

## **CHARITABLE AND PHILANTHROPIC PROJECTS**

The Commandery Victoria Commandery distributed a record \$341,300 in over 30 direct grants to qualifying charitable organizations in our community in 2022; \$141,300 from Commandery donations raised; and \$200,000 received from the Times Colonist Christmas Fund. The lions share of the donations went to fight high food costs and scarce resources the service providers were attempting to fund.

Funds helped directly at the “coal face”, furthering the mission of SOSJ by providing thousands of meals and assisting hundreds of youths, individuals and families needing a hand up.

Project	Description	Funds disbursed
<b>Times Colonist Christmas Fund</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Cool Aid Society: \$30,000: Grocery Cards for 225 Adults in low-income housing units.</li> <li>2) Our Place Society: \$30,000 Fills the freezer with proteins to serve diverse population of seniors, working poor, and indigenous people.</li> <li>3) Victoria Native Friendship Centre: \$30,000 Help maintain and expand the food hamper program for families, youth, elders, those ill and disabled living in poverty.</li> <li>4) 9-10 Club Soup Kitchen: \$10,000 Provides protein for 3 months for those experiencing food insecurity.</li> <li>5) Saanich Neighbourhood Place: \$10,000 Ten months of food supplies for children in daycare, helping families in need.</li> <li>6) Living Edge: \$10,000. To stock food pantries and freezers in 7 locations serving those unhoused, on low incomes and food deprived students.</li> <li>7) Burnside Gorge Community Centre: \$10,000 Food for families on low incomes.</li> <li>8) Souper Meals (Victoria Hospitals Foundation): \$10,000 To assist with urgent kitchen renovations for program serving over 2300 meals monthly.</li> <li>9) UVIC School of Nursing: \$10,000 Providing food, clothing for supported people below the poverty level, at end of life (palliative outreach).</li> <li>10) VI Kids Klub Centre Society: \$10,000 Weekday brown bag lunch program, to help reduce wait list for children going to school without lunches.</li> <li>11) Umbrella Society: \$10,000 Food for supportive recovery house for those seeking to reduce dependency on substance abuse.</li> <li>12) Anawim House: \$10,000 Covers food costs for 4 months of drop-in clients, 7 days a week.</li> <li>13) Victoria Youth Empowerment Society: \$10,000 Funds food and emergency groceries for those youth and families experiencing financial strain.</li> <li>14) Seniors Serving Seniors: \$3,000 Assists the Return to Home Program for frail seniors transitioning from hospital to home.</li> </ol>	\$200,000

Project	Description	Funds disbursed
	15) James Bay New Horizons: \$3,500 Funds 6 months of Protein Packs for low-income seniors on a wait list. 16) Shelbourne Community Kitchen: \$3,500 Helps food pantry program for those on low incomes.	
<b>Small Grants Program</b>	Provided grants of \$5,000 or less to community organizations to fund specific charitable projects, with a focus on food security: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Victoria Cool Aid Society: \$5,000 Grocery Cards for low income and mobile health clients.</li> <li>2) 9-10 Club Soup Kitchen: \$5,000 To purchase commercial bread cutter and slicer.</li> <li>3) Saanich Neighbourhood Place: \$5,000 To assist with kitchen upgrade.</li> <li>4) Burnside Gorge Community Association: \$5,000- Provides 2800 Community Dinners for low-income families from diverse backgrounds.</li> <li>5) Living Edge Community Kitchen: \$800 Shelving to store rescued food for their distribution centre.</li> <li>6) Rainbow Kitchen Society: \$5,000 to fund hot breakfast/lunches to those in need.</li> <li>7) 9-10 Club Soup Kitchen: \$1,000 toward 40-year anniversary campaign.</li> <li>8) Our Place: \$4,700 Medical supports for rehabilitating men at New Roads Recovery Community.</li> <li>9) Mount St Mary Hospital: \$4,000 to purchase 3 smart TVs to reduce isolation and reduce anxiety.</li> <li>10) Victoria Eldercare Society: \$5,000 Special needs fund for elderly on low income.</li> <li>11) Victoria Conservatory of Music: \$3,500 Technology devices for music therapy program.</li> <li>12) Soap for Hope: \$5,000 Hygiene kits for older populations.</li> <li>13) Wear 2 Start Society: \$2,000 Provides shoes for women with low income levels.</li> </ol>	\$51,000
<b>Commander's Special Food Relief Program</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Provided \$25,000 to Backpack Buddies (Victoria) to fund weekend food kits for children facing food insecurity, providing 7,500 meals and snacks for 250 children on a wait list.</li> <li>2) Provided \$25,000 to the Victoria Rainbow Kitchen to stock the food pantry for four months. The Victoria Rainbow Kitchen delivers approximately 180,000 meals a year plus food hampers and food help to other agencies.</li> </ol>	\$50,000
<b>Seniors Christmas Food Support Program</b>	In partnership with the St. Vincent de Paul Society delivering approximately 422 grocery gift cards for elderly individuals experiencing food insecurity.	\$37,000
<b>Community Meals</b>	Sponsored three (3) hot meals at Our Place Society for \$1,800. Sponsored four (4) hot meals for Cool Aid Society for \$1,500.	\$3,300
<b>Hospitaller Activities</b>	The Hospitaller organized activities for members to contribute their time and resources to support those suffering illness and poverty. Over 65 members participated in the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted a winter clothing drive for the Youth Empowerment Society;</li> <li>• Conducted a towel drive for residents of the Cool Aid Society;</li> <li>• Organized members in delivering grocery gift cards to seniors;</li> <li>• Conducted a Christmas drive for toiletries and hairbrushes for residents of the Sandy Merriman House;</li> <li>• Led a coat drive those sheltering at Cool Aid Society; and</li> <li>• Collected board games for lounge areas at Cool Aid Society serving older populations on low income.</li> </ul>	
<b>Total grants distributed</b>		<b>\$341,300</b>