

2022

The Commandery has donated a total of C\$79,750 since the last SCM. C\$51,000 of that, spread over Christmas 2020 and 2021 went to The Victoria Christmas Gift Card program, providing food shopping vouchers for seniors dependent on food banks.

A small grant program, totaling nearly C\$30k was spread amongst eight different charities. In summary these were Living Edge Community Church (new exhaust fan system for the food distribution center), Our Place (purchase a year's supply of foot care products for poor and palliative care adults), 9-10 Club The Soup Kitchen (purchase a new commercial refrigerator), Victoria Rainbow Kitchen Society (purchase food to help serve 4,000 clients a month), Her Way Home (supplies for mothers suffering in poverty and substance abuse, and their babies), Broadmead Care Society (purchase new slings for movement and repositioning young adults with permanent disabilities), Victoria Youth Empowerment Society (provide essentials to about 115 youth suffering homelessness, addition or mental health challenges) and the University of Victoria School of Nursing – Palliative Care Outreach Program (provide comfort kits to inner city patients with advanced life limiting illnesses).

[Victoria Commandery-Community Projects -2007 - 2021](#)

Grand Priory of Canada, Priory of Vancouver Island

Victoria Commandery, Community Projects (updated Dec 31, 2021)

Since 2007, the Victoria Commandery has raised over **\$888,950** through member contributions, outside donations and various fundraisers. These funds have supported palliative care, the homeless, those suffering from mental health and addictions, and those in poverty. Below are some examples of the community support:

2007-2011

The Living Spaces Project: Provided new beds, linens, house wares and clothing to the mentally ill and homeless. In addition, more than 40 quilts were donated to the residents. Total 5 year contribution: **\$250,000.**

2012-2018

- **Closer to Community Counseling:** The Commandery made a 5 year commitment of **\$250,000** to Victoria Hospice to support 2 outreach workers dealing with end-of-life issues amongst the most vulnerable and structurally marginalized in our community.

2015

- **Broadmead Care Society Overhead Lift Campaign:** This campaign was to allocate an overhead lift for each resident's room, providing comfort to the veterans, seniors and adults with disabilities. Contribution: **\$5300.**
- **Victoria Hospice and Palliative Care Foundation:** To support a day long learning session for front line workers and caregivers from across Canada meeting for the first time to discuss the barriers marginalized individuals face to accessing resources at the end of life. Contribution: **\$4000.**



2017: Uvic School of Nursing & Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health: Funded two full-day sessions chaired by Dr. Kelli Stajduhar, Professor. Result was the completion of research report “Too Little Too Late”, with recommendations on improving access to quality of care for end-of-life for homeless and barely housed people. Contribution: **\$11,000.**

2017-2021 Our Place: As a gesture to reach directly into the community, the Members periodically sponsor and serve breakfast to the clients of “**Our Place**”, a community service facility which aids homeless, mentally and physically challenged, and impoverished people in the inner city area.



Chevaliers Dr Richard Crowe and Brian Rimmer



Serving breakfast at Our Place

2018

- **HerWay Home Outreach:** Commandery members purchased new supplies and clothing to assist a homeless group with necessities as part of a “Share the Warmth” Christmas Program. These included phones, backpacks, socks, toques, clothing, toiletries and more. Total purchases: **\$9,000.**

2018-2020

- In 2018, the Victoria Commandery pledged a gift of \$60,000 to Victoria Hospice for 3 years to continue the **Closer to Community Counselor** initiative. This end-of-life community counseling service serves people of all ages who are disenfranchised and isolated; elderly and living at risk; lacking financial security; living with multiple health issues and living in hardship. Funds also went to help launch a West Shore Medical Clinic Pilot Project. 3 year Contribution: **\$180,000.**



Dame Marguerite Rowe, Almoner Bob Plecas, Deputy Commandery Shannon Baillie and Commander Maria Dominelli present to Victoria Hospice

June 24 2019 Town Hall Meeting: The Victoria Commandery considered a short list of worthy projects recommended by the Almoner Committee. The result was an approval to provide **\$20,000** in support of a new 10 bed Cowichan House Hospice. This was approved in collaboration with the Vancouver Commandery who contributed \$80,000 to this project. Cowichan was the only Island community of its size without a dedicated hospice residence. The first residents were welcomed in November 2020.



