

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017



Our Place Strengthens its Board of Directors

VICTORIA, B.C. – Our Place has experienced incredible growth over the last year. In response, its Board of Directors is pleased to welcome six new community members to its volunteer board in its continued commitment to meet the growing needs of the impoverished in our community.

Joining the board are:

Karen Adams presently works for the Greater Victoria School District as an Education Assistant supporting students with learning disabilities.

Reverend Bill Cantelon is currently the Minister of Cordova Bay United Church. He is past Chair of Victoria Presbytery and serves on both the Victoria Downtown Churches Association and Aboriginal Neighbors.

Jill Cater is both a volunteer and family member at Our Place and grateful for “the hope, sense of belonging and belief they had in her when she didn’t believe in herself.” Jill’s work experience involves a number of entrepreneurial initiatives and, more recently, with Our Place’s Peers Helping Peers program and the Society of Living Illicit Drug Users (SOLID).

Brett Hayward “has seen the healing power of love and compassion” firsthand since he began financially supporting and then becoming involved with the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness Issues (NWGHI). As a veterinarian, he has delivered compassionate care of animals and people for 33 years.

Andrea Jakeman-Brown was the first Chair of Our Place’s Advisory Cabinet, a team of business and community leaders who assisted Our Place’s development team, since its inception in 2013. In addition to her extensive experience in financial services, Andrea has served as Financial Services Chair with United Way, Treasurer for the Rotary Club and volunteered with the West Coast Motorcycle Ride to Live.

Linda Ryder has volunteered in the dining room and nutrition bar serving the Our Place family members since 2011. For the fifth year, Linda is coordinating the Angel Gift Program.

“We live in interesting times,” says Diana Butler, board chair. “And the skillset of our new directors is a welcome addition to the board. Along with our advisory cabinet, these community leaders will further strengthen our board and enhance the vision of the organization.”

The board currently includes: Diana Butler, chair; Cairine Green, vice chair; Scott Daly, secretary; Andrea Jakeman-Brown, treasurer; Susan Haddon, past chair; Susan Abells; Kristina D'Sa; Geoffrey Huggett; Larry Pedersen.

The Our Place volunteer board is dedicated to the governance and vision of the organization, and its directors contribute to the Society through their passion, dedication, experience and business acumen.

Along with new board members, Our Place is pleased to announce that Frank Bourree has been appointed as chair of the advisory cabinet.

Our Place is an 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 200 transitional housing units, over 1,800 meals per day, hot showers, education, counseling and outreach services. Most importantly, it provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

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