

JohnHoward

The John Howard Society of North Island

New Comox Valley home
for John Howard
and Foundry

575 10th Street
Courtenay, BC



Annual Report
2021-2022

· Building Safer and Healthier Communities ·

Annual Report 2021 - 2022

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On the cover: John Howard and Foundry Comox Valley building. Photo by Bill Mathis.

Our Mission

We provide programs and support to help children, youth, adults, and families lead safer, healthier lives.



'A Nice Place to Take a Break' photo by Chris Cullen

Our Mandate

The John Howard Society of North Island provides services to youth, children, adults, and families with diverse needs. Our locations include offices and residential programs, but our work also takes us into schools, homes, and other parts of communities.

We have a holistic approach, recognizing that safer, healthier communities are created through the combined and diverse efforts of citizens, organizations, and governments. We work cooperatively with a broad spectrum of community agencies and committees, while also maintaining involvement in provincial and national organizations that seek to address the social needs of Canadians.

Who We Are

John Howard has served community justice and social services needs on northern Vancouver Island for 55 years. Beginning as a branch of The John Howard Society of Vancouver Island in 1967, the organization was incorporated as The John Howard Society of North Island in 1989. The society is named after the British prison reformer, John Howard (1726-1790). In 1962 The John Howard Society of Canada was established. There are branches and offices in more than 60 communities across Canada, provincial offices in all 10 provinces and the Northwest Territories, and a national office in Ottawa.

A non-profit society with extensive experience in providing services for youth, children, adults, and families, The John Howard Society of North Island operates numerous programs from 13 locations:

- Campbell River Community Programs/Foundry
- Comox Valley Community Programs/Foundry
- Beech Street, Campbell River
- The Junction, The Station, and Barnett House
- Parksville Youth Justice
- Nanaimo Youth Justice
- Port Alberni Youth Justice
- Port Hardy Youth Justice
- Duncan Youth Justice
- Robron Centre, Campbell River
- Gold River and Tahsis

John Howard programs are situated in the unceded territories of the Kwakwaka'wakw, Laich-kwil-tach, Nuu-chah-nulth, and Coast Salish peoples. We have a First Nations Elders' Council to advise the agency on matters relating to culture and inclusion. The Elders help to support culturally appropriate programming.

Our Team



105 employees



12 family carehomes



119 volunteers

Our Clients

In the past year, we served **1,935** individuals.

We also provided brief service to **792** additional individuals.

Those participating in our services are:

 **36%** male  **58%** female  **6%** trans/non-binary (self-identified)

27%
Indigenous
(self-identified)

President's Report



Jay Havelaar

The past year brought numerous challenges, and also many reasons for optimism. Among the challenges is our ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been faced with difficult decisions around opening up in-person services, policies involving vaccination, and of course the inevitable toll of COVID cases on our staff and clients. Throughout, our organization has responded in a measured and cautious way, balancing the need to provide our clients with effective services and the necessity of maintaining a safe environment for clients and staff. I am very proud of our response and I think that everyone in the organization deserves congratulations.

Among the reasons for optimism is our new Foundry Comox Valley centre that officially opened on June 6, 2022. I had been in the building before John Howard purchased it, when it housed a number of professional offices, and to say it has been transformed is a massive understatement. The building is stunning, not to mention incredibly functional. Everyone involved in this project did great work, but I would like to single out Colleen Ross, director of finance, for her impressive contributions. Colleen acted as the de facto project manager and her dedication to this project speaks for itself in the final product.

It is with mixed emotions that I report to you that after 32 years with our organization, including 15 years as executive director, Wendy Richardson will be retiring. Wendy leaves an incredible legacy of strong program delivery, sound financial management, and growth of our organization. Wendy's accomplishments are far too numerous to list, but in brief include greatly expanded programming, land and building acquisition, developing two Foundry centres, and maintaining

healthy bank account balances. After 32 years of devoting so much time and energy to our organization, Wendy heads into retirement with John Howard in excellent shape. My fellow board members and I are very proud of her accomplishments.

With the knowledge of Wendy's retirement, the board was tasked with the near impossible: finding Wendy's replacement. After an exhaustive Canada-wide search, we were delighted to discover that the most impressive candidate came from within the organization: our own director of practice, Natalie Meredith. The board was pleased to vote unanimously to offer her the position of executive director, and even more pleased to have her accept the position. Although Natalie will step into a role fraught with difficulties and challenges, we are confident that she will be successful, with the assistance of the entire team of managers and staff. The board looks forward to working with Natalie for many years to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Executive Director's Report



Wendy Richardson

Passing on the Torch

After 32 years with The John Howard Society of North Island, 15 of those years as executive director, I am finally retiring in the fall. I am very pleased that my successor, Natalie Meredith, has worked with our organization in a variety of roles for more than 20 years, so brings a wealth of experience to her new job. Natalie is also a surveyor for CARF, the organization that accredits our programs, so she is very knowledgeable about the high quality standards we endeavour to maintain. I wish her the best of luck as she takes on the leadership of our organization that contributes so much to the health

and safety of our communities.