Cowichan Hospice House

Nov 2019

Members sponsored and served breakfast at the Cool Aid Society's Rock Bay Landing homeless shelter.



Dec 2019

The Victoria Commandery selected 5 local charities to fund before Christmas as part of a Small Grants Program:

Victoria Eldercare Foundation to renovate a palliative care resident room at Glengarry Hospital.

Cool Aid- Rock Bay Landing Homeless Shelter to assist with much needed supplies.

Sandy Merriman House to assist women in this shelter with toiletries and supplies.

Citizens Counseling Centre to fund adult counseling sessions.

Men's Trauma Centre to fund counseling for men who have experienced emotional, sexual or physical trauma a child or adult.

Total: \$13,000

Almoner Frank Bourree presents to Citizens Counselling Centre



Almoner Frank Bourree and Commander Maria Dominelli present to Victoria Eldercare Foundation

March 2020

In collaboration with the Vancouver Commandery Victoria is contributed toward the support of two programs delivered by Victoria Hospice: A Bereavement Development Tool and Volunteer Training for Palliative Caregivers. **Total: \$5,000**

March 2020

The Victoria Commandery donated **\$23,500** toward the Rapid Relief Fund, a local initiative raising over \$6 million to assist organizations deal with the health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic. Led by the Victoria Foundation, Times Colonist, and Jawl family, 105 grants were issued for physical and mental health, homelessness, family services, and food security supports.



Sept 2020 & 2021 Hike for Hospice: Fundraising for Victoria Hospice \$3050.

Grand Prior Stewart Johnston, Prior Deedrie Ballard, Commander Maria Dominelli, Senator Gail Mackay, Chevalier Don Macnamara, Dames Penny Johnston, Marguerite Rowe, Anne Piercy, & Simone Conner

October-November 2020

A new **Small Grants Program** developed specifically for helping during the Covid pandemic spread **\$20,000** amongst five agencies in the Greater Victoria area providing an innovative set of services:

- a) **Victoria Hospital Foundation—Souper Meals** provides training for challenged individuals and the food created is discounted to over 500 clients in need per month.



Commander Maria Dominelli presents to Souper Meals Program

- b) **The Victoria Conservatory of Music** will provide Music Therapy Online services to individuals too compromised to attend essential therapy programs and expands to seniors isolated in care homes.



Dame Jane Butler McGregor, Dame the Honourable Mary Collins & Commander Maria Dominelli at the Victoria Conservatory of Music presentation

- c) **Umbrella Society for Mental Health and Addictions**—Coffee and Conversation will run an innovative outreach program for the city’s homeless encampments. Reaching out to mentally challenged currently living in area parks; staff will establish valuable contacts enabling referrals to other much needed services.



Chevalier Dr Richard Crow presents to the Umbrella Society

- d) **Youth Empowerment Society** will use the funding to fill the gap caused by increased demand due to Covid offering 1000 lunches and snack bags filled with fresh fruit, granola bars and water to up to 400 young people.



Deputy Commander, Dame Shannon Baillie presents to Youth Empowerment Society

- e) **Mount St. Mary Hospital** will be able to continue with its spiritual and palliative care program by replacing falling donations due to the pandemic consequences. Up to 275 frail and vulnerable residents experiencing illness, loss, grief, pain, and isolation stand to benefit from this specialized care.



April 2021- Towel drive: Over 300 towels were collected for Cool Aid Homeless Shelter whose clientele were reportedly drying themselves with pillowcases!



