Psychology from the University of Calgary in 1973.

She initially worked at John Howard as a contractor in 1988, offering a youth group at the Challenge Centre called Breaking Patterns of Substance Abuse. Heather was hired as an employee of John Howard in 1992 when we secured the contract to provide Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services (YFPS) in Campbell River and Courtenay. While Heather's role as a YFPS team member included providing individual, group, and family therapy to court ordered youth, her primary responsibility over the years was to complete psychological testing in collaboration with psychologist Dr. Edward Clarke, as part of the YFPS assessment team. Most of this work was done in the communities of Campbell River and Courtenay. Heather also worked in Port Hardy periodically, and at Lakeview Youth Custody

from the mid-90s until it closed in 2003. At Lakeview, Heather, along with Robert Dion initially, and then some months later Heather's long-time colleague, Peter Kinskofer, was instrumental in developing the Anti-Offending group.

Heather also worked in other programs over the years, including Children with Sexual Behaviour Problems and Adult Sex Offender Treatment. "Heather was always forthcoming when it came to providing consultation to other John Howard staff and she was generous when it came to sitting on various John Howard committees," said Carol Harling-Bleeks, retired assistant executive director.

Heather stated that she was grateful for the opportunities she had to work with youth, their families, her YFPS colleagues, John Howard staff, and many professionals in the community. "The work was challenging and provided many learning opportunities. I most enjoyed participating in the group and family sessions as they afforded the possibility for collaboration, creativity, understanding, and growth for clients and therapists alike." Heather added that she is enjoying retirement, especially spending time with her two sweet grandchildren, ages 2 years and 10 months. "Being a grandparent can be a very good gig," she said.

## Tea at Foundry in Honour of Elders

We hosted a special event on September 21 to recognize and thank all of the Indigenous Elders who support youth and families at Foundry/John Howard. Staff, contractors, community partners, and clients and their families were invited to drop in. Executive director Wendy Richardson spoke about how much we appreciate the Elders' contributions and gave each Elder a gift. Elder JoAnn Restoule said she is enjoying the opportunity to contribute. "The good work and energy of this group when looking at ways and means of helping youth, families, and community makes my heart feel full and hopeful for the future. Many thanks to John Howard for being open to this Elders' Advisory Council as a model of support. Chi Migwetch."



*Alberta Billy receives a gift.*

**JohnHoward**  
The John Howard Society of North Island

### Now Recruiting

The John Howard Society of North Island is seeking professionals to join our carehome team. Contracted caregivers provide a supportive, understanding, structured home for youth. We offer a high level of support, ongoing training, and three respite days per month.

For more information or to apply please contact:

**Sadie @ 250-286-0222 ext. 225**

It can be tough for young people & families to know where to turn in the face of a health or mental health challenge. Foundrybc.ca is a website that provides a one-stop access point for mental health and well-being, substance use, social support and services, navigation assistance and self-management.

[www.foundrybc.ca](http://www.foundrybc.ca)



# Staff Milestones

As of February 2019, the following staff members have reached these milestones working for The John Howard Society of North Island:

**5 Years:** Anne Logan, Jenne Williamson, Anny Finnegan

**10 Years:** Steve Ayers

**20 Years:** Wendy Thurlborn, Natalie Meredith



## Welcome, James Simon



James Simon is the IT administrator for The John Howard Society of North Island. He started working for the agency in May 2018. James provides computer network administration and support services to all within John Howard and Foundry Campbell River.

James has earned Systems Administration designation combined with 22 years of experience in the Information Technology field. The breadth of James' experience allows him to relate to staff members' computing experience and support them in their daily work. James endeavours to solve problems as they arise, collaborate proactively, and maintain John Howard technology at peak efficiency and reliability.

"In my years of gaining experience, I have found that IT is an inward facing service and my clients are my co-workers. As such, I treat all 'clients' with respect and with an eye towards resolving my co-workers' computing needs efficiently," he said.

James strives to maintain positive communicative relationships with all members of the agency, not only when resolving computer issues but in general. In the off hours, James has a quiet life in a rural community. Vancouver Island and BC in general has gifted James with many hours of peaceful contemplation in nature. James is extremely active in sport fishing, especially freshwater fishing. The local waterways are no stranger to James. Denizens of the deep beware. James knows how to catch and cook fish.

James also loves technology and trucks. Yes, trucks. He has built a few trucks from junk and is quite proud to show people his latest creation.

## Introducing Katie MacLaurin

Katie MacLaurin joined John Howard in August 2018 as the program manager and clinic coordinator of Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services (YFPS). Katie started with us after moving west with her family from Ottawa, where she worked for the past 20 years in



youth justice and advocacy roles in the federal government, justice, and child welfare systems.

"It is such an honour to have been given the opportunity to join the YFPS Upper Island team. What a talented and dedicated group of forensic clinicians and staff. The Central and North Island youth receiving YFPS assessment and treatment services are, without a doubt, in very capable hands and I feel very fortunate to work alongside our tremendous youth justice partners in Courtenay, Campbell River, and the North Island," she said.