Our strategic plan continues to provide direction for our actions as we respond to emerging needs and opportunities, stabilize operations, and strengthen services and staff.

Responding to Emerging Needs and Opportunities

When we learned, in June 2020, that we were approved to open a new Foundry centre in the Comox Valley, there was huge excitement and relief in the community as this service is greatly needed. Youth and their families had told us about their experiences trying to access supports from a number of different services with long waitlists. Some parents spoke of their children who had fallen through the cracks. As we opened the first Foundry in BC in Campbell River in 2017, we knew firsthand the benefits of offering several services in one location and using a drop-in model.

In fall 2020, we purchased 575 10th Street in Courtenay and worked with the excellent designer we had used for Foundry Campbell River, Denise Mitchell Interiors.

Colleen Ross, our director of finance, oversaw all aspects of the renovations and put in long hours ensuring all the elements came together beautifully. Our contractor, Lacasse Construction, did a fantastic job transforming the facility into a safe and youth-friendly space. Foundry Comox Valley manager, Angie Prescott, and her team worked very hard with our partners and youth and parent advisory committees to develop the programming and all the details of service delivery. We finally opened the centre in spring 2022. We are now the only agency in BC that is operating two Foundry centres.

Level UP @ The Station opened its doors to the first youth in September 2021. This program provides supportive recovery for youth experiencing the challenges of substance use. Foundry Comox Valley and Level UP took most of our energy over the past year, but we also responded to a need for an agency to take on the contract for the Campbell River Situation Table which brings together community agencies to support families and individuals in need of services in Campbell River.

Executive Director's Report

Stabilizing Operations

We could not have completed the renovation of Foundry Comox Valley without the generosity of our donors. We are grateful for grants from Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island, Mr. & Mrs. P.A. Woodward's Foundation, The Home Depot Canada Foundation, and RBC Foundation. An anonymous donor agreed to match up to \$100,000 in donations and many supporters and businesses made donations to the matching campaign.



Foundry Comox Valley

Agencies across the province are experiencing hiring challenges and this is also impacting John Howard. Staff turnover has been the highest in our history due to retirement, demographics, and a reduction in the workforce from COVID-19. We have hired new managers and new staff join us almost weekly. We are working on a recruitment and retention plan that includes finding

ways to speed up criminal record checks and improving the wages of staff paid at our lower grids. The workforce shortage also extends to our family carehomes. A shortage of caregivers affects our ability to offer adequate services, so we are in the middle of a campaign to encourage new families and individuals to join our dedicated team.

COVID continued to affect the stability of our programs through 2021-2022. In fall 2021, we had a serious outbreak at The Junction which resulted in several residents being hospitalized and ongoing staff shortages. Despite this, thanks to the determination of managers and staff, we have managed to keep all our facilities and services operational.

Strengthening Services and Staff

We are pleased to report that we have, once again, earned a full three-year accreditation. The CARF survey team recognized our board, management team, and staff for their exceptional commitment to the organization and the communities we serve. Persons served gave feedback that our staff are "informed, compassionate,

and non-judgmental." The surveyors noted "the organization has an excellent and well-deserved reputation for the provision of quality services, as reflected in the many tributes paid to it by funding and referral sources."

After a break of a couple of years, we have formed a new Cultural Responsiveness Committee to develop new training and/or strategies to continue to increase our cultural awareness and safety. We continue to greatly appreciate our First Nations Elders' Council and our Elders in Residence.

Conclusion

Although it has been another demanding year, we recognize the determined efforts of our staff to continue to provide valuable services to all our clients despite the obstacles. We want to thank two staff members who retired this year after many years of service: Kerry Hammell and Steve Ayers. We are very grateful to our dedicated board members, staff, Elders, contractors, donors, and volunteers. Thank you!



