



PROGRESSIVE HOUSING SOCIETY



2014- 2015
Annual Report





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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To empower individuals to be engaged with the community and achieve personal independence by providing access to resources and life skills

OUR PROGRAMS

The **Supported Independent Living (SIL)** program provides one-on-one support and rent subsidies to individuals with severe and persistent mental illnesses. This program is designed to provide the skills training and support necessary to successfully maintain an independent lifestyle, with clients scheduling regular meeting with support workers to stay on track with their goals.

Burnaby Outreach and Housing Hub (BHOH) provides direct, on-site support for individuals facing homelessness in the Burnaby area. Individuals have access to basic necessities as well as life skills coaching, referrals to community services, and support in finding and securing housing. The BHOH also incorporates an on-site medical clinic.

The **Shared and Transitional Housing** program is designed to provide personal support to individuals with severe and persistent mental illnesses and assist them in developing the skills needed to live independently. Clients in this program live collaboratively in one of our three houses across Burnaby, creating a homey, nurturing, and positive living environment with support from CLS staff.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Held at Deer Lake Park during Mental Health Awareness Week, this 3rd annual walk was a collaborative effort with other local mental health services

WALK FOR MENTAL HEALTH

APR 2014

PUB NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Held at Wings, we raised over \$2000 for the outreach and mental health resource clinic

The Holly, Rumble, and Georgia houses got a well-deserved makeover including landscaping for a homier feel

REVAMPING THE SHARED HOUSES

Housed and helped to subsidize 3-5 individuals each month who were experiencing chronic or episodic homelessness

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

This client-run committee held many fundraisers over the summer, including a hugely successful garage sale

Both the mental health and homeless outreach programs said a big thank you to their clients with food and fun

SUMMER CLIENT BBQ'S

Celebrating last year's successes and recognizing our amazing staff and volunteers

AGM 2014



With support from the Burnaby Rotary Club, we celebrated the holidays with our clients, including a full turkey dinner and a visit from Santa



Our female mental health clients get together to plan and host events, with a focus on socializing and building friendships

Alongside the Burnaby Task Force on Homelessness, the PHS team volunteered throughout the week and co-hosted the Homeless Connect event

PROGRAM CHRISTMAS PARTIES

23 individuals were able to move off subsidy provided by the BHOH and now live financially independent

WOMEN'S GROUP

HOMELESSNESS ACTION WEEK

MAR 2015

HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY FUNDING

Supported 115 individuals facing mental illness with living independently

OUTREACH CLINIC



In November, we opened our long-awaited outreach clinic in partnership with Fraser Health. The clinic happens on-site weekly with a nurse practitioner, and helps our BHOH clients.

Thanks to this substantial federal government grant, our BHOH program was drastically expanded (including the hiring of four new staff) and has been able to make an even bigger impact in helping and housing individuals facing homelessness in Burnaby

19 individuals and 3 families are living in our supported living houses and townhomes across Burnaby



ED, JOHN, & PHS

Written by Anna Burk

I met Ed and John in the PHS office as they were joking around with a few of our outreach workers. Ed and John are both Burnaby Housing and Outreach Hub clients that now live as roommates in housing they found with help from Progressive Housing. Both Ed and John have gotten off the streets and now enjoy a safer and more stable life and give back to PHS through volunteering. I got a chance to talk to them about their experiences on the street and how being involved in Progressive Housing Society has affected their lives.

John explains how after working all his life, a car accident left him severely injured and unable to work. Without a support network, Ed ended up on the streets. After finding out about PHS from a woman who was also homeless, John reached out and has been receiving support ever since, including

food, help with medical appointments and applications, and now housing. "Before I knew Progressive, I couldn't get anywhere with anybody, it was hard to get help. But since I've been with Progressive, it's total support. If it wasn't for them, I think I would have lost my mind". John also told me how PHS "is more like my family now", and how he has become more social and built friendships with staff and other clients.

Ed lived on the streets in Burnaby for four years before finding PHS through our outreach programs. Ed discussed the violence and danger that is a fact of life for individuals living on the street. "If you live on the streets, you die by the sword and just try to survive". Having a roof over his head and support from Progressive is giving Ed the ability to decide what his next move might be, rather than dealing with the daily challenges of street life.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



IRFAN ALI, President

Irfan is passionate about housing and firmly believes in giving back to the community. Ultimately, Irfan hopes to increase the accessibility of safe and affordable homes for all persons struggling with mental illness and homeless in Burnaby.



