

**JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF THE
LOWER MAINLAND OF BC**

763 Kingsway
Vancouver, BC V5V 3C2



www.jhslmbc.ca

*A Registered Charitable Society
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<input type="checkbox"/> Make a Donation		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
<input type="checkbox"/> Be a Volunteer		<input type="checkbox"/> Visa
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Visa # _____ Exp. date _____
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The Bridge

Spring 2007

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Expansion of Housing in Abbotsford



In March 2007, Our Board of Directors entered into a partnership agreement with BC Housing to purchase an Abbotsford Apartment Building. BC Housing awarded the Agency with a \$1,000,000.00 capital grant which will allow us to operate the property mortgage free. This will add ten two-bedroom supported housing units to the community of Abbotsford.

In December we submitted an expression of interest to develop

housing in Abbotsford, BC. The plan was to work with the JHS Fraser Valley in providing supported housing. A letter was sent regarding our intent to partner to develop housing; unfortunately we did not receive a response.

In January, BC Housing informed the JHSLM that we had met Phase I of the approval process and we submitted a full proposal. In February, BC Housing announced our project had been given top priority.

We negotiated a successful offer of purchase and locked up the proposed property.

On March 31, 2007 Premier Campbell's Housing announcement confirmed our project publicly. We will take possession of this property in the summer of 2007 and will commence renovations. We hope to introduce tenants in September 2007.

- Tim Veresh

Keeping the Doorways Open

One of the things that I especially like about our mission statement here at JHSLM is about how it ties in all aspects of what we strive to achieve along with everyone who is directly/indirectly affected by the Criminal Justice System. One thing our mission statement touches on is Public Education which is a huge issue to me.

So many people seem to have a misconception on what a CRF is. For example in the province paper when they say "AN OFFENDER HAS BROKEN OUT OF A HALFWAY HOUSE" this is laughable seeing as how to break out of a halfway house means to simply walk out the front door. I know that at Hobden house our community representative that goes over screenings is considered part of our team and is treated accordingly so it is comforting to see an unbiased member of the commu-

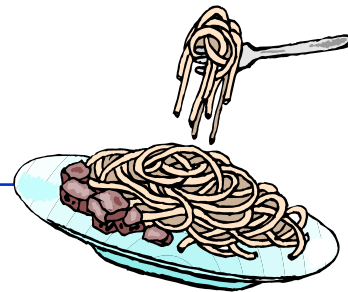
nity appreciating what we do here and being involved.

Our house doesn't have any CSC programs facilitated here which I also enjoy, not because I don't believe in these programs but because our house is a program in itself. To me, it's community integration and teaching community living. For example it's not out of the ordinary to cook a meal for a resident or for a resident to cook a meal for me we also sit at the dining room table as most of the residents refer to as a family. A good portion of my shift is spent talking with the residents (usually one on one) outside of the office about they're day and they can tell if I'm genuine in asking and it's fun to build that rapport and break those institutional entrenched beliefs of us vs. them. I play scrabble with them, cards, watch TV. When I can and my door is always open and the amount of guys who tell you of they're appreciation is unbeliev-

able. I only had a 2 year course coming into this and my second year was strictly on how to become a correctional officer, along with that I was taught very little about restorative justice, a lot on boundaries, a lot about institutionalized beliefs and why they exist, a lot on mental preparedness in an institutional setting.

Coming to John Howard, I started to learn more about the restorative justice approach and it was comforting to see that we indeed do find intrinsic worth, instill responsibility, and advocate when needed. I've learned that John Howard is passionate about these beliefs and that our mission statement is not just a plaque to read on a wall it's honestly refreshing.

– Ryan



Larry's Amazing Alfredo

Hi! My name is Larry, and I'm a resident of the Vancouver Apartments. I would like to share my favorite recipe for your dinner enjoyment.

Dish: PASTA ALFREDO

Servings: Four Servings

Ingredients:

- One jar Classico Alfredo Di Sorrento (Alfredo & Roasted Garlic)
- One can sliced mushrooms
- One can baby clams
- Two pressed cloves of garlic
- One small bag of Fettucini pasta

- Two tablespoons of Canola oil
- Pre-made/home made Garlic Toasts
- Parmesan Cheese (as needed to thicken the sauce)

One sprig of Parsley or dried Parsley flakes for garnish

Preparation: ALFREDO SAUCE

1. Heat up the oil in a saucepan.
2. Sauté the pressed garlic until brownish in color.
3. Add and sauté the sliced mushrooms.
4. Add and sauté baby clams.

5. Add the Classico Alfredo Di Sorrento and simmer under low heat.

6. Optional: Add Parmesan Cheese to thicken sauce if needed.

7. Boil the Fettucini pasta. Pasta firmness is up to your preference.

8. Mix the boiled pasta with the Alfredo Sauce or Add Alfredo Sauce over a bed of pasta. Garnish with fresh or dried Parsley flakes.

