

The Heart of Richmond AIDS Society

<http://www.heartofrichmond.com>

ANNUAL
REPORT
2017-18

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends

After twenty one years of operation, The Heart of Richmond AIDS Society continues to address HIV/AIDS in the community of Richmond by supporting the needs of HIV positive persons, their families and friends and raising awareness in the Richmond community.

Supporting people with HIV/AIDS, and their families and loved ones, continues to be a central focus of our Society. This past year, our support program experienced another solid year of service provision in the areas of group support, advocacy, and food and health care supplementation.

The services of The Heart of Richmond endeavor to respond in the most effective manner possible to the impact that HIV and AIDS has on members of our community.

We would like to extend special thanks to everyone who is involved and in particular to our community partners, volunteers, board members and staff, for their ongoing dedication to providing these services.

Thank you!



ABOUT US

Beginning as a weekly support group, The Heart of Richmond was founded following meetings with a number of people in the community who were living with HIV/AIDS or were involved as a family member, friend or caregiver. The Heart of Richmond was incorporated as a society and designated as a charitable organization in 1997. One of our proudest achievements has been the creation, in partnership with Richmond Health Services, of the Gilwest Clinic — a fully staffed HIV/AIDS Clinic at Richmond Hospital.

OUR MISSION

To reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals and our community through support, prevention and education.

OUR VALUES

Respect
Compassion
Empathy
Inclusivity
Commitment
Honesty
Community
Making a difference

HISTORY AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The founding members discovered that there were essentially no medical or support services in Richmond relating to HIV/AIDS. Those affected by the disease were forced to travel to downtown Vancouver to obtain these services. This was difficult for people in poor health and particularly inappropriate for those who had become infected as a result of drug use. Bringing services to Richmond became a major goal of the organization and we began campaigning for better medical services in the fall of 1997. We worked with Richmond Health Services and, in September 1999, the Gilwest Clinic was opened at the Richmond Hospital. This Clinic is open for three sessions per week and offers a full range of treatment including specialist doctors, nurses, pharmacists, addiction counsellors, a social worker and a dietician. We continue to work closely with the Clinic through our Outreach Worker who liaises with the clinic staff, and by participation in its Advisory Board. The establishment of the Gilwest Clinic has been a key achievement of the Society.

BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF

CARL BAILEY, PRESIDENT has been volunteering and on the board since 1998. Carl believes in giving back to the community in which he resides and continues to make sure HIV/AIDS education and awareness.

JOHN MARK VILLANUEVA, VICE-PRESIDENT has been actively engaged in the Richmond community as an emergency care volunteer at the Richmond Hospital and as a member of the Board of Directors for Richmond Cares Richmond Gives.

ARLENE MCCONNELL, SECRETARY is a Chartered Engineer at OSI Maritime Systems. Arlene firmly believes in increasing access to support for marginalised communities.

GEORGE PINTO, TREASURER is an accountant, specializing in non-profit organizations. Eleven years ago he read a heartwarming article in Richmond News about how the Heart of Richmond AIDS Society started and what it was trying to accomplish.

GARRICK BUGLER, FUNDRAISING LEAD works as a Project Manager with a local telecommunications provider. Garrick's previous volunteer experience includes being a Team Leader for conservation volunteers in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

MANDY CHEUNG, BOARD MEMBER currently works at the City of Richmond. Mandy joined the organization hoping to contribute and give back to the City she's grown up.

ADRIENNE LEE, BOARD MEMBER works in the non-profit sector working alongside individuals with barriers to employment. Adrienne manages a varied and complex caseload of clients with disabilities related to mobility, vision and hearing, mental health, cognitive and neurological conditions.

DR. CAROLINA ABRAMOVICH, BOARD MEMBER works as a scientific editor for the international society for experimental haematology.

JAT PURI, BOARD MEMBER works with the Vancouver Airport Authority overseeing the green coat volunteer programme with over four hundred and fifty volunteers.

ANNE MARIE MULGREW Anne Marie is the part-time Office Administrator for The Heart of Richmond AIDS Society. Anne Marie recently relocated to Richmond from England where she project managed government programs in the non-profit sector for creation and development of small businesses and self-employment

JASMINE MCMILLEN Jasmine McMillen is The Heart of Richmond's Outreach Case Manager. She recently moved to the Lower Mainland from Kamloops BC, where she completed her Bachelors of Social Work Degree. Jasmine likes to centre her practice around strength based, client centred and anti-oppressive models. She likes to spend her free time trying out Vancouver's coffee scene and finding new ways to stay active.