Towel Drive deliveries made by Chevaliers Marty Schubert, John Wallace, Bernard Beck, Greg Conner, and Dame Hazel Braithwaite

Expanded Small Grants Program October -November 2021

The Commandery supported this program with increased funding totaling **\$30,000** in 2021. Donations were made to eight worthy organizations covering a wide range of needs in our community:

"Thank you for the opportunity to apply and for all the great work that YOUR organization is doing. It's been inspiring to the SOSJ support programs for the unhoused in Victoria. So needed!"

"We understand the need is great and that many deserving programs are asking for support, especially this year. We are grateful to know that there are organizations like yours working to support those who struggle with the costs of living in our community."

A. Vulnerable Individuals and Families

1. **Living Edge Community Church** – helps 5000 vulnerable people and families a month with healthy food at their 10 weekly food markets – including 2 in the downtown core, 1 in North Park/Quadra, 1 at University of Victoria and other surrounding municipalities. Our funding of \$ 2,000 is for an exhaust fan system required at their food distribution centre in Esquimalt.



Deputy Almoner Mary Collins, Dame Virginia MacCarthy, and Chevalier Dr. Richard Crow present to Living Edge:

Geoffrey McShannon, Jan Mott, Matt Dodd, and Doug Sunray

“The hot summer in 2021 presented us with overheating problems at the Living Edge Food Distribution Centre where we keep all our dry goods and perishables. Our walk-in cooler was working extremely hard to keep cool, as were the 15 freezers at the centre. It became apparent that we needed to have a commercial air exchange at the centre to keep everything at an ambient temperature. This system works to eliminate stale air to the outside (with vegetables there is always off-loading of gases) and bring in fresh air from the outside. Thanks to your donation, we are able to have the air exchange installed and it will be in operation this December.”

*-Sharon Klein, Fund Development
Living Edge Community*

2. **Our Place** – our contribution of \$ 5,000 will purchase a year’s supply of medical supplies for their foot care program for vulnerable and palliative care adults living in poverty – approximately 800 foot care treatments and will also assist in providing oxygen for emergency response.



Deputy Almoner Mary Collins & Chevalier Dr. Richard Crow present to Our Place: Allan Saunders- Board Chair and Jordan Cooper- Director of Services

https://youtu.be/LLYyF8q_TSQ

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CV54iKsvXQ4/>

“Thank-you to the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller ~ Victoria Commandery for coming down to Our Place yesterday to present their donation. It will make a big difference for our health and safety programs”

3. **9-10 Club The Soup Kitchen Serving Soup** –the oldest and completely volunteer run food resource in Victoria. The \$ 4,500 will enable them to purchase a large commercial refrigerator required to store fresh food at St. Andrew’s Church where they provide healthy food daily to several hundred homeless persons, seniors, and minority groups.



Deputy Almoner Mary Collins presents to 9-10 Club the Soup Kitchen Serving Soup: Sheila Connelly- Operations Manager, Susan Nawrocki-Board Director & Team Leader, and Carol Galvez-Team Leader

“We have required additional refrigeration space for the past 19 months as our food items were adjusted to add more nutritious items for our diners. The people we serve are homeless, seniors, working poor women and children and several minority groups which include Asian and aboriginal. We serve to anyone in need of food, toiletries, underwear, socks, jackets when available and headwear. The Cathedral is now opening again for functions which means we can no longer use the Cathedral’s large refrigerator. The one unit we have is not large enough to accommodate the nutritious food choices we require for our diners. We do not want to eliminate items from the menu as people rely on the healthy food we provide 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year. The new larger refrigerator will continue to make this happen”

-Small Grants Application excerpt

4. **Victoria Rainbow Kitchen Society** - this is the second largest soup/community kitchen in the Capital Regional District and our grant of \$2,000 will assist them in serving 4000 people a month at their kitchen in Esquimalt and also provides healthy food and snacks for school children. Please also see letter attached from their E/D Patrick Johnstone.