ALICE SUNDBERG, Vice President

Alice is a housing and community development consultant and has been involved in social housing advocacy, education, and development since 1991. She hopes to help the PHS board with governance issues and developing more affordable housing for low income folks in Burnaby.



KEN BERGEN, Treasurer

Ken has worked in the public sector for over 25 years as a front line manager providing service to the public. As a long time resident of New Westminister, he has seen firsthand the need for housing supports for the vulnerable citizens in the community.



CARRIE McLAREN, Secretary Joint

Carrie enjoys working with people to find solutions to problems, knowing there is no "right" answer. She joined the Board to help move forward the issues of homelessness in this city and promote PHS, its mandate, and its services in the community.



MARIA ASUNCION, PPAC Rep

Maria has lived in Burnaby for over 20 years and brings over a decade of experience in the software industry. PHS has been a blessing to her, and she enjoys volunteering as well as establishing new relationships within the community.



JAYE TREIT, Executive Director

Jaye comes to PHS with over 17 years of experience in the health, education, and social service sectors and has significant experience in community-based programming.

Jaye is currently on temporary leave, and Linda Kingston and the management team have assumed responsibilities during this time



GARTH EVANS, Director at Large

Garth practices law with the Vancouver firm Barbeau, Evans & Goldstein. He acts for a number of non-profit housing societies and has experience respecting legal matters involving housing and homelessness issues. He was formerly a Burnaby City Councillor.



KELLY MEINEMA, Director

Kelly believes through community support and resources like PHS, society's vulnerable can have an opportunity to live a productive and meaningful life that is designed by them, not society. Kelly is dedicated to ensuring that PHS is successful in achieving their desired outcomes.



RACQUEL NELSON, Director

Racquel believes in collaborating to develop relationships to advocate and create opportunities to meet the needs and interests of residents in the community. Since graduating with a degree in social work, she has worked in several social housing communities in Toronto and Vancouver.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Linda Kingston & Irfan Ali



In the non-profit sector, and especially in non-profit housing, societies often need to take a leap of faith as they negotiate the ever-changing trends and funding formulas. Last year our Mobile Outreach Program no longer fit the mandate of the federal funding model. While conducting a review of our current programs it became apparent that there were many gaps in services, and needs that were not being met, in Burnaby. The ever-increasing demand for complex mental health, medical and addiction services for vulnerable and marginalized clients led to the vision of a central location where people could access these services while connecting with Outreach workers as well. Over the fall we reconfigured the office space in our facility to allow for a medical exam room and a counseling room. By working collaboratively with our partners, such as Burnaby Mental Health and Substance Use Services and the Burnaby Task Force, we were pleased to be able to arrange for the part-time services of an on-site nurse practitioner, a psychiatrist and an addictions counselor. In December we launched our new Burnaby Housing and Outreach Hub.

In January we received funding through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee to complement the new services. Working under the Housing First model we increased the number of Outreach support staff who work with eligible individuals to ensure immediate access to permanent housing placement with no housing readiness requirements. Participants continue to be provided with individualized and client-driven supports.

Central to all of our programs is the dedicated staff of the BHOH and of the Mental Health Supported Housing programs. They provide quality service to all of our clients despite decreased resources and increased need and continue to look for innovative solutions to diverse problems.

The Board of Directors has continued to provide guidance and leadership to the Society. By following their strategic plan they are striving to make a difference in the community of Burnaby. We would like to thank our outgoing Board member, Ken Bergen, for his service to the Society, and welcome Sonia Hall, Kayhan Mirfakhrai, Arthur Leung, and Aditi Rudra as new members to the 2015-2016 board.

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”
- Martin Luther King

SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING REPORT

Linda Kingston

People participating in the Supported Independent Living Program work hard to achieve the goals they set for themselves. Achieving these goals allows people to experience the pleasure of gaining control, meaning and purpose in their life. As people continue their recovery journey, they build on the goals they have already achieved.