Serve with garlic bread and green salad.

I hope you will enjoy the meal and Happy eating...!

Steps to Restorative Practices

Traditional approaches to justice in North America, and around the world rely very heavily on an "us vs. them" mentality. Charges are typically laid by the "state" on behalf of the victim, and the case is tried in a court of law by lawyers, often with little input from the victim, and with little regard for that victim's personal needs. It should be surprising to no one then to discover that victim's of crime often feel neglected, ignored, or even abused by the justice system. In particular, victims may feel they lack the following:

1. Information. Victims need answers to questions they have about the offence. Why did it happen, and what has happened since. Victims need access to REAL information, not constrained legal jargon.

2. Truth Telling. An important element in healing or transcending the experience of a crime is an opportunity to tell the story of what happened and to share their stories with those who have caused them harm in order that they might understand the impact of their actions.

3. Empowerment. Victims often feel like control has been taken away from them. Involvement in the justice process can help to restore this sense of personal empowerment.

4. Restitution. To victims of crime it is important partly because of the actual losses, but also because of the symbolic recognition restitution implies. When an offender makes an effort to right the harm, even partially, it is a way of saying, I am taking responsibility and you are not to blame. (Zehr, 2002)

Approaches to restorative justice follow no specific formula, and despite their recent rise greater prominence in our own justice

system it's hardly a new concept. There is evidence of restorative practices being used in cultures dating back to 1700 B.C and even earlier. The Code of Ur – Nammu in Sumer around 2060 BC required offenders to make financial restitution to victims of violent crimes (this is the same culture credited with the invention of the wheel, so no big surprise). Modern approaches to restorative justice might include such practices as Victim Offender Mediation, a face to face meeting facilitated by a trained mediator for the purpose of creating understanding of an event and creating a strategy for resolution. There are also community restorative boards, in which a small group work with an offender to develop a set of actions to be taken by the offender to make reparation for harm done to the community.

A Canadian contribution to the world of restorative justice is the Circles of Support and Accountability program. Started in Hamilton, this program has now become an internationally recognized practice with a demonstrated ability to assist in the safe integration of high risk-risk sex offenders with their community. The program surrounds offenders with between 5 and 7(or more) carefully selected volunteers whose goal is to provide an offender with support while holding them accountable to both their past offences as well as their current capacity for success. Versions of this program now exist in every Canadian province, as well as several U.S states, and in some of the UK.

An important step toward greater use of restorative practices came in 1996 when the sentencing principles in the Criminal Code were amended. The principles encouraged the use of community-based sentencing and draw on key restorative elements such as the need to promote a sense of responsibility

in offenders and for them to acknowledge and make reparation for the harm they have done to their victims and to the community. This was further reflected in 2002 with the passing of the Youth Criminal Justice Act into law, which called for increased use of community based interventions, including restorative justice programs in responding to youth crime. This new legislation also empowered police to use discretion in dealing with young people, and to refer youth directly to community based programs where they felt it was appropriate.

The growing use of restorative justice in Canada was also highlighted in the October 1998 report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights concerning victims of crime. Their report, Victim's Rights, a Voice Not a Veto, reviewed the role of the victim in the criminal justice system. The reports discussed victims' concerns, relating to restorative justice and recommended that the proposed "Office for Victims" assess restorative justice initiatives in Canada and develop principles or guidelines to ensure respect for victim's interests. The government's response, tabled on December 16, 1998, agreed that restorative justice principles should ensure respect for victims and protection of their interests.

Although the term restorative justice defines a wide variety of programs and practices, it has at its core is a guiding philosophy which meshes with the John Howard Societies commitment to effective, just and humane criminal justice. As such, we will continue to explore opportunities to work within a restorative framework and deliver new programs in the future.

– Court

Making the Right Choice

My name is Kailey, and I am a fifth year Criminology student at Simon Fraser University. My only experience working in the "field" has been volunteering at PLEA (Pacific Legal Education Association) through the Kid's Start Mentoring Program. During that year, I learned many things about the relationship between youth, Native youth, and the City of Vancouver. But still, I had no experience actually working full time in any sort of Criminology applicable employment. I would take class after class and learn about *other* people's experiences. Finally, I decided to do something practical and hands on, so I applied to the Practicum Program at SFU. There was a youth restorative conferencing position that sounded right for me.

