Guest Achievements

Justin M. came from prison, expressing anxiety about going to Rock Bay Landing. He wants to stay clean. We gave him a free bed for the night & fresh clothing. A month later, he is working regularly, hopes move into a paid bed & actively participates in a Celebrate Recovery Group. Big thank you to Lisa at the Thrift Store for helping him get stuff he needed.

Charles S. joined us after a stay at Victoria Detox. He is excited to be staying in a dry facility, and grateful for the help.

Brian M. found a place to live at his old residence via the Ritz! He will take occupancy of his new pad on July 1st…good transition for him! Troy found housing for David D. who moved ‘The York’ in the week starting June 27th. As part of his CASH application process. He has been sober for quite some time now thanks to the extended support of the Salvation Army! We wish him all the best! John S. has managed to get housing at Matson Sequoia after many years in the ARC. Dan. Has also found new lodgings in the community. Creevy W. found a place in the community & moved out.

Stephen E. was asked by old employer of his to come to Kelowna to work. Creevy W. got work at the start of the month. Roger T. got a janitorial job at the Strathcona Hotel. Arthur A. did his first shift at his new job & he likes it. Darren F. at the head of his security course got work at Footprints security. Don J. found a job managing Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo. James M. applied for treatment to Vancouver’s Harbour Light. Recently returned to this facility, Gilles A. Worked late at the Sticky Wicket, but has now gone to Detox. Steven S. worked temp employment at U-Haul on, last week in June. It’s a start. Scott P. started working at Best Buy in Langford on June 26th. Darren F. found a job at the end of June. Leo Z. had an intake appointment at S.J. Willis School on June for continuing education on June 8th in hopes of getting his GED/high school diploma & fulfilling his dream to one day take art history at UVIC. We hope to see it happen.

From the ED’s Desk

Brian Slous (M.A.C.S.)
Major
Executive Director

It is said in Canada that we have two seasons: “winter” and “construction”. This is certainly the case in some of our colder climates, but outside our own doors we see this as an ongoing reality in these days. The Christian life can be like that as well. We all have periods in our lives when “winter” sets in, and sometimes with a vengeance. Many of our guests are in the middle of the most severe of “winters” in their lives when they come to us for assistance. We who receive them and offer them love and support are at the same time, people who are “under construction” in many ways. We haven’t “arrived yet,” by any means, but we can offer hope through a relationship with a God who accepts each of us unconditionally, no matter at what stage in the construction project we are.

Over the next few months, as construction crews begin work to renew and revitalize our facility from the inside out, let the chaos of this experience serve as a metaphor for us all on the great work God wishes to do in each of our lives and the live of those we serve. For when there is construction, “summer” is not far behind.

Quote of the Month

Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

Mark Twain
On June 15, Albert K. informed us that he had found housing & would move into the Ritz. F with rent of only $400 monthly. Brett L. moved from dorm to room in the ARC as part of the Transitional Housing Program (THP). Brett now 6 months clean. It will be a record when he is at 7 months clean & sober.


On June 21st at 10-3pm at the Victoria Native Friendship Center in the Gym at 231 Regina Ave. was enjoyed by all attending. A Healthy Drinks Station, Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Testing Yoga & more were provided.

On June 28, Fiona presided over the launch of the READY TO RENT (Rentsmart) Program at ARC, intended to help clients find & keep rental housing while know their rights & obligations as it relates to renting.

Regular Weekly Schedule

CELEBRATE RECOVERY/WORSHIP & STEP STUDIES Wed. 3:30-8:00 pm.
CHAPEL DEVOTIONS Thurs. 9:00-9:15 am.
GAMES NIGHT Mon. 6:00-8:00 pm.
AL ANON Thurs. 01:00 Onwards
MIC NIGHT Thurs. 6:30-8:00 pm.
MOVIE NIGHT Fri. 7:00-9:00 pm.

Events

Mikey Holben’s ARC Memorial
Residents in transitional housing winter mats, Greg & Tracey mourned the death of their son, Mikey Holben. We supported them by holding a memorial on Friday at 2:00 on June 10, 2016. It was well attended by his many friends who missed him & came to celebrate his life. Being one of the largest we’ve held here, it indicated a significant perceived value to us & our community. He mattered. Fentanyl, Mikey Holbens Memorial

Victoria Resources/Web links

Pacifica Housing
CASH
Coolaid Supportive Housing
Our Place
Victoria Human Exchange
Beacon Community Services
Inter Cultural Association (ICA)
ARC New Changes

Furniture
By mid June the wardrobes were placed on the 2nd Floor. We finished off the furniture installation for 2nd Floor residents. Major furniture changes & installations, happened on June 23.

Building Changes
Permits were arranged for renovations & tenders let. We expect to see continued changes as the month progresses. Contractors & sub contractors toured the building, in preparation for bidding on the renovation. As of June 21, people were moved from offices in the Mezzanine & the Chapel as the Accounting & Hope House offices & the Mezzanine Boardroom won’t be available for use. Mark now shares Lyle’s office & Keltie is in the Fiona’s office while Fiona & Jeff share Jeff’s office. Linen Room storage was moved to the Laundry & Marcien’s office is the ex-Linen Room, Karla is in the Second Floor Board room Fiona, Jeff & Gord cleaned out the Paper Room on the Mezzanine which is now be a new Server. From June 21 marks the start of abatement & the finishing furniture & office moves in the ARC. On June 30, Contractors brought in a tool repository for onsite storage of workmen’s tools. The Chapel was placed out of bounds to all guests until further notice. So it begins.