MEMBER SUPORT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

EDUCATION & PREVENTION

Supported by Vancouver Coastal Health, City of Richmond, MAC AIDS and TELUS this education and prevention workshop is delivered to Grades 10 and 11 students in Richmond High Schools and to our community partners.

This past year the School Education/Prevention program. HIV 101, was delivered by a Heart of Richmond HIV positive member. The impact of delivering this presentation from someone who has lived experience of living with HIV is incredible and serves to reduce the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS.

The HIV 101 presentation reached some 900 Richmond high school students in 2017/18 and we are looking again to source funding to raise awareness in all Richmond Secondary Schools in the 2018/19 school year.

In addition to the presentation, we also conduct formal educational seminars on awareness and prevention and have arranged displays at many public events & spaces, including the local public library. We ensure we conduct highly accessible information displays in particular on World AIDS Day (December 1st). This year, we also distributed safe sex information & prophylactic packages in locations frequented by young adults.

“The HIV 101 presentation really opened my eyes to the stigma surrounding HIV. I think everyone at school should go see this” BK

ONE-TO-ONE SUPPORT

Our Outreach Worker is very active, working with our clients through advice, referral and advocacy. The One-to-One support assists members with issues ranging from finding suitable low-cost housing, to assistance in attending doctor's appointments. Our outreach approach continues to be client-centred and solution-focused.

The typical flow of One-to-One support for our members is highlighted below:



BSUPPORT GROUPS & MONTHLY DINNERS

The support group continues to be an important aspect of our organization. The meetings continue to attract people who are living with HIV and seeking to expand their social and support networks through shared experiences. Partners, friends and family members are encouraged to attend.

The busiest Support Group meeting continues to be the second Tuesday of each month, when The Heart of Richmond offers its members a home-cooked meal, prepared and served throughout the year by the dedicated volunteers from the South Arm United Church Outreach Committee. During the summer months picnics at local parks are organized for members and their families. Together with the Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners these events can attract up to 65 attendees.

We find that the nature of the support group is continually changing and we adjust its format to meet the needs of the clients, particularly those who have been recently diagnosed.

“Thank you so much for providing me the opportunity to mix with 4 different generations. This is something that once was lacking in my community and with your help this is now possible through home cooked dinners, bbqs and various food events.. I feel part of my community.”

DB

GROCERY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (GAP)

Supported by the MAC AIDS Fund and Vancouver Coastal, the Grocery Assistance Program (GAP) aims to assist low income HIV positive members in obtaining a balanced diet each month. The GAP program is significant to the quality of life for our members. It allows members to control their quality of life by determining and accessing the high quality foods they need. Members receive \$50.00 grocery vouchers monthly and those members with children under 18 receive an additional \$20 grocery voucher. Only those members whose income is below \$20,000.00 are eligible. The priority for this program are members who live in Richmond who would benefit from enhanced nutrition.

34 members benefited from the program this year, with 4 members on the waiting list.

SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH FUND

Supported by Mac AIDS and BC Gaming the Supplementary Health Fund assists individuals with HIV/AIDS in the purchase of health related products, or services, that are not covered by any health plan. This program is offered to those members on a low income i.e. <\$20,000 per annum. It covers such items as vitamins or other nutritional supplements; over-the-counter items to relieve side-effects of HIV medications (such as ibuprofen or Imodium) or other symptoms of HIV disease; chiropractor or other pre-approved therapeutic practitioners together with dental and ophthalmic costs.

39 members benefited from the program this year, receiving assistance with costs not covered by health plan e.g. vitamins, physiotherapy, dental and ophthalmic services.

“My father, who is 81, puts the majority of his pension toward his car and his prescriptions – he lives in his car and he can’t afford to buy food from a store so he uses the food bank. He has been receiving the grocery cards since 2007, so, when that phone call comes in for him to pick up his card, it is like God shining His light on my Dads situation, Thank You.”

HT

EVENTS

HEART & SOUL ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE

The 2017 Heart & Soul dinner & dance fundraiser was a resounding success again this year. Held on October 20th, at the Radisson Vancouver Hotel the evening consisted of wonderful entertainment, good food and great company. This year's MCs Connie Smudge and Alexa Loo facilitated the evening with entertainment provided by Tracey Bell and music from *Hot Wax*.

The majority of funds were raised from ticket sales, a raffle for West Jet Tickets, and Silent and Live Auctions. Each contribution was greatly appreciated by the Heart of Richmond and our members.