Deputy Almoner Mary Collins, Dame Maria Dominelli & Dame Marilyn Pattison present to Rainbow

Kitchen: Patrick Johnstone- Executive Director



Deputy Almoner Mary Collins, Dame Marilyn Pattison & Dame Virginia MacCarthy with Patrick Johnstone at Rainbow Kitchen (Dame Pattison takes a break from volunteering!)

"It is my honour to be sending you a heartfelt "Thank You"! On behalf of everyone at Rainbow Kitchen, we are a joyful team (of 4 full-time staff and over 200 volunteers), dedicated to our mission of "feeding people". Thank you so very much for the opportunity to ensure our vital service can continue during these very uncertain times"

-Patrick Johnstone-Executive Director

B. Pregnant Women and Babies

5. **HerWay Home** – is a program under the auspices of Island Health and serves 90 active clients at any one time. Our contribution of \$5,000 will provide supplies for new moms who suffer from poverty, substance use, and intergenerational trauma and their babies. They will be able to provide them with personal items including diapers, socks and undergarments, vitamins, toiletries, and bedding.



Deputy Almoner Mary Collins, Dame Virginia MacCarthy, & Chevalier Dr. Richard Crow present to HerWay Home Coordinator-Sonya Gracey

"The funds HerWay Home received from SOSJ will make such a massive difference to the pregnant and parenting people that use our service who often do not have access to the basic necessities of life. These funds create access to dignity and comfort products that lead to improved capacity for health and healing".

– Sonya Gracey

C. Young Adults with Disabilities

6. Broadmead Care Society –Nigel House- is a home for young adults with permanent disabilities and our contribution of \$ 2,500 will be for the purchase of six universal and repositioning slings to assist moving patients from their beds to wheelchairs. The outcomes include a reduction in injury to patients and care providers and enhanced patient comfort and dignity.



Deputy Almoner Mary Collins, Chevalier Dr. Richard Crow, & Dame Maria Dominelli present to Broadmead Care Society: Mandy Parker- Vice President Philanthropy & Communications and Nicola Murray-Nigel House Care Manager



Nigel House is one of two housing facilities Broadmead Care Society operates for adults with disabilities. Nigel House residents live below the poverty line, have complex health conditions, and live with significant challenges. In the photo they are gathered in the Entertainment Room

“Nicola from Nigel House was absolutely delighted with your gift, which will enable her to purchase much needed slings.

I’ll send a report once the slings have been purchased.”

Mandy Parker-Vice President Philanthropy & Communications, Broadmead Care Society

D. Vulnerable Youth

7. **Victoria Youth Empowerment Society** has been helping young people in Victoria for many years, many of whom are homeless or suffer from addictions or mental health challenges. Our grant of \$ 4,500 will help provide essential needs to about 115 youth including groceries, work clothes and equipment.



Deputy Almoner Mary Collins and Dame Gail Gordon present to Youth Empowerment Society: Julie-Anne Hunter- Programs Manager

<http://www.vyes.ca/thank-you-3/>

“Thank you to the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller, Victoria Commandery for their generous donation. This grant will support the youth we serve and ensure that they get their essential needs met, including groceries, clothing and so much more. We appreciate the ongoing support we have received from the Order and know that these funds will help many youth”



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E. Palliative support

8. **UVic School of Nursing – Palliative Care Outreach Team (PORT)** will use our grant of \$4,500 to provide comfort kits to those with advanced life limiting illness in the innercity who are served by Palliative Outreach Response Team (PORT) nurses.