News from John Howard

In Remembrance



Alberta Billy

Alberta Billy, a member of the Wei Wai Kai Nation on Quadra Island, passed away on June 13, 2022. Alberta dedicated her life to helping and teaching others, and worked hard for the rights and recognition of Indigenous people over her lifetime. Along with her husband, Dan, Alberta was a founding member of our First Nations Elders' Council. She opened many of our AGMs with her kind and gracious traditional welcome. Alberta also visited the girls in our Oasis program many times over the years to share stories and support. We gave Alberta the Spirit of John Howard Award in 2017. She received the Medal of Good Citizenship from the Provincial Government in 2018. We are so thankful for all her help and will miss her tremendously.

Spirit of John Howard Award

The Spirit of John Howard Award recognizes individuals who make a major contribution to the people

we serve, our communities, and our agency. Last year the Spirit of John Howard Award went to the Havelaar family, who have forged a special relationship with our agency that spans decades. Four members of the Havelaar family have held volunteer or staff roles, starting with the father, Justus, serving on the board of directors in the 1980s. Daughter Enid became the next Havelaar to get



Havelaar family members Robin, Jay, and Justus with the Spirit of John Howard Award

involved, as an accreditation assistant in 2004. Enid's sister, Robin, joined the agency for the summers of 2006-2009 and then stayed on for a year until starting law school in 2010. When Robin returned to Campbell River in 2016, she became a KidStart mentor. Following his dad and sisters, Jay, another lawyer, was recruited to join the board of directors in 2012. Then he became

president in 2020. Terry Moist, former president who passed away in 2020, had requested that the Havelaar family should be the recipient of the Spirit of John Howard Award. In honour of Terry's wishes and to recognize the nearly 40 years of Havelaar family support, we presented the Spirit of John Howard Society Award to Jay Havelaar, on behalf of his family, at our 2021 AGM.

Foundry Comox Valley

Foundry Comox Valley is open! After extensive renovations that began in the summer of 2021, we were delighted to officially open the doors of our new facility at 575 10th St. in Courtenay on June 6, 2022. Foundry offers mental health and substance use counselling, primary and sexual health care, youth and family peer support, and social services.



Foundry Comox Valley waiting area



KidStart matches volunteer adult mentors with children and youth ages 6-12 who could benefit from building a positive relationship with a buddy, getting out in the community, and having fun. Many of these relationships continue into the teen years, helping young people grow, thrive, and connect with the community they call home.

A Snapshot: In the past year, **115** mentees were matched with mentors who volunteered **5,711** hours.

Areas Served

Campbell River
Comox Valley
Denman Island
Quadra Island
Cortes Island

Portion of John Howard budget:

1%

Frontline Staff

2 part-time
employees

111 volunteers

**KidStart is funded
entirely through
grants, donations,
and Gaming funds.**

KidStart participants are:



50%

males
57



46%

females
53



4%

trans/non-binary
5 (self-identified)

57%

Indigenous
65 (self-identified)

From the families and mentors who gave feedback this year:

“My son’s mentor has really helped him become a happier, more confident child.” – Mom

“KidStart gave me someone to talk to, which helped a lot.” – Mentee, age 13

“KidStart helps our kids come out of their shells and do stuff that lets them shine.” – Mom

“My mentee has grown a lot over the past year, and it has been a really happy thing to see.” – Mentor

Supports to Families

Our **Behavioural Support, Youth and Family Conflict Resolution**, and **Collaborative Planning** programs provide the support families and caregivers need when they are facing challenges.

A Snapshot: 121 families participated in one or more of our support programs.

The Collaborative Planning program had **275** support sessions with youth and **58** support sessions with families.



Families who participated are:

16%

Indigenous

19 (self-identified)

Areas Served

Campbell River
Comox Valley

Portion of John Howard budget:

3%

Frontline Staff

2 full-time employees

1 part-time employee

100% of participants who gave feedback in the Collaborative Planning program said the meetings were well run and the process was useful.

The Youth and Family Conflict Resolution program provided **485** hours of individual and family sessions, **79** hours of group counselling, and **129** hours of community education/consultation.

The Behavioural Support program provided **14** group training sessions to foster parents. Some of the sessions were virtual and others in person, including group walks to discuss a topic and practice self-care.



Independent Living for Youth

Our **Youth to Adult Transition (YTAT)**, **Barnett House**, and **The Station** programs provide housing and life skills support for youth.

A Snapshot: In the past year, **106** youth received support from our independent living programs.

Areas Served
Campbell River
Comox Valley

Portion of John Howard budget:
4%

Frontline Staff
3 full-time employees
2 part-time employees
1 casual employee

YTAT, Barnett House, and The Station participants are:



From the clients who gave feedback this year:

100% of the youth at The Station accessed community supports.

“Some of the highlights of living at Barnett House have been decorating and having my own space.”