Over the last fiscal year we provided subsidies to 115 individuals. The purpose and focus of the SIL Program is to provide support to individuals living with a mental illness, to assist them in developing the skills needed to successfully maintain an independent lifestyle. Thank you to the staff; Luba Andrews, Sandra Warren, Freddy Benmergui, Gloria Rogers, Jesse Donaldson, Kayla Clack, Richard Rigby, Andi Hale, and Greg Bourgeois. The wealth of experience they bring to the job is considerable.

“What you get by achieving your goals isn’t as important as what you become by achieving your goals.” - Zig Ziglar

SHARED & TRANSITIONAL HOUSING REPORT

Irene Reddy

A lot of hard work (and lots of sweat!) went into making our shared houses look great this year, both inside and out. Our CLS team worked hard over the summer to update the landscaping at Rumble and Holly House, including adding shrubbery, hedges, and gardens. At Georgia House, the home of our transitional program, we landscaped and installed a vegetable garden alongside our clients, with the residents maintaining the garden and harvesting the bounty.

PHS manages six 3-bedroom townhouses with assistance from BC Housing. We housed three families and nine individuals in the Irmin townhouses this past year, and provide minimal support to the tenants.

The CLS team also planned and hosted a PHS fundraiser at Wings restaurant over the summer. With lots of fun, a full house and over \$2000 raised, the fundraiser was a great success.

Keeping up all the houses and working regularly with our clients would not be possible without the hardworking staff of the CLS team. Heartfelt thanks goes to the CLS staff for their hard work and dedication over the past year, and for always going above and beyond for PHS. Thank you to Leanna Chatwin, Marilyn Salling, Syed Mumtaz, Alexandria Saretsky and our 2014 summer student Andrea Bajcetic.



BURNABY HOUSING & OUTREACH HUB REPORT

Alynn Gausvik & Anita Stocker

The 2014-2015 year saw a lot of changes for our program, including many staff additions and program changes. Much of 2014 was spent preparing for funding that would allow BHOH to evolve into more structured and comprehensive program. The BHOH also added a weekly on-site health clinic with a nurse practitioner in December, exclusively for our clients facing barriers to the traditional medical system. The clinic sees 5-6 clients every week, and provides easy, non-judgemental access to medical advice, care, and referrals.

PHS was involved again this year with Homeless Action Week, working closely with the Burnaby Homeless Task Force. We co-hosted the Homeless Connect event, a morning at West Burnaby United Church that included a pancake breakfast, many outreach services including hair cuts and medical care, and information about community resources and services.

In January 2015 Progressive Housing Society received funding to operate a Housing First program in Burnaby. Housing First is a program and a philosophy which assists chronically and episodically homeless individuals to move off the streets and into housing. The program structure is that individuals are assisted to find and move into housing with no readiness required. Once in housing, the individual is given wrap around supports to address any barriers to maintaining housing.

From January to March 2015, HPS funding helped to house an additional 10 individuals move from the streets into housing. Every person helped through the HPS Housing First program was given support to move into housing, help with apartment set up, and assistance with food. Individuals were given one-to-one support to address goals and move forward with their life after living on the street. We know that through the following year we will continue to help many people transition from street to home.



THANK YOU

to all the people and organizations that helped PHS help individuals facing homelessness and mental illness in Burnaby

VOLUNTEERS

Community Partnership Committee: Larry R., Larry S., Rod, Vojin, Joan, Linda, John, Luisa

Homeless Outreach Program Volunteers: Brian K., Dorothy P., Fida, Linda C., Linda T., Parviz, Paul B., Rahel, Razan, Ross W., Wanda, Kat, Kelly, Shane, MJ, Gabriella, Arlene, Darlene, Marion, Jim, Eva, Merrill, Colin, Shaka, Joe

Office: Herb, Kat, Grant

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

BC Housing
Burnaby Task Force on Homelessness
Fraser Health
Metro Vancouver
Southside Community Church
Burnaby Rotary Club
Province of British Columbia
City of Burnaby
Service Canada
Vancity Credit Union

Purpose Society
Burnaby Lions
Helping Families in Need
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Burnaby Mental Health & Addictions' Primary Care
Burnaby Board of Trade
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PVP Local HEU
Urban Impact

Telus Mobility
C.H.I.M.P.
First Reformed Church
Deer Lake Seventh Day
Adventist School
Edmonds City Fair
& Classic Car Show



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HOUSING SOCIETY**

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