

WINTER ISSUE - JANUARY 2024

RESOURCES

COMMUNITY NEWS UPDATE



Intermission

A REFLECTION ON OUR MISSION

We are excited to share our latest newsletter - Resources Community News Update (Winter Issue). This publication includes highlights and updates from across our organization.

Through these stories, we have tried to offer a glimpse into our daily life at Sources. Read on to know more about how we promote "Social Wellness in our Community".

Happy reading!



This issue:

Intermission
PAGE 01

Growth From Within
Page 02

Truth & Reconciliation
Page 08

Why Should We Care
About Homelessness?
Page 09

Looking Ahead
Page 10



We are thankful to
business owners,
faith-based
community and people
with lived experiences
who engaged in
spirited dialogues.

GEORGE PASSMORE,
COMMUNITY SERVICES



Growth From Within

PROGRAM UPDATES



OVERDOSE PREVENTION & SUBSTANCE USE

125 guests attended "Community at a Crossroads" event. We discussed how we can ensure the social wellness of members, given the ongoing dual crises of housing and overdose.



After months of searching, we were able to purchase a van for our outreach services. The van is being used to bring individuals to warming shelters, our overdose prevention site, and services hub in White Rock/South Surrey.





2023 was a successful year and we are very grateful for all of the support from our community and within our organization!

LEANNE UTENDALE,
OVERDOSE PREVENTION
& SUBSTANCE USE

PEER SUPPORT NETWORK

In November, the team hosted two free stores at the Church of the Holy Trinity. Over 200 people from our community received clothing and food.



We also held a walk for homelessness during the World Homelessness Week. Several community members and supporters joined, including MLA Trevor Halford, PH2H, Alex House and Youthscape.





HOMELESS PREVENTION SERVICES

The Newton Resource Centre hosted the 16th Annual Homelessness Awareness March in Oct 2023. Many community members joined us to raise awareness about the growing homelessness crisis.



FOOD BANK & VOLUNTEER SERVICES

In Dec, the team volunteered for the White Rock Bright Walk event. They had glow sticks, treats and stickers for children. The team used the opportunity to engage with the community and talk about our upcoming fundraiser, Coldest Night of the Year.





Megan Pickell, Manager of Substance Use and Counselling Services, assumed the role of emcee at the annual gathering of substance use service providers and leadership from across Fraser Health.



LAURIE MORING passed her behaviour analyst certification exam. This certification means Laurie has completed over 1500 hours of supervision. She worked incredibly hard to understand the science of the field so that she can apply it in a compassionate and meaningful way to support the children and families she works with.



GEORGE PASSMORE presented at the Annual National Conference on Substance Use Issues at the Vancouver Convention Center hosted by the Canadian Center on Substance Use and Addiction. George spoke on how to use storytelling and media to reduce stigma related to substance use. He also shared a self-produced video Building Hope.





Braden, resident at Chestnut House, had a lunch meeting with our CEO David Young to share his suggestions and feedback!



LIFE SKILLS ENRICHMENT CENTRE

In their most recent staff meeting, Wendy Teeple and Katie Clark facilitated a brainstorming session for upcoming events and activities for clients. The team also reviewed client support plans and worked together on effective communication skills.



COMMUNITY LIVING PROGRAM

In 2023, our staffed homes in Ladner have been getting together every quarter for lunch, treats and a movie. All our residents had fun meeting and connecting with each other. This also gave our staff an opportunity to learn about other programs in person.





Katelyn Reid joined the Morgan office as the new Manager of Information and Policy.

Yanina Savenko joined the Positive Behaviour Lower Mainland team as Manager of Behavioural Support Services.

Richelle Benoit joined the Counselling Services team as full-time intake coordinator.

Skye Wylie joined Counselling Services.

SOURCES FOUNDATION'S MYSTERY ON THE NILE GALA raised over \$250,000 for Community Living, food banks and DiscoverY. A BIG THANKS to all our sponsors, donors, staff and volunteers for making this event a success!



TRAUMA COUNSELLING welcomes Akira to the team. She holds a bachelors and masters in social work from UBC and a bachelors in international studies from SFU. Akira is passionate about improving the quality of life for self-identified women and addressing social determinants of health from an intersectional lens.





Truth and Reconciliation

OUR JOURNEYS, OUR STORIES

I am second generation Canadian. In my earlier years, I had limited awareness of the Indigenous experience, both past and present. I grew up with perspective that my life was representative of life in Canada. I started my career as a youth worker and later had the opportunity through Employment Canada to train a group of indigenous women on the fine art of youth care.

So, with my middle-class European values in tow, I created a curriculum which included theoretical content and practices and was set up as a largely didactic process of teaching. Day one, there was what I would describe as a “soft” rebellion against intended style of teaching. Over the next days and weeks, the students became the teachers, and I was the student. They taught me the importance of the check in process using a talking stick (and later an eagle feather). They introduced smudging as a cleansing/purifying process and shared very personal experiences of being Indigenous within the Canadian experience. We incorporated these practices and learning into our daily routine and curriculum. Further, we incorporated Indigenous knowledge and practices into the approaches in working with youth.