“At Barnett House I learned that I find peace being with my own company. I like being clean.”

Independent Living for Youth

Learning to Cook

At Foundry Campbell River, the Youth to Adult Transition (YTAT) program helps young people learn essential skills for living on their own, including cooking. A cooking group that started in 2017 switched to an outreach format during the pandemic with meal kits, recipes, and links to “how to” videos dropped off to clients. Participants shared photos and videos of their results.



*Youth to Adult Transition
Counsellor Mark Tazumi and
Sasamans Elder Edwina
Henderson preparing meal kits.*

As well as introducing young people to new recipes and showing them how easy it can be to eat healthy food, the group also provides an opportunity to socialize and learn how to collaborate. Elders from Sasamans Society assist with the group and Sasamans helps fund the cost of ingredients.

YTAT also partnered with the BC

Federation of Youth in Care Network Local and Sasamans Elders to fund, prepare, and deliver three holiday dinners this year that served up to 139 young people. In addition, the program delivers Food Bank hampers to approximately 30 young people each month.

Barnett House

Barnett House provides five units of transitional housing for youth ages 16-19, with the support of an onsite independent living coordinator. Over the past year, nine young people lived at Barnett House. Four have since transitioned to other living situations. One resident said, “The Barnett House coordinator is helping me learn life skills, find a job, and keep on top of cleaning.”

The Station

The Station offers supportive, transitional youth housing in Courtenay for young people ages 17-22. While living at The Station, the program helps youth develop and practice the skills they need to live independently. Staff at The Station assist residents with things like staying in school; getting



Furnished suite at The Station

connected with post-secondary/trades/vocational education; securing and maintaining employment; and other skills like budgeting, grocery shopping, meal preparation, taking care of their suite, and learning how to be a good tenant and roommate. Youth participated in a weekly art night and study hall. In the spring, staff and youth planted veggie boxes. In May 2021, The Station celebrated a resident’s “100 days” in program with a backyard BBQ.

Young people in the transitional housing program at The Station gave feedback on how to blend the new supportive recovery program, Level UP, with their program as we prepared to launch Level UP at the facility, and again three months after opening. The input from youth helped greatly as we welcomed Level UP clients and staff to The Station.

Substance Use



Our **Substance Use Counselling, 180°, Youth Outreach, Gold River Youth & Family Counselling, Level UP @ The Station, Peer Support, and Substance Use Prevention & Early Intervention** programs provide support for youth and families.

A Snapshot: In the past year, **324** youth and family members received substance use services.

Areas Served

Campbell River
Comox Valley
Gold River & Tahsis

**Portion of John
Howard budget:**

15%

Frontline Staff

5 full-time
employees

7 part-time
employees

8 casual employees

Substance use services clients are:



Youth feedback:

“If I hadn’t come here, I would still be drinking, but now I feel more confident and prepared to make other decisions for myself.” – 180° client, age 16

Foundry Campbell River’s peer support worker provided mindfulness and yoga groups for youth, in schools and the community.

Substance Use

Level UP @ The Station

We were very excited to open our new supportive recovery program, Level UP @ The Station, in September 2021. While in Level UP, youth ages 16-21 reside in one of our five dedicated supportive recovery units in the facility. The Station provides 24-hour staffing, large common meeting spaces, a commercial kitchen and dining area, shared laundry, and caretaker/staff suites.

Meals are prepared for the youth and served in the common dining area three times per day. Day programming occurs both onsite and in the community with the support of staff. Youth develop individualized day program schedules that reflect and support their personal recovery goals.

Level UP provides individual and group counselling with a recovery coach, and a focus on community integration. This may include access to school, employment, social services, medical and health care, and supports at Foundry Comox Valley. Clients are connected to a health care professional who prescribes and supervises medication, addresses

health issues, and monitors Opioid Agonist Therapy. Level UP is funded by Island Health.

Gold River Counselling



L-R: John Howard staff Flossie Miller and Chelsea Delaurier at the Children's Health Fair in Gold River, spring 2022

Our Youth and Family Counselling program in Gold River and Tahsis provides services to youth ages 13-18 and their families, who are struggling with mental health concerns and/or substance use. The counsellor aims to create a supportive and trusting relationship to reduce risk, promote positive change, and support young people's stability and connection to family and community.

Clients have given positive

feedback about the program, including "I got strategies to cope with my depression" and "It was great having someone to talk to."

Counselling sessions take place in Gold River and Tahsis schools and at the program office. The Youth and Family Counselling Program is funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development and Island Health.

