

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Our Place opens My Place Transitional Home**

***Forty homeless people will have 24/7 access to food, shelter and support***

**VICTORIA, B.C.** – Our Place will open a new 24/7 transitional housing facility on Tuesday, Jan. 5 to house 40 homeless campers from tent city.

The temporary facility will be located at 1240 Yates Street and will remain open until April 30, 2016.

“The campers at Victoria’s court house are wary of shelters,” says Don Evans, executive director of Our Place, “so we are excited to offer this unique transitional home that will meet so many of their needs.”

Our Place has hired experienced staff to make this a one-of-a-kind space. Residents will have privacy, mental health and addiction support, hot meals, showers, programming, income opportunities, and the ability to work one-on-one with housing support workers to secure permanent housing.

“We’ll be working with the new residents to build a community of support and belonging,” adds Evans. “We’ve found in our other transitional housing that when we provide people with a safe and secure home, it makes a huge difference in their physical and emotional well-being.”

The facility will be staffed around the clock with both security and support staff.

John Bertram, who is camping at the courthouse tent city, is looking forward to having a safe, dry home with his wife. He sees the facility as a positive “stepping stone” on the path to permanent housing.

Our Place is working with its community partners, including Pacifica Housing, Island Health, the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and the provincial government to ensure the best outcomes for the residents and the community.

Our Place is a unique inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted and the homeless. Individuals and businesses provide the majority of financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides over 1,600 meals per day, hot showers, education, job skills, free clothing, counseling and outreach services, plus 45 transitional housing units. Most importantly, it provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

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