The linen room had a shrine to those guests Having passed over the years. It has been put in storage while construction is on. They are remembered here. Photo: Gord Handford

TENT CITY
So—there is more housing, more money & maybe more changes but we look to be marking time. Nonetheless it remains a commentary on service to the less fortunate & their continuing need.

Tent City—Web Links
Tent City: Homeless Support
Tent City: Counter Suit
Tent City: New Housing
Tent City: Court Again
Tent City: Overview
Tent City: Pictures
The Prodigal Son and the Entitled Son

And JESUS said, ‘There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he became so destitute and hopeless that he is not able to eat even what the pigs eat. He decides that perhaps his father will let him return as a servant in his house, and so he makes the trek back. Not only does his father welcome him back with love and a celebration, he acts as if his son had died and returned home again. It is a joyous occasion for the household, with one exception.

The older son, who had stayed home and done the work he ought to have done is outraged at his father’s response to the return of his younger brother. He says, spitefully, “Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.”

Can you relate at all to what he feels? We often feel that we should get what we deserve in life and when someone else gets something better than us, even when we’ve worked hard… done well… done the “right” thing… we get angry. The older son felt entitled to all the good things his brother was receiving. He felt entitled.

I think I can relate to both sons, actually. There are moments in my life where I have been the good daughter, and others where I have rebelled and wanted to rule my own life. What I re-learned again this week is the joy and delight that comes with knowing that whether we are the rebellious one, or the conceited one, the father’s love doesn’t change. His grace and his love for us are not determined by how we act, or what we do. This not only comforts me, but inspires me to serve this Father with all of who I am and to share this love with others.

Our Prayer: Thank you, Father of all, for always welcoming us home. We pray that we might bask in your love and have the peace offered to us in your grace, through all you do for us. Inspire us to share this love with the world. Amen.

So, you likely know the story about the prodigal son. He’s the one who gets his inheritance early and blows it on drinks and prostitutes. He not only blows his money, but he becomes so destitute and hopeless that he is not able to eat even what the pigs eat. He decides that perhaps his father will let him return as a servant in his house, and so he makes the trek back. Not only does his father welcome him back with love and a celebration, he acts as if his son had died and returned home again. It is a joyous occasion for the household, with one exception.

The older son, who had stayed home and done the work he ought to have done is outraged at his father’s response to the return of his younger brother. He says, spitefully, “Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.” Can you relate at all to what he feels? We often feel that we should get what we deserve in life and when someone else gets something better than us, even when we’ve worked hard… done well… done the “right” thing… we get angry. The older son felt entitled to all the good things his brother was receiving. He felt entitled.

I think I can relate to both sons, actually. There are moments in my life where I have been the good daughter, and others where I have rebelled and wanted to rule my own life. What I re-learned again this week is the joy and delight that comes with knowing that whether we are the rebellious one, or the conceited one, the father’s love doesn’t change. His grace and his love for us are not determined by how we act, or what we do. This not only comforts me, but inspires me to serve this Father with all of who I am and to share this love with others.

Our Prayer: Thank you, Father of all, for always welcoming us home. We pray that we might bask in your love and have the peace offered to us in your grace, through all you do for us. Inspire us to share this love with the world. Amen.

This past Wednesday was our one year anniversary of Celebrate Recovery at the ARC. We were blessed to have Pastor Sean Chace here, and I’d like to share his thoughts with you on this well-known parable of Jesus, explaining the joy God feels when his children are in his presence, and the happiness he feels when we return to him.
Housing the Homeless

Hope Diary – Traveller’s Inn Fire

EDS Pembroke St.

These were the final days of the EDS station on Pembroke St.

From Kyle June 1st—Tonight there about 5 or 6 people sat around the tables at the EDS sight, each & every one of them said thank you to the Salvation Army for taking them in and feeding them. They are appreciative of what we have done for them.

From Kyle Walker, June 2nd, Cindy L. found a place to live, with an ex-boyfriend. She is happy that she will not be on the streets come m Monday.

From Nathan Grills’ update as of June 7th

By the Weekend on June 4th, Chass & Sarah had moved out to previously arranged lodgings offsite of EDS & ARC. We got John R. housed in a nice bachelor apartment in the Gorge/Tillicum area & he moved in on June 7th. Marcien was working with Claude B. who is in serious need, but he ended up in ARC after June closing.

Richard moved over to the ARC. on the June 5th & Doug move over soon after. Christine & Eugene are ready to go to their new place in July waiting at Rock Bay until they’re able to move in. As of June 7th Cindy & Tryvon were set up to stay at Cindy’s ex’s place until they find better accommodation.

Lynden was one of several people looking for housing, a job & a place to stay for tomorrow, when he makes a decision on buying a new car as his job will still be there if he can get one. He hopes to hear back from rental places, but was leaning towards sleeping in his car, though he is now also considering the A.R.C. or Rock Bay. Boyd C. is still looking into his options.

Closing Time

On June 7th Nigel, Jeff, Fiona, Manjot & Gord emptied out the Pembroke location to get it ready for Sandy Merriman, staff & guests.

From Nathan on June 22nd —Cindy & Trevone picked up their belongings which were left here, mines for a can opener with Cindy’s name on it. We will look through kitchen’s supplies & appliances. More importantly, they had big to report, finding a nice 2 bedroom apartment through BC housing (dog friendly), having moved out of Cindy’s ex’s place! Additionally, Trevone has found an exciting new job.

From Jeff our friend Linden moved out of his car on June 23, into a really nice spot provided by BC Housing as well. Also, Donna looked at a new place provided by BC Housing, on June 27th, likely to move in at the end of the month.

Photo: Gord Handford

General Editor & Content Provider—Gord Handford
Email: GHandford@victoriaarc.org
Web Address http://www.victoriaarc.org/
Publisher—SAARC