2SLGBTQIA+ Youth Groups

At Foundry Campbell River and Foundry Comox Valley, 2SLGBTQIA+ youth groups are offered weekly, thanks to grants from Island Health and Trans Care BC. Both younger (ages 12-15) and older (ages 16-24) groups are offered in each community.

These social and recreational groups provide fun activities, guest speakers, and a safe place to engage in conversation and find understanding and connection. Youth feedback from the past year included: "I like this group because you can express yourself" and "Having access to a community of people similar to you can make it so much easier to just survive."

Mental Health



Child and Youth Mental Health Outreach, Foundry Mental Health Counselling, and Foundry Psychiatry programs help children, youth, and families.

A Snapshot: In the past year, **677** children, youth, and families received mental health services.

Areas Served

Campbell River
Comox Valley

Portion of John
Howard budget:

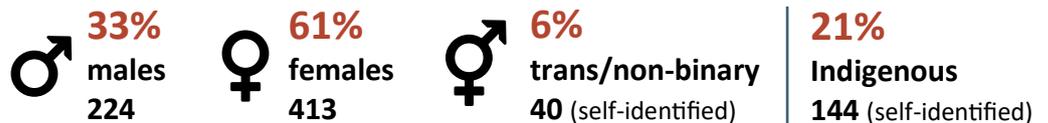
15%

Frontline Staff

7 full-time
employees

1 part-time employee

Mental health services participants are:



Feedback:

“I like having a safe, welcoming place to discuss difficult topics. It is nice to have someone to work things through with.”
- Foundry client

The Child and Youth Mental Health Outreach program involved **41** family members in service this year.

Primary Care

Our **Nurse Practitioner, Sexual Health Clinic**, and **GPs** provide primary care services at Foundry Campbell River. Services include gender affirming care, mental health, physical health, sexual health, prescription renewals, and other primary care requests as needed.



A Snapshot: In the past year, **264** young people received primary care services.

Areas Served

Campbell River

Frontline Staff

1 full-time employee

1 part-time employee

Primary care patients are:

17%
males
46

54%
females
142

29%
trans/non-binary
76 (self-identified)

13%
Indigenous
34 (self-identified)

Public Health nurses provide a sexual health clinic weekly at Foundry Campbell River. Youth are supported on a drop-in basis.

At Foundry, longer primary care appointments are provided to support youth with their presenting concerns when required.



Foundry staff work closely with two primary care GPs and two public health nurses each week, all funded by Island Health. Foundry doctors offer specialized services such as gender affirming care and opioid agonist therapy, plus addiction care.

Youth Justice



Our **Headstart Boys Program, Oasis Girls Program, Intensive Support and Supervision Program (ISSP), Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services (YFPS),** and **Bail Bed** programs provide a wide range of services from residential programs to community-based one-to-one support.

A Snapshot: In the past year, **118** youth accessed our youth justice services.

Areas Served

Campbell River
Comox Valley
Duncan
Nanaimo
Parksville
Port Alberni
Port Hardy

Portion of John
Howard budget:

37%

Frontline Staff

19 full-time
employees

6 part-time
employees

1 casual employee

Youth justice participants are:

 **85%**
males
101

 **13%**
females
15

 **2%**
trans/non-binary
2 (self-identified)

43%
Indigenous
51 (self-identified)

From the clients who gave feedback about what they learned:

*“My caregivers
genuinely care.”*

*“I feel more in control of emotions and
have gained the skills to address what is
bothering me.”*

Youth in Oasis and Headstart accessed health care, Elders in Residence, and other services at Foundry Campbell River.

Youth Justice

Cultural Activities

Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services (YFPS) staff members participated in several activities this year to strengthen their understanding of North Island First Nations' cultural traditions and practices. With 34% of clients in YFPS self-identifying as Indigenous, the staff are committed to working with reconciliation in mind, in step with clients' own community healing practices, whenever the youth are interested in doing so.

Staff took part in "Walk With Me" guided walks with recorded first-person commentaries by people who are unhoused. These events were sponsored by the Campbell River Art Gallery and included cultural circles before and after the walks. Team members attended naming ceremonies for a number of clients, and participated in consultation circles for new Indigenous-specific youth justice funding.

Along with other staff, they completed cultural awareness training including Building Bridges Through Understanding the Village workshop, Reconciliation

Education Certificate (First Nations University), Decolonization Workshop by Hummingbirds Rising (Level 1), and San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety training.