Within ten minutes of the interview, it was revealed to me that this program was not available at the current time. It completely caught me off guard. The only option for me through the John Howard Society was Adult Community Services. I didn't even know what that was! But my heart was set on the John Howard Society. They are a well respected non-profit organization, and I really appreciate their mission statement. So the interview kept

going and I was accepted into the Kingsway office at the John Howard Society and have been here since January 18th. The amount of knowledge I have gained from my experience far surpasses any textbook or article I have read. This position at the John Howard Society has meant a lot to me, and I feel fortunate to have been accepted. The people here are wonderful too. They helped me along my learning process and continue to do so every time I have a question

The position of community services entails providing inmates and other people with resources they need. This includes giving phone numbers sometimes, finding a lawyer, applying for a Social Insurance Number, or getting clothes brought to you in jail for your upcoming trial. I mail and talk on the phone with inmates at the North Fraser Pre-Trial Centre and the Fraser Regional Correctional Centre, and try to do anything I can to give them what they need. I end up dealing with various government agencies over the phone, and basically dig deep to find answers to people's questions. I learned that there is a whole community of service providers and helpers within

Vancouver. Most people are acquaintances and have colleagues in other agencies. I guess I assumed because Vancouver was such a big city, this would not be the case. Now it feels like I am apart of that community, and finding the resources for people has become easier. But the biggest lesson for me was confirming that my choice of education, the path of Criminology, is something I love and will continue to do. After five years of class, it is easy to fall into a grey area of uncertainty. This opportunity at the John Howard Society has made things clear again.

Basically, in the office, I am surrounded by very dedicated and intelligent individuals. I leave the office feeling accomplished. The work we do here is appreciated and needed inside prisons in Canada and inside communities. It is very rewarding and for a good cause. I am very grateful for this experience and wish to continue volunteering here after my practicum is over. Thank you Shelley, and everyone!

– Kailey

Thank you to the volunteers who have donated their time and energy in support of our numerous programs.

Our Programs and Services

Youth Services ~ Prison Services
Choices Program ~ Outreach
Restorative Conferencing
Prostitution Offender Program
Adult Community Services

Federal Halfway Houses
Hobden House
Guy Richmond Place

Community Living
Vancouver Apartments
Miller Block

For in-depth descriptions:
www.jhslmbc.ca

Louise's Story

My name is Louise and I am a fourth year criminology major at Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo, B.C. As part of my graduation requirements, I am required to do a 208 hour field placement. My passion for client support and pro-social reintegration has led me to Guy Richmond Place.

I was first interested in The John Howard Society because it embraces values that are akin to my own. I believe that justice is best served through measures that resolve conflicts and restore peace and I am dedicated to making this concept a concrete reality in our communities.

It has been very beneficial to util-

ize both the knowledge I have acquired during my education, and the skills I have learned through previous work and volunteer experience in such a practical setting. I have had the opportunity to use organizational skills to pull together resources in the community to make academic and employment plans for clients. On the same note, I have also had many opportunities to utilize my communications skills to debrief day to day situations that occur when the clients are in the community.

At Guy Richmond I have been offered the opportunity to get training and experience I could not have acquired in other settings. I have been able to see and partici-

pate first hand in the effective management of a large halfway house, which includes much documentation, routine organization and client support. I now have an in depth understanding of the CSC and their role, as well as the great contribution the John Howard Society makes to the criminal justice system.

This opportunity has opened my eyes to many different career options I may not have considered otherwise. I would like to thank Melissa and the team at the house for their ongoing help and support; they have made my first work experience in the criminal justice system invaluable.

– Louise

Outreach Program

Jean and Barry, the Vancouver Apartments Outreach team, continue to be hard at work supporting their clients within the community. The program has received a few new referrals over the past few months and there are rarely any client hours left vacant. This year, there have been increasing opportunities for

clients to interact with others who receive outreach services at bowling nights where Miller Block and Vancouver Apartments residents also have a chance to show off their skills, as well as at semi-regular craft groups held in the outreach office at Vancouver Apartments. Several outreach

clients also attended the Vancouver Apartments Christmas party and enjoyed food, gifts, music and holiday cheer with clients, staff, and friends from other JHS programs. Unfortunately, as it was the year previous as well, Barry Skinner had to leave the party *just* before Santa arrived....

– Justine

Robert's First-Aid Training

On February 6th I took part in a first aid course in order to learn what to do in case of a medical emergency. I attended this course along with several other John Howard staff members who were being re-certified at a school in Yaletown.

During the eight hour-long first aid course I was taught how to assist people during several different emergencies. Some of

the techniques I learned were looking for the ABC's; airway, breathing and circulation, when someone is unconscious, as well as when and how to correctly perform CPR. I also learned how to use the Heimlich maneuver when someone is choking. Overall, I enjoyed my



experience and learned lots of helpful information I can use to help people who may be in trouble. I have already put my first aid training to good use as I have helped one of my friends and fellow Miller Block tenants with bandaging his injured finger.

– Robert

Two, four, six, and eight who do we appreciate?