The experience was very humbling for me, and I learned much more in those months than in all the years of book learning prior. I will always profoundly grateful to that group of indigenous women for their grace and patience, and for the wisdom they provided.

Since 2021, we at Sources have made a commitment to the movement towards truth and reconciliation. We didn’t know where this journey would take us and this years on, the journey is still unfolding. Sources has a standing Truth and Reconciliation Committee. As stated in Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, “It requires that the paternalistic and racist foundations of the residential school system be rejected as the basis for an ongoing relationship.” (2015). This is what must define our work and we are committed to continuing to act accordingly.

Sources’ Truth & Reconciliation committee aims to advance cultural safety within our organization to better serve our clients and support our staff from any walk of life, but particularly those with Indigenous ancestry.

HOWARD SCHEIN,
COMMUNITY SERVICES





Why should we care about homelessness?

The butterfly effect impacts us all

By Marc Burchell

My love for South Surrey/White Rock extends back to when I was 16 years old and enjoyed the use of my sister's house on Martin Street over the summer. I later re-engaged with the community as a business owner with two stores in Semiahmoo Mall, and 18 years ago, I moved here, making this my home.

Since childhood, I've watched this community evolve while preserving its unique character. It was a place where neighbours cared about the community and looked out for each other. But recently, an increasing number of our neighbours subsist with inadequate food and shelter. Modern-day stresses have driven a growing number of families with children lining up at the food bank. Seniors are facing eviction notices, and individuals are seeking out shelter on the streets. What was once a rare exception is now visible to us daily.

Registrations at our local food bank are up by nearly a third over last year, and almost 40 percent of those are children. Almost 10 percent are seniors. Nobody chooses this way of life for themselves. Health, relationships, employment and the economy are all factors that can derail a person's life, and for some, the path back can be elusive, causing them to become lost.

These conditions challenge the values on which we have built our community and cry out for us to explore the role that each of us must play in finding solutions. As those of us who live here know, we are blessed to live in a paradise, but what makes our home a utopia is its beating heart and compassionate soul, not just its location.

The health of our community is at risk if we turn our backs on those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Their suffering is not just their problem, nor is it somebody else's problem. It is all of our problem, and left unattended, the number of affected people grows, affecting us all.

We can do our part by understanding that some people become lost and don't know how to find their way home. We can also show compassion for others' misfortunes and be more patient and tolerant of the homelessness situation in our neighbourhood. None of us wants to see people suffering from homelessness in our community, and yet we all want something to be done about it. A partial solution has been the establishment by the cities of White Rock and Surrey of warming shelters. Many applaud these moves as long as they aren't situated in their neighborhoods. Well, they have to go somewhere and our acceptance of them is one way that we can contribute to the solution.

We can also donate to the food bank, volunteer, or provide financial support to charities such as Sources Foundation. On February 24, Sources is hosting Coldest Night of the Year to raise money. Please participate by creating a fundraising team or making a donation. With each of us doing our part, big or small, we can bring a little warmth into the lives of those who are experiencing hunger, homelessness and hurt.

Marc spent over 40 years working in retail fashion. He has an extensive background serving the community on the Board of Directors for Sources Community Resources Society, is Co-Founder of the Canadian Walk for Veterans, Co-Founder of the Surrey White Rock Community Engagement Society and past President of Equitas Disabled Soldiers Funding Society. Marc lives in South Surrey with his wife Dodi, has two sons and four grandchildren.

As a matter of facts

Food bank registrants have increased by 32% since last year.¹

38% of those we serve are children. This is 5% higher than the national average.²

8.44% of those we serve are seniors (compared to the national average of 8%).²

¹ Food Banks Canada. (2023). *HungerCount 2023. When Is It Enough?* <https://fbcblobstorage.blob.core.windows.net/wordpress/2023/10/hungercount23-en.pdf>

² Sources Food Banks. (2023).



SOURCES
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRES

Contact us to make a positive change.

604-531-6226 | Help@SourcesBC.ca | SourcesBC.ca



coldest
*night
OF THE YEAR

it's cold out there
feb. 24, 2024



REGISTER TO WALK
cnoy.org/whiterocksouthsurrey





Looking Ahead

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Coldest Night of the Year is one of our important community events open to anyone who wants to walk, donate and fundraise. This is our 11th year hosting the fundraiser alongside the White Rock/South Surrey community.

The goal for this year is to raise \$300,000 for our Food Banks, Homeless Prevention Services and Peer Support Program.

To walk with us, register here:
CNOY.ORG/WHITEROCKSOUTHSURREY

It's encouraging to be
a part of something
that has everyone
across ages, cultures,
beliefs, and financial
levels gathering for a
very real matter that
affects our community.

DAVID YOUNG, CEO
SOURCES FOUNDATION



walk | donate | volunteer | share

feb 24, 2024
white rock/south surrey

The Coldest Night of the Year is a
winterrific family-friendly
fundraising walk in support of
people experiencing hunger,
homelessness and hurt.