At our Full Time Attendance Programs (Headstart and Oasis), staff and clients took part in a drum making workshop, building a sweat lodge, and smudging, drumming, cedar weaving, beading, and cleansing activities led by Elders and cultural coordinators. They also visited Turtle Council House to spend time with Elder David Somerville.

Our family resource workers, who recruit and support carehomes for youth in our residential programs, met with John Howard's First Nations Elders' Council and had a lunch and circle discussion with local leaders within the Indigenous community. They received valuable input on how we can implement more culturally responsive and culturally safe carehome recruitment. The family resource workers also liaised with Laichwiltach Family Life Society, Sasamans Society, and local band offices for input.

Circle of Courage® Project



Circle of Courage® Project

This project was created by a youth and a practicum student at our Full Time Attendance Programs. It was inspired by Dr. Martin Brokenleg's Circle of Courage® model, and is designed to encourage staff and youth to acknowledge one another's acts of Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity.

Slips of paper are provided for staff or youth to write down a person's name and how they practiced one or more areas. The Circle of Courage® has been an integral part of our Full Time Attendance Programs for many years. This is just one example of how the team is implementing it in their work with youth.



Our **Homeless Outreach and Prevention** and **The Junction-Adult Supportive Housing** programs provide assistance in the areas of housing, daily living, and accessing supports.

A Snapshot: In the past year, **311** clients participated in our adult programs.

Areas Served

Campbell River
Comox Valley

Portion of John
Howard budget:

25%

Frontline Staff

16 full-time
employees

3 part-time
employees

9 casual employees

Participants in our adult programs are:



Program news:

In the Homeless Outreach
and Prevention program **14%**
of clients were age **60+**.

86% of The Junction's **46**
residents remained housed
over the past year.

Each resident at The Junction has their own self-contained, fully furnished bachelor suite with bathroom and kitchenette. Supportive services are provided on site **24/7**.

Adult Programs

The Junction



"The Junction" by Elaine Dimock

The Junction provides 46 units of supportive housing for adults facing homelessness in Courtenay. This flexible and adaptive program works from a strengths-based perspective and considers each individual resident's focus, goals, and barriers to maintaining housing. The Junction is funded by BC Housing on land provided by the City of Courtenay. John Howard operates the facility.

The focus of the program is to support long-term housing stability, which BC Housing defines as 18 months or longer. To date, 19 of the current 44 units are occupied by residents who were part of the original intake in the spring of 2019.

This year, staff supported resident programming initiatives which included: SMART Recovery® groups; trauma informed yoga; wood carving; arts and crafts groups (including a rock painting group); music trivia; bingo; crocheting; and garden projects.

A resident expressed interest in raising awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous women. With the support of staff, this resident hosts a weekly craft group where she and other residents create, decorate, and display small felt red dresses. Residents and staff hung the red dresses in the trees outside The Junction on May 5, Red Dress Day. They also hung black balloons in the trees to remember those who have lost their lives to overdoses.



Red dress making campaign

Homeless Outreach & Prevention

The Homeless Outreach and Prevention Program (HOP-HPP) in Campbell River connects with individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The program provides information and support to help people find, secure, or maintain housing.

The homeless outreach worker collaborates with social workers at the hospital, so that patients who have nowhere to live aren't discharged into homelessness. She was introduced to a man in his 70s at the hospital who had been living alone outside, an hour's walk from town, for 20 years. He couldn't return to his encampment due to his health, so the worker helped him obtain ID and apply for housing.

He secured a BC Housing space in a subsidized rental, and the Salvation Army provided vouchers for household supplies and a hamper of food. This client is now able to access medical care and food, has his own landline, and pays his bills. He has learned how to vacuum and do laundry, and has a newfound sense of pride.

Caregivers Make a Difference



Evelyn and Karol Napiorkowski

“It’s a nice thing to see youth applying themselves and getting back on their feet. We’re part of the solution,” said Evelyn Napiorkowski, when asked why she and her husband, Karol, chose to become caregivers for The John Howard Society of North Island.

As full-time caregivers for the Headstart and Oasis programs since 2018, Evelyn and Karol have drawn on their considerable experience working with youth. Before they became caregivers for John Howard, Evelyn and Karol lived in the Lower Mainland where they were foster parents and provided a carehome for PLEA Community Services while raising their own children.

“I started working with youth at

age 25 as a DARE worker for PLEA. When we had our own kids I wanted to be at home, and caregiving provided a way to do that. We did 16 years of foster parenting and worked as caregivers for PLEA’s Waypoint program, a residential treatment program for young men who are struggling with substance use,” said Evelyn.