On March 16th, the John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland celebrated its second annual Staff, Volunteer and Practicum Appreciation event. This year's event was planned and accomplished by a hard working a dedicated committee whose vision was nothing less than perfect. The location excited the senses of the old style country ho down hall. All the tables were beautifully presented with white table cloths and vases filled with yellow roses and baby's breath. Ron Dan blessed the event with the

Eagle song, sung in his native tongue. The appetizers and dinner were catered and warmed the hearts and stomachs of all food lovers, with the selection ranging from salads to seafood pasta there was a delight for all. As the night went on service year awards and committee appreciation gift were awarded to staff persons who have dedicated their time to the agency. Baskets of glorious gifts were given to various staff whose names had been picked from the raffle box. Melissa and Melanie made their way around the room, selling 50/50 tickets with the pro-

ceeds and generous gift of the other 50 percent being given to the Seymour Admiral Elementary School to send Socio Economic marginalized kids to camp this summer. As the DJ played his tunes staff, volunteers and practicum students limbered up, and dancing began. Songs like Billy Jean and I'm too sexy filled the hall and made all of us smile and others laugh.

As a spectator at times I was able to view the occasion and really appreciate the unique diversity of people that John Howard Society employs and provides volunteer and practicum positions too. We each are different but the same in many ways. We work for a cause that provides opportunity for personal growth and the betterment of the human condition. We should each feel proud and successful to work for an agency such as John Howard Society of The Lower Mainland, we each make a difference and that counts. On behalf of John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland, Many thanks to all the staff, volunteers and practicum students that contribute and make our Agency what is, A great community organization.

– Melissa



Welcome and Thanks

We would like to welcome Andrea, Louise, Jenni, Melissa and Ramandeep to our staff team for Hobden House and Guy Richmond Place.

Courtney is the new Coordinator of Volunteer and Adult Services

at the Regional Office. He comes to us from Ontario, where he worked at the Sarnia John Howard as a Program Coordinator.

Tim Power is the new Director of Community Services and moved all the way from Victoria to work with us!

A special thanks to the organizers of the staff and volunteer appreciation dinner. Everyone had a great time, it is interesting what you can learn about your co-workers away from the work environment!

Awards and Privileges



2007 Spirit of John Howard Award

Robert Pasion Jr. was awarded this honour at this year's Volunteer & Staff Appreciation Dinner and Dance. This honour is awarded to an employee who has outstanding acts of dedication, generosity and kindness on behalf of the Agency. Nominations for this award are received through peer selection. Congratulations Rob!

2006 Extra Mile Award

Board President Pamela Smith-Gander Awarded Graham Stewart at the John Howard Society of BC Dinner in January 2007. Graham is retiring from his post as the Executive Director of the John Howard Society of Canada. Graham's leadership, knowledge and diplomacy have benefited not only John Howard Societies across the country but has made many contributions to improve the criminal justice system. We wish Graham all the best wishes for his retirement in 2007.

Membership's Privileges

We are very interested in hearing what our members think of the work we do and are inviting comments, concerns or questions of interest. Please forward your comments to our Executive Director at www.jhsed@jhsmbc.ca

We are also expanding our volunteer opportunities throughout the Agency by establishing discussion groups on current topics, advisory committees around programs and initiatives and reviewing our current operations. Our opportunities are available to volunteers of all ages and cover areas of branding, fund development, community interest, orientations, policy review, training, finance, homelessness and advisory committees. If you are interested in becoming more involved we would be extremely excited to hear from you, please contact our Director of Community Services at docs@jhsmbc.ca or 604-872-5651 ext. 313.

Homelessness Crisis

Solving the Housing Crisis in Canada's Poorest Neighborhood. There will be at least three times as many people living on the streets when the 2010 Olympics open unless drastic, immediate action is taken.

Without immediate action, the estimated 2.3 million visitors that come to our city to see the Olympics will find a Vancouver in the midst of an urban epidemic of poverty. Visitors will witness the clear evidence of a broken commitment to address the impact of the 2010 Olympics.

\$51 million was spent on homelessness and related costs in

Vancouver, in 2005, nearly double what was spent in 2002. Yet this problem continues to grow! The number of low-income housing units in the Downtown Eastside as well as other Communities in British Columbia is decreasing at an "alarming rate," not enough new units are being built to replace lost ones and street disorder is up due to more people living on the streets.

160 affidavits from local residents identified "opportunities for action," such as cleaning up single-room occupancy hotels, rather than tearing them down. While welfare shelter allowances will be increased per month, it is

still difficult for those receiving these funds to make ends meet. Making sweeping changes to the Residential Tenancy Act and creating incentives for developers to build low-income housing would certainly help this situation.

Fortunately, The John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland of BC is pushing forward and in the foregrounds of breaking this trend by opening a new 10 unit Low Income Housing Project in Abbotsford, BC with the assistance of BC Housing.

Stay tuned for more breaking news on the Abbotsford Project!

— Tim P