

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Virtual Meeting

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MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

May 11:	May 18: Chili Yalamanchili – Who’s Who	May 25:
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OUR CLUB LAST WEEK’S MEETING:

President **Clinton Callison** presided.

Guests: Jennifer Hirsch and Pam Flegel

Libby Nelson introduction of Jennifer Hirsh

Jennifer Hirsh is the Director of Programs, overseeing all program operations throughout the Fraser Valley and Tri-cities regions of BC. Jen is committed to promoting social justice, building community capacity and has worked extensively with Community Living British Columbia and individuals with developmental disabilities and concurrent disorders for almost twenty years.



Program: John Howard Society presented by Jennifer Hirsh

Jennifer Hirsh - I wanted to also introduce my colleague Pam Flegel, the reason why I asked her to join me is, she and I are one of the two longest standing employees that have been working for the John Howard Society and her and I were colleagues in the sense that I was responsible for community living services, so that's programs and services supporting adults with developmental disabilities and Pam was solely responsible for our justice services, so supporting individuals that are transitioning into community and in community form correctional facilities, that way your guys would get kind of a breath of the programs that we offer at John Howard Pacific.

Just a quick raise of hands, has anybody heard of John Howard Society before? Oh oh great! I wasn't sure because Maple Ridge isn't typically a community that we have provided service, we just haven't had that growth in your community. With that said, we do operate a residential facility in your community right now and we do access a lot of the institutions that are within your community so that is kind of the piece where we're at, in terms of the Maple Ridge region.

John Howard Society Pacific

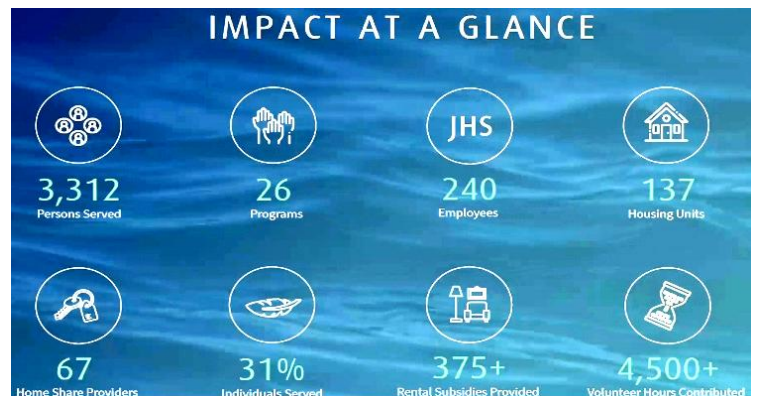
We are a dynamic, innovative social service organization that strives to create safe, healthy, and inclusive communities for all.

We do this through a continuum of programs that provide assistance with housing, life-skills, education, employment, and community-based services, with the goal of helping individuals achieve greater independence and value their positive contributions to society.

John Howard Society Pacific, we were formerly known as the John Howard Society Lower Mainland, we actually just changed our name in August 2020, and the reason for that is we kind of outgrew our name. We started to expand across BC as well as the Yukon and territories. We are now called John Howard Society Pacific Region.

So there really isn't a whole lot we don't do. I think we are open to innovative, new creative ideas in terms of just helping people in community.

We added determined, as one of our values because when you are in social services and do the work that we do, we are passionate people we don't shy away from tough challenges and we respond to setbacks with renewed drive to succeed so I think it just speaks a lot to the frontline work that we do and just, you know, wanting to always do the right thing and help people in a different way.



So right now I am just providing you with stats for 2019 - 2020

John Howard is a national organization but we do provide very unique programs, so Lower Mainland, Pacific region, for example, over fifty percent of our programs and services are supporting people, adults with a developmental disability, that's unique, because we are traditionally known as a criminal justice organization across Canada.

The reason I wanted to stress the Yukon and territories is we are able to provide services in Yukon and the territories during a pandemic so that just kind of shows that the work that we do still continues regardless of the circumstances. So a lot of our operations really didn't change throughout the pandemic, we look at our services as essential because it is supporting people.

JHS Pacific Across BC & Yukon

As the JHS Lower Mainland, we delivered programming in 3 regions in BC, spanning 27 municipalities and 16 cities

Now as the JHS Pacific Region, we have grown and expanded our services across BC and into the Yukon. We now serve more than 40 municipalities and counting across the Pacific region.



Our services across the Pacific region provide consistent standards and quality, while meeting the unique needs of local communities

Expanding has been pretty exciting for us as an organization.



We do in-reach. We do go into institutions as well and provide advocacy support and also focus on some transitional planning into the community.

Community residential facilities are for people transitioning from federal correctional services.

Supported housing is for individuals who are living somewhat independently but require some support so they have their own individual unit and space.

Pam and I have been involved in pretty much every program that we have offered at the John Howard Pacific in some form or capacity. Whether it was operating it, part of the creation or development of it, we both have been very heavily involved.

In response to the pandemic we have been fortunate enough to be able to provide additional support which is providing meals,

providing activity kits, tents, clothing, being able to respond by putting people into hotels and being able to respond to some of the pandemic needs.

Crazy to think for this pandemic year has been one of our biggest growth years. John Howard Lower Mainland originated predominantly in Vancouver, we weren't actually allowed to provide services because of our affiliate agreements in the Fraser Valley or the Territories or Prince George so that is why it is fairly new for us and the changes have come over the last eight years.



The way I look at it is the goal is to serve more people in community in different ways, I think that is what is really important. We are seeing a lot of individuals that have more complex needs. As you are all aware we are in the midst of a pandemic but we are also in the midst of an opiate epidemic along with an increase in the needs around mental health.