Karol and Evelyn ended up adopting one of their foster daughters. When the family moved to Campbell River, they thought they wouldn’t work with youth anymore. “That didn’t last long—it’s kind of in your blood!” Evelyn laughed.

They can accommodate up to two youth at a time. “We try to provide whatever is needed by the program, mostly full-time but also respite in between full-time placements.”

Evelyn noted that the youth have many supports while in the program, including counselling and working on high school courses with SD72 teachers. “There’s such a good staff team. The youth can learn about their mental health and understanding triggers. They

can accomplish a lot of schooling with one-to-one teaching.”

Sometimes youth who don’t complete the program the first time come back for a second try. “Life is a stepping stone. They might experience small growth the first time and bigger growth the second time, because they put more effort into the program.”

During the pandemic, many of the activities they used to do with the youth were put on the back burner, like going to the movies. Evelyn and Karol bought a home gym so the youth could still work out. They like to go for walks with the youth and visit the suspension bridge at Elk Falls. While staying with them, the youth can help out on their property to earn some extra money.

To others who are considering becoming caregivers, Evelyn shared that it’s important to have small, simple goals. “You can’t come into this with big expectations. It’s not about us, it’s about the youth. The highlights are seeing them growing, finding their strengths. Know that you’re helping and giving them a healthy home.”

Caregivers Make a Difference

“As a social worker through and through I always knew I wanted to care for kids. My husband, Guy Trelawny, was more comfortable with taking on teenagers than small people. We started with John Howard in the summer of 2018,” said Tanille Johnston.

When learning about John Howard, they liked the 24/7 support for caregivers and the flexibility of individualized programming for youth. “We also liked the pairing of youth based on what’s known with the most appropriate caregivers.”

Guy is English and Tanille is Ligwilda’xw – We Wai Kai First Nation. Tanille worked as a guardianship social worker for the first five years of her career which was the primary influence for wanting to do this work. She has her Masters in Social Work with an Indigenous Specialization and Guy has his Red Seal in Carpentry. Tanille and Guy provide full-time placements for youth in Oasis and Headstart. If needed, they provide respite care between full-time placements.

When asked about the highlights of caregiving, Tanille said “the

youth that we know we reached in some way shape or form, and the learnings that we get from the youth and how they challenge us.” As well, Guy and Tanille enjoy watching their now 3.5-year-old interact and break the shells of some youth who otherwise may not have opened up.

“These kids just need love and support and someone to truly listen so that they can bloom, and I’m honoured to be able to try to do that,” Tanille said.

The family does lots of activities with the youth, specific to their interests. These include painting ceramics; playing sports; gym time; cooking; hiking; trips to Victoria for IMAX and shopping; going to the beach, lake, farm, and speedway; and signing them up for whatever they’re interested in and are supported to participate in.

Guy and Tanille have enjoyed working with “a lot of fantastic staff”, some of whom have stayed and some have moved on. Although staff turnover can be challenging, the couple are mindful that everyone is on their own journey. Tanille and Guy also know that MCFD social workers often



*Tanille Johnston, Guy Trelawny,
and their daughter Collins*

have huge caseloads and the same is true for probation officers. A huge challenge is the “great systemic impact that has been forced/inflicted upon these children, and we know we can only control how we can support them and love them while they’re with us and we need to let go of everything else,” observed Tanille.

To others who are considering caregiving, Tanille advised: “Do it. Be who you are, it’s what they need. It doesn’t take specialized training and education. It takes patience and the ability to remove all judgement. They’re children who need a chance to be able to be just that and grow from there with love and support.”

Our Funders and Donors April 2021–March 2022

Core Funding

- BC Housing
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Providence Health Care Society
- Vancouver Island Health Authority

John Howard KidStart Grants

- Province of BC-Civil Forfeiture
- Province of BC-Gaming

John Howard KidStart Champions Gold (\$100/month)

- Altrusa International of Campbell River
- Benjamin Coyle, Island Owl Mazda
- Blind Channel Resort
- Boston Pizza Campbell River
- Boston Pizza Courtenay
- Cathy Bruce & William Kitchen
- Curtis Wright
- Discovery Community Church
- IZCO Technology Solutions
- Jay Havelaar & Leanne Wood
- Jill Cook
- Judy Storr
- Mason Walker, RE/MAX Ocean Pacific Realty
- Moeller Matthews Chartered Professional Accountants
- North Island Nissan
- Robert Nixon Real Estate
- Tina Rudiger
- Trail Bicycles

Silver (\$50/month)