A dedicated volunteer committee worked very hard to plan the event and solicit support from corporate and individual community sponsors. We thank this committee, those who attended this event, and all the sponsors who supported it, for making it a success and an important part of our funding as well as promoting awareness of HIV/AIDS.

We are already looking forward to the 16th Annual Heart & Soul! Dinner & Dance Fundraiser which will be held on October 19th, 2018 at The Radisson Vancouver Airport Hotel

“Heart and Soul is the best, funniest and most exciting fundraiser in the Richmond community. I wouldn't miss it for the world” TKJ

GET LUCKY

The Heart of Richmond AIDS Society (HORAS) conducts an annual 17th March – St Patrick’s Day – Safer Sex Campaigns. The ‘Get Lucky’ campaign plays off the lighthearted St Patrick’s Day theme; prophylactic packages are handed out to revelers celebrating in Richmond bars and pubs.

We take every opportunity to connect with the Richmond community as we want people to know that we are here and that we support their safer choices. Bars and pubs are a great way for us to get-the-word out, that HIV/AIDS continues to be a reality and there is still no cure. We hope our Campaign encourages people to use protection, like condoms, if they are having sex. Our St Patrick’s day message being “if you get lucky, stay safe!”

The Heart of Richmond AIDS Society’s Get Lucky Campaign involves community members as volunteer educators and local bars and pubs continue to be welcoming and encouraging of the campaign.

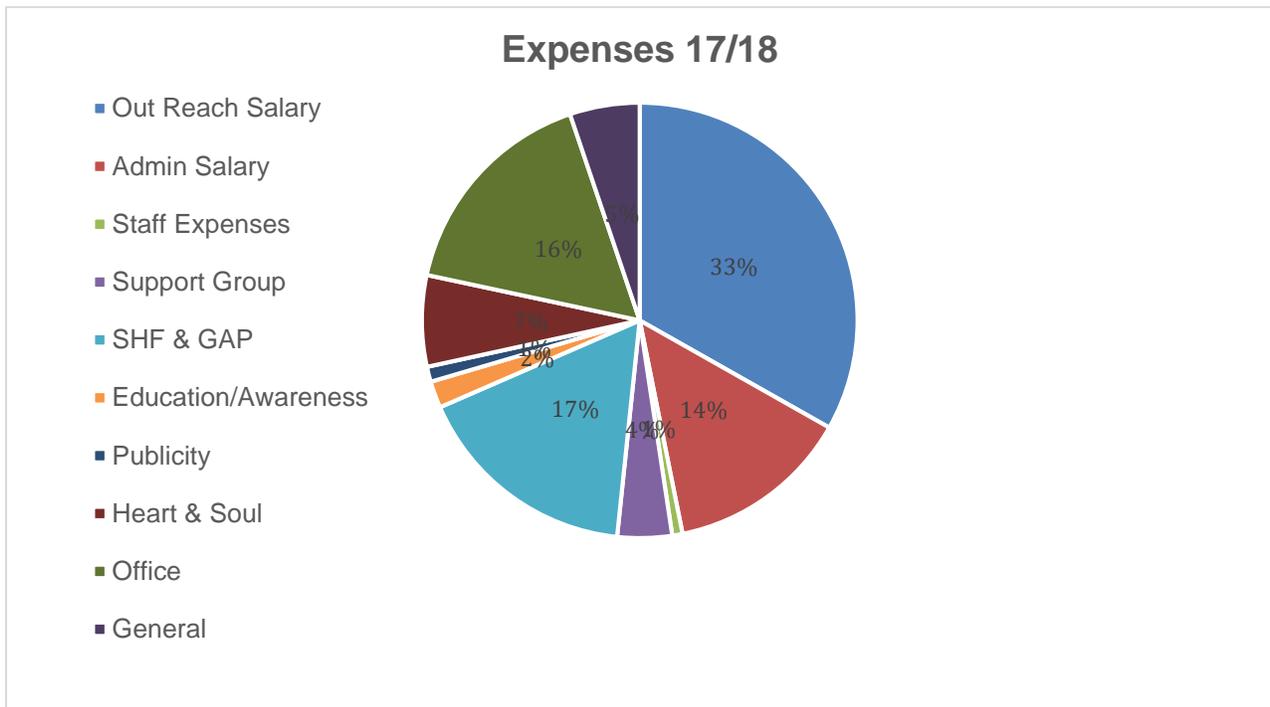
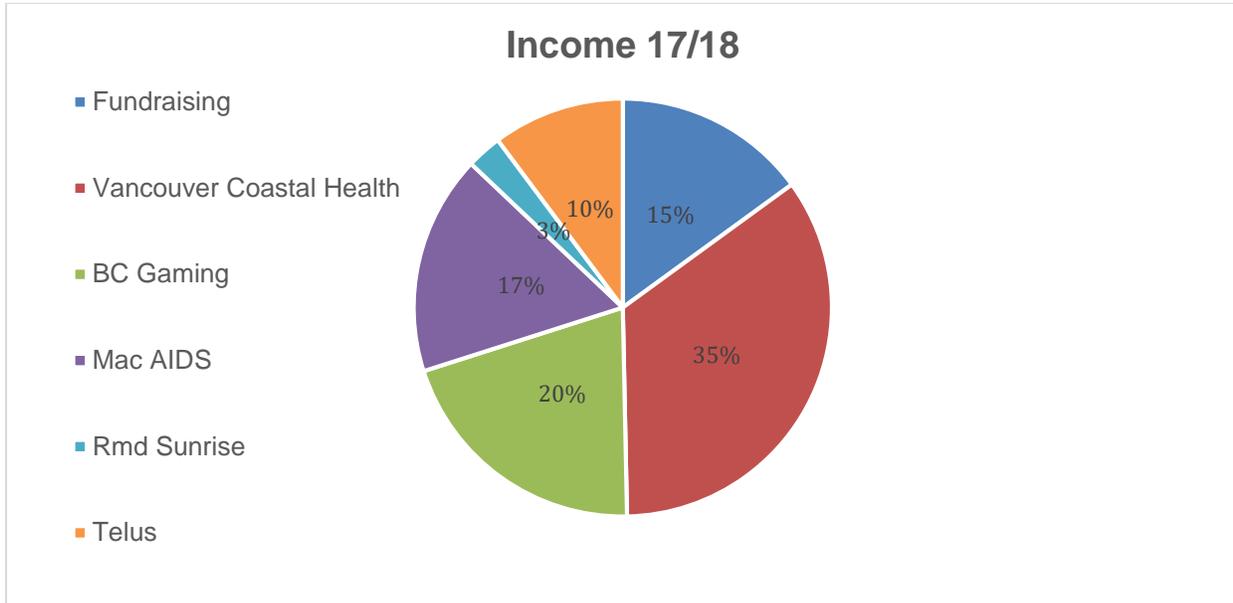
MONTHLY EVENTS