<https://www.equityinpalliativecare.com/>

Deputy Almoner Mary Collins, Chevalier Dr. Richard Crow, Dame Maria Dominelli



present to UVIC School of Nursing: Dr. Kelli Stajduhar (UVIC), Robyn Kyle (PORT), and Carrie Dujela (UVIC)

-Photo credit to Ashleigh Enright, Institute's photographer

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"We are incredibly appreciative for this grant from the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller, Victoria Commandery. The Palliative Outreach Response Team (PORT) sees so much need in our community, and for structurally vulnerable people who are in need of palliative care - basic comforts such as groceries, clothing that's easy to get on and off, and a telephone to call for support are in limited supply. These funds will help us make sure everyone has a palliative comfort kit in their last months of

November-December 2020 & 2021

The Victoria Senior Christmas Gift Card Program, in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul who provided administrative services, **\$21,000** in funding provided in food shopping vouchers for 320 seniors dependent food banks year round.

In 2021, the program was expanded providing **\$30,000** to assist over 400 seniors.

"We sometimes forget that there are seniors in our community who survive by registering at food banks to eat. And your donation provides them the freedom to shop for fresh foods, to find products that will help them deal with allergies, or a small treat, a bar of chocolate, an orange, something special. Your donation is not just about food, but also providing the freedom of choice. A rare gift for good folks living in poverty" -Commander Bob Plecas



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Deputy Almoner Bernard Beck, SVdP President Jeff Kucharski and Jenneke van Hemert at the Social Concern Office of Society of Saint Vincent de Paul



Jeff Kucharski, Pres Vancouver Island Particular Council; Dame Donna Davidson & Chevalier Marty Schubert

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Volunteers Prepare to Deliver Grocery Gift Cards to Seniors



Christmas 2021 & Clothing Drive:

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Nov 2021-Commander Bob Plecas, Knights & Dames gather for Christmas lunch and Clothing Drive for Homeless Shelters

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832 articles of undergarments and socks were delivered to Our Place and Cool Aid Societies by Hospitaller Dame Virginia MacCarthy and Committee members Dame Marguerite Rowe and Chevalier John Wallace



Fundraising at Fall Social

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November 2021 Remembrance Day: SOSJ participated in ceremonies laying wreaths on 10 cenotaphs in support and honor of our Veterans



Chevalier Don Macnamara



Commander Bob Plecas

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THANKS FOR DINNER!



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In 2021, two dinners were sponsored at Rock Bay Landing, Cool Aid Homeless Shelter and two breakfasts at Our Place Homeless Shelter

Angels-SOSJ Members at Work for and with our Community

In 2014, a number of SOSJ Members formed a group called “Angels” to serve the underprivileged in the Victoria area. Led by Prior Deedrie Ballard, they invited other members of the community to join and support the charitable work together:

- For the first 5 years, donations of time, items, and groceries were provided to Clover Place, a transitional home for vulnerable citizens.
- Since 2019, the Angels support two stage 3 resident houses operated by the Umbrella Society with donations of groceries and shopping experiences.

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- Angels are also supporting HerWay Home helping underprivileged parenting and pregnant women by providing their new born babies with a welcome package of clothing, toiletries and diapers. Since 2019, a total of 55 gift bags have been delivered, filled with supplies for babies.
- 2019 Angels sponsored a Dad's support program, a collaboration between HerWay Home and the Umbrella Society. This helped fathers with substance relapse prevention; cope with issues involving masculinity, violence, anger, grief and loss; promote self care and build responsible relationships.

November 2020 Angels Expand their Reach with Two new Grants::

- 1) **Victoria Transition House:** \$5,740 for their counseling program to assist up to 52 children heal from the impacts of trauma and violence through specialized professional support.



Prior Deedrie Ballard and Dames Penny Johnston and Marguerite Rowe

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- 2) **Umbrella Society for Mental Health & Addictions:** \$2,000 towards funding of their four week addictions recovery program called “Comfortably Unumbed” for those learning to live without substances.



Prior Deedrie Ballard and Dame Penny Johnston

Estimated Angels Contributions: \$35,740 (not included in the Sovereign Order of St. John's totals above)

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