- Alan Storr

- Brian Balfe, Balfe Martin Private Wealth RBC Dominion Securities
- Comox Valley Monarch Lions
- Florence Robertson
- Judith Hayes
- Kathi Camilleri
- Tanya Storr
- Willow Point Lions

Bronze (\$25/month)

- Anna Kubacki
- Barbara de Bastiani
- Christine Jones
- Colin Brownlee
- Colleen Tillapaugh
- Dr. Kerry and Colleen Baerg
- Harmonie Roesch-West
- Kira Neumann
- Marion Waters
- Paul Barnett & Shelly Hollingshead
- Sandy White
- Tara Jordan
- Vicki Corkett
- Xavier Barbot

Youth Housing Grant

- The Home Depot Canada Foundation (2)

Foundry Grants

- Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island (2)
- Island Health
- Mr. & Mrs. P.A. Woodward's Foundation
- The Home Depot Canada Foundation
- Trans Care BC (2)

Other Grants

- Federation of Community Social Services of BC (training)
- United Way BC (COVID supplies)

Other Donations Over \$1,000

- Anonymous
- B. MacLeod
- Catherine Koop
- Catherine Smith
- Chances Campbell River
- Campbell River Daybreak Rotary
- City of Campbell River
- City of Courtenay
- Colleen Ross
- Dr. Sandwith & Dr. Wainberg
- Foundry Comox Valley donors
- Giving Tuesday donors
- Isfeld Interact Club
- Judy & Bill Jackson
- Justice Schanfarber
- Katarina Smith
- M. Stewart
- Margot R. Rutherford Notary Public
- Marianne Muir
- Microsoft
- North Island Nissan
- Sheila McDonnell
- Strathcona Cycling Society
- Wendy Richardson
- Western Communities Foundation

Heartfelt thanks to our many other individual, group, and business donors who are too many to list.

Thank you for helping us build safer and healthier communities!

Financial Information

Statement of Financial Position – March 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current Assets	3,831,673	3,175,599
Investments	4,521	12,352
Property and Equipment	6,142,222	4,708,575
	<u>9,978,416</u>	<u>7,896,526</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	2,085,463	2,083,048
Long Term Debt	852,740	877,610
Deferred Capital Contributions	2,060,928	907,180
	<u>4,999,131</u>	<u>3,867,838</u>
Net Assets		
Equity In Property And Equipment	3,201,882	2,897,821
Internally Restricted	33,684	33,517
Unrestricted	1,743,719	1,097,350
	<u>4,979,285</u>	<u>4,028,688</u>
	<u>9,978,416</u>	<u>7,896,526</u>

Statement of Operations year ended March 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	\$	\$
Funding		
Government contracts	8,849,274	7,694,634
Unearned revenue	---	---
Rental revenue	356,595	394,914
Donations and fundraising revenue	311,456	191,244
Deferred Capital Contribution	73,255	41,729
Gaming revenue	61,517	59,084
Miscellaneous revenue	---	---
	<u>9,652,097</u>	<u>8,381,605</u>
Expenses		
Wages and benefits	6,710,814	5,936,366
Family caregiver fees and expenses	277,593	415,698
Program	585,403	525,772
Administrative	96,742	59,366
Amortization	304,613	238,576
Facilities	411,744	425,925
Rental supplements	288,791	182,591
Interest on long term debt	25,800	13,491
	<u>8,701,500</u>	<u>7,797,785</u>
Excess of funding over expenses	<u>950,597</u>	<u>583,820</u>

NOTE: 2021 comparative figures have been adjusted in order to reflect reclassifications from our 2022 audit.

Audited financial statements available on request.

Make a Difference!



The John Howard Society of North Island welcomes donations to support our work in building safer and healthier communities. Your contribution will help to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children, youth, adults, and families.

Three of our initiatives that currently need support are John Howard KidStart, Foundry, and the Youth Enhancement Fund.

- **JOHN HOWARD KIDSTART** is a preventative volunteer mentoring program focusing on the positive development of children and youth ages 6-18.
- **FOUNDRY CAMPBELL RIVER AND FOUNDRY COMOX VALLEY** are multi-service centres for young people and families, offering primary care, mental health and substance use counselling, and social services. Foundry Comox Valley launched in June 2022 and donations are welcome to help with renovation and start up costs.
- The **YOUTH ENHANCEMENT FUND** pays for special expenses for young people that are not covered by other funds, including urgent dental care and job readiness expenses.

Donations can be mailed, dropped off in person, made online at www.jhsni.bc.ca or by e-transfer to colleen.ross@jhsni.bc.ca

JohnHoward

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*Ask about our
CARF accreditation!*

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