We can no longer achieve outcomes in isolation, rather partnership and collaboration so really having a good relationship with the community as well as other organizations I think really enhances and just makes the support overall more successful and more sustainable.

Sustain speaks to our commitment to again improving our training, how we train our staff as well as our processes and building our infrastructure.



Here is a quick visual of our values and priorities.

We are seeing more complex individuals in community all the time, the referrals that we have been getting in the past few years have been, when I say complex we are talking about people that are not only can be impacted by the criminal justice system, have significant amount of trauma, can potentially be homeless, you've got mental health, you've got a developmental disability, I mean you name it you can have every single one of those things. But I think the biggest thing, I think for me, based on my experience is just really understanding the trauma piece, understanding that each individual that we work with is so much more, we always say there is so much more than the worst thing that they have ever done, and just kind

of highlighting that and recognizing that every person in community has a mom, has a dad, may have a brother or sister or somebody, so just understanding that there's a story behind each person and just having the opportunity to get to know people in different ways is why do the work that we do.

Walter: What is your funding source?

Jennifer: We have multiple funders but our two largest funders right now is Correction Services of Canada as well as Community Living BC. Community Living BC is about fifty percent and CSC is around forty percent. We also work with Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal, as well as the city of Vancouver. With the Yukon territory it's the Yukon government, the Yukon review board and we have a housing first program. One of the new funders is Fraser health and the acquired brain injury stream, so that is quite new for us.

Libby: How far east do you provide services?

Jennifer: Right now the demand for supports and services are so incredibly high that we actually can't keep up with the demand. We are being asked daily to provide services and right now capacity is at an all time low, I don't know if it because of the pandemic but we are feeling it across the entire province in regards to just finding suitable appropriate staff so there are a lot of people that aren't being served right now just because organizations can't keep up with the demand and you want to insure quality service and support as opposed to just responding to quantity or you want to make sure that your workers are trained because if not what you do is continue to retraumatize so we want to make sure we are doing the best that we can.

Announcements:

The Duck Race winners will be announced June 6, 2021 - The time is now to sell tickets!!!

Clint Rotary Club of Golden Ears installation will be on Thursday May 27, 2021 from 7:00pm until 9:00pm on Zoom

Dave Rempel Tomorrow at 12:00 on Zoom will be our last Winefest meeting for the 2021 Winefest

Chili reported some preliminary Winefest results - we also had a brief discussion with feedback on the silent auction platform and some takeaways for next year if we use the same platform

Sharon Kyle: Big Thanks you to Fred Armstrong for acting as our Master of Ceremonies for the Winefest and to Brenda Norrie for all of her organization and behind the scenes production work

Patrick Dobbyn: upcoming Rotary Events:

Rotary Foundation Gala May 12

District Rotary Conference May 14 and 15 via Zoom

Matt DeBruyn: The vocational committee will start today with the evaluation of the applications for the bursaries for this year.

Ineke Boekhorst gave a financial report for the Starfish Backpack program - We are in good shape to start up in the fall. We normally receive a fair number of donations over the summer.

Libby Nelson called for members to present a Who's Who program as we have some time available in June.

Happy and Sad:

Dave Rempel five happy dollars - Dave regaled us with a story from November 1989 before - telling us that he was very pleased and thankful for what the Winefest committee was able to produce last Saturday (May 1, 2021) with the first online Winefest.

Dave added a sad/disappointed dollar that no one mentioned his new haircut and neat beard.

Brenda Jenkins really happy **5 dollars** for the Winefest volunteers and especially for Chili for his work behind the scenes on the Winefest

Brenda added 5 more happy dollars because she saw Deb at the Abbotsford BC Cancer clinic yesterday!

Ineke Boekhorst happy five dollars - very thankful for everybody working as a team, and hopes everyone knows how much work was done by Brenda Norrie

Matt DeBruyn added 5 Happy dollars, He and Linda thought it was one of the best Winefests ever

Libby Nelson 5 happy dollars from her too, she loved the program and thought the Winefest was great

Clint Callison had a Happy 5 dollars for the Winefest as well - He got tons of feedback from lots of people in the community they said it was fantastic

Walter Volpatti put in 5 happy dollars for the Winefest

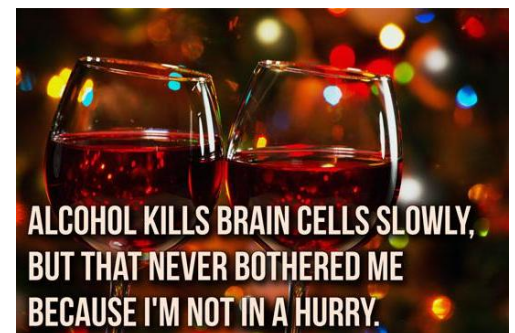
Sharon Kyle has 5 happy dollars, as a result of the success of the Winefest she sold 10 tickets for the Duck Race

Finemaster:

Matt DeBruyn Although it does not fit the four way test because it is definitely unfair.....five months ago he talked about a subject to the club and he wants to see a hand from everybody who does not remember what he talked about and does not remember why May 4 and May 5 are so important for him as Dutchman.

Liberation Day (**Dutch:** *Bevrijdingsdag*) is a [public holiday in the Netherlands](#) celebrated each year on 5 May to mark the end of the [occupation by Nazi Germany](#) during [World War II](#). It follows the [Remembrance of the Dead](#) (*Dodenherdenking*) on 4 May.

Clint's closing quote:



Submitted by Deborah Hyslop