Katie, who was part of the federal team responsible for implementing the Youth Criminal Justice Act across the country in 2003, and has worked in both policy and clinical settings since then, is very happy to be back delivering community-based forensic services. "The Upper Island clinic is known province-wide for its creative and adaptable service delivery across a large and culturally diverse geography. This is a testament to the professionals who have worked in the clinic over the years and also to John Howard for its compassionate, collaborative, and partnership-driven approach to helping youth and families access quality services across the region. The agency has been very welcoming since my arrival. It is really lovely to be part of such a strong team."



## Welcome New Staff

John Howard would like to extend a warm welcome to our new staff. Here's an introduction to the staff who have come on board since the spring of 2018:

**Anna Allan**, behavioural consultant, Comox Valley

**Sheila Awai**, psychology assistant, FTAP casual, family resource counsellor, CR & CV

**Paul Bozenich**, casual activity and supervision worker, The Station, Comox Valley

**Jennifer Corbett**, community support worker, Campbell River

**Nancy Gardiner-Jones**, administrative assistant, Campbell River & Comox Valley

**Rachel Glover**, activity and supervision worker, The Station, Comox Valley

**Jonathan Hall**, youth and family counsellor - substance use and mental health, Foundry, CR

**Sherina Holmes**, mental health counsellor - Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services, CV & CR

**Katie MacLaurin**, program manager - YFPS, Comox Valley & Campbell River

**Vanessa Marshak**, community support worker, Comox Valley

**Shannon McKirgan**, FTAP casual, Campbell River

**Dan McMurdo**, contractor - maintenance, The Station, Comox Valley

**Florence Miller**, casual activity and supervision worker, The Station, Comox Valley

**Carly Nightingale**, youth peer support, Foundry, Campbell River

**Avis O'Brien**, activity and supervision worker, FTAP, Campbell River

**Louise Scott**, casual administrative assistant, Campbell River

**James Simon**, IT administrator, agency-wide

**Annemieke Smulders**, mental health counsellor, Foundry, Campbell River

**Deshera Touzin**, activity and supervision worker, FTAP, Campbell River

**Maarten van der Wielen**, housing community support worker, Campbell River



**Way to Go: Ta Da!**

- ✦ Congratulations, Alberta Billy, member of the We Wai Kai Nation and our First Nations Elders' Council, for being awarded the Medal of Good Citizenship from the Province of BC.
- ✦ Way to go, Wendy Morin, youth and family substance use counsellor, for your election to Courtenay City Council and appointment to the Comox Valley Regional District and Vice Chair of the Water Committee.

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## Thank You to Departing Staff

John Howard would like to thank the following staff for their service. Best of luck in the future!

Carla Simicich Ian Cooper Laura McLaren Jasmina Majcenic Jenn Errico Melanie Siebert

Lisa Marie Szonyi Heather Cowper Amber Kliever Rhonda Maximick Samantha Jackson

Mary Catherine Williams Julie Canning Andrew Bezooyen Petra Stewart Collette Slater

# Broadstreet Properties/Seymour Pacific Supports KidStart

When the team at Broadstreet Properties/Seymour Pacific Developments decided to do a fundraising campaign for our KidStart mentoring program this fall, their goal was to raise enough money to support three children to participate in the program. To their great delight, they more than doubled their original goal. "Fundraising for KidStart was inspiring and fun! Everyone at home office was excited to help out the kids and we came up with some creative fundraising ideas along the way. Our original goal was to support three kids to participate in the KidStart program, but with the support of Broadstreet Properties/Seymour Pacific Developments, the employees, and the Mailman family, we raised more than \$8,000 and are supporting seven kids in KidStart! There was no doubt in our minds that the funds would go towards a great community cause," said Ava O'Connell, marketing coordinator at Broadstreet.

O'Connell said other local businesses were instrumental in helping Broadstreet Properties/Seymour Pacific Developments reach and exceed their donation goal. Campbell River Golf & Country Club, Coastal Black Winery, Willows Market, Eden Street Salon & Day Spa, and Go Wild Campbell River Whale Watching all contributed to the fundraising campaign. One of the children that Broadstreet Properties/

Seymour Pacific Developments is supporting is an eight-year-old boy whose parents separated when he was a baby and who seldom sees his father as he lives far away. He said, "I want every day to be a KidStart visit day. We do fun stuff every week like go to the museum, go up to Mount Washington to ride the chairlift to see everything, and go to the fish hatchery. I would give my mentor a 10/10 because he is the best mentor ever!" John Howard KidStart relies on donations, grants, and Gaming funds to operate. For more information on making a donation or volunteering, contact Tara Jordan at 250-203-3111 in Campbell River or Wendy Thurlborn at 250-338-7341 in the Comox Valley.



