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greater victoria
coalition to end
homelessness
hope has found a home

Media Release

For Immediate Release:

Generous donation secures Streets to Homes

VICTORIA, BC, January 9, 2015 – Pacifica Housing and the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (Coalition) are pleased to announce that thanks to a generous donation of \$125,000 from the Victoria Foundation the Streets to Homes program is able to continue operating at full capacity.

“Currently the services that make this program viable are supported by local funding agencies rather than government, and due to a shift in the funding timelines the Streets to Homes program was faced with a significant shortfall,” says Karyn French, Executive Director of Pacifica Housing. “This funding will enable us to continue operating the program until it becomes eligible for new United Way funding in April 2015.”

“We are thrilled the Victoria Foundation was able to step up with this funding in the short term and we expect other community agencies will keep it operating in the medium term,” says Andrew Wynn-Williams, Executive Director of the Coalition. “This program is a proven success however in the long term we hope government funds the entire Streets to Homes program, not just the rent supplements currently provided by BC Housing.”

“We were so pleased to be able to bring the right parties together and help facilitate the funding of such an important initiative in our community,” said Sandra Richardson, CEO of the Victoria Foundation. “Both ourselves and our donors appreciate the importance of keeping people housed, especially those most vulnerable in our society.”

Created in 2009 as a pilot program between eight Coalition partners, Streets to Homes was initially designed to move 30 people directly from cyclical homelessness to private market housing with supports. This pilot was so successful, that it was made permanent, expanded to include 120 individuals and transferred to Pacifica to oversee in 2012.

The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness is a partnership of local service providers, non-profit organizations, all levels of government, and the business, post-secondary and faith communities. The Coalition’s vision is to end homelessness in Greater Victoria by 2018.

Pacifica Housing is a non-profit charitable organization that provides affordable housing for low income families, persons with a disability and adults who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Established in 1936, the Victoria Foundation is Canada's second oldest community foundation and the fifth largest of nearly 200 across the nation. It manages charitable gifts from donors whose generosity allows them to create permanent, income-earning funds. The proceeds from these funds are then distributed as grants for charitable or educational purposes. To date it has invested more than \$143 million in people, projects and non-profit organizations that strengthen communities in B.C. and throughout Canada.

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