*Leaders from the Broadstreet Properties/Seymour Pacific fundraising team with Campbell River KidStart coordinator Tara Jordan (front left).*

## Christmas Giving Brightens the Season



We are grateful to all those who made donations during the holiday season. *Top left:* Alison Skrepneck of the Campbell River Shoebox Project with Foundry manager Stacy Folk. These boxes filled with gifts went to women in our Homeless Outreach and Prevention Program. *Middle left*—Healthyway Natural Foods held a matching donations day on Giving Tuesday that raised \$1,866 for KidStart. *Bottom left*—Foundry Elder-in-residence Edwina Henderson with peer support worker Carly Nightingale at a Christmas party for youth held in collaboration with Sasamans Society and the Campbell River Youth in Care Network. Elders, youth, and staff cooked dinner, made holiday crafts, and took a Christmas lights tour donated by Wilson's Transportation. The youth received gifts courtesy of MCFD and local donors. *Top right*—gifts from longtime donor Margaret Spencer and friends for youth in our Nanaimo Intensive Support & Supervision Program. *Bottom right* - Sasamans Aboriginal youth navigators Taylor Gee and Monica White supporting Campbell River Home Depot's Orange Door Project. The Holiday Orange Door campaign raised \$3,596 for Barnett House.



## 100 Women Who Care



**Leanne McIntee (second from right) and Thanh Tazumi (right) representing John Howard at the 100 Women Who Care event.**

Foundry and John Howard KidStart received a huge boost when 100 Women Who Care Campbell River voted for our agency to receive \$5,000 at their Cocktail Reveal Party held on November 15 at the Campbell River Museum. We were one of two agencies chosen to receive funding,

alongside the Campbell River & North Island Transition Society. Each of the 100 Women Who Care donated \$100 and participated in the voting. We are thrilled that the 100 Women Who Care chose Foundry and KidStart for this funding. Both of these services support young people to reach their potential and prevent their current struggles from becoming more serious or becoming a lifelong issue. The KidStart mentoring program relies entirely on fundraising to be able to operate, so we rely on people who care like the 100 Women!

## Boston Pizza Gives to KidStart



**Kerry Hammell, John Howard youth and family counsellor, supporting Boston Pizza's fundraiser for KidStart.**

Boston Pizza in Campbell River chose John Howard KidStart as its local partner for its annual Future Prospects Foundation fundraising campaign this year. Future Prospects supports mentoring programs for children and youth. Leading up to Valentine's Day, the restaurant invited its customers to purchase a paper heart for \$2 with all proceeds to KidStart. On Valentine's Day, \$1 from all pizzas sold went to KidStart, and until March 31, \$1 from all chocolate mousse desserts sold will go to KidStart. The Boston Pizza fundraiser has raised \$3,122 for the John Howard KidStart to date! "Thank you to the amazing staff at Boston Pizza and to all of the caring community members for your support!" said Campbell River KidStart coordinator Tara Jordan.



## Hooray for Our Donors!



Thank you to our ongoing John Howard KidStart donors: Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island, BC Gaming, United Way Central & Northern Vancouver Island, Big Brothers Big Sisters Victoria, and KidStart Champions (monthly donors). KidStart also benefitted from generous donations from B. MacLeod, City of Courtenay (grant-in-aid), 100 Women Who Care Campbell River, Dreams Take Flight, Campbell River Daybreak Rotary, Campbell River Community Foundation, Mudsharks Coffee, Laura Furness, and Campbell River Boston Pizza. We'd also like to thank our Courtenay Youth Housing funders and the Home Depot Canada Foundation - Orange Door Project. Foundry received generous donations from the RBC Foundation, Barb Kozeletski and friends, 100 Women Who Care Campbell River, Carihi Graduation Committee - Grad Legacy Funds, Women for Women 5K/10K & Kids Run, and Fraternal Order of Eagles #3097 Ladies Auxiliary. Thank you to our holiday season donors: Healthyway Natural Foods and everyone who contributed on Giving Tuesday, Tidemark Theatre, Cagna family, The Shoebox Project, Angel Tree, Campbell River United Church, Everyone Deserves a Smile, hamper donors, and Margaret Spencer and friends. Grateful thanks to all our other donors who are too many to list!

**JohnHoward**  
The John Howard Society of North Island

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### KidStart Champions

#### Gold (\$100/month)

- Altrusa International of Campbell River
- Balfe/Somers Wealth Management of RBC Dominion Securities
- Broadstreet Properties-Seymour Pacific Developments
- CEP Chinook Local #630
- CIBC Wood Gundy
- Colleen Ross
- Cory Evans
- Curtis Wright
- Florence Robertson
- Eagles Ladies Auxiliary
- Healthyway Natural Foods

#### • IZCO Technology Solutions

• J. Havelaar & L. Wood

• Judith Hayes

• Judy Storr

• Ken Beattie

• Mason Walker, RE/MAX

• Moeller Matthews Chartered Professional Accountants

• Wendy Richardson

• Willow Point Lions

#### Silver (\$50/month)

• Alan Storr

• Brandon May, RE/MAX

• Investors Group

• Kathi Camilleri

• Tanya Storr

• T. Moist & P. Trasolini

• Trail Bicycles

#### Bronze (\$25/month)

• Arva Nagy

• Barbara de Bastiani

• Busy B's Glass

• Campbell River Oldtimers Hockey Club

• City of Campbell River Employees

• Colin Brownlee

• Comox Valley Monarch Lions

• Dr. K. and C. Baerg

• Kira Neumann

• Marion Waters

• Patricia Davis

• Tara Jordan