Each month the Heart of Richmond issues a calendar of events open to its members, an example of which can be seen below:

 The Heart of Richmond AIDS Society Bringing 22 Years of Service & Awareness to Our Community March 2019 Calendar of Events 				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
HORAS REQUEST TO MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS WE NEED YOUR HELP AT THE OFFICE TO PREPARE BAGS AND CANDY FOR ST PAT'S DAY Please call the office on 604 277 5137 if you can donate some time to help.		 VOLUNTEERS – WE NEED YOU TO distribute the packages at our Sunday 17 March 2019 St Patrick's Day event. Please call the office on 604 277 5137		Sunday March 3 rd Food and Artisan Market Gulf of Georgia Cannery 12138 4 th Ave, Richmond V7E 3J1 10am – 3 pm
	SUNDAY 10TH MARCH REMEMBER?  Set Your clocks Ahead!	HORAS VanCity Workshop "Why Filing Taxes is a Good Idea" 303-6411 Buswell St 11:30 am Please confirm attendance with Jasmine or Anne Marie	RCD Tax Clinic Dates in March March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28 For info call: 604-232-2404	 HORAS SUPPORT GROUP 12 NOON At the office LUNCH PROVIDED Call office on 604 277 5137 to confirm attendance
March 10th – Women & Girls HIV Awareness Day  GAP CARDS SENT THIS WEEK	South Arm Group Dinner:  7 - 9 pm South Arm United Church (Corner of No. 3 Rd. & Steveston Hwy.) PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE by calling office on 604 277 5137.	Positive Living's Dental Clinic  10am – 4pm To book appointment, call 604.893.2207	 11 – 1PM 5800 Cedarbridge Way, Richmond	Get Lucky! Sunday 17 th March Join The Heart of Richmond for our annual St. Patrick's Day pub crawl. Contact the office on 604 277 5137.  6.30– 8.30 pm
RCRG – Thompson Community Centre Tax Clinics – 2 Mar–13 April Call 604-238-8422 for appt	HORAS Nutrition Workshop 6:30pm 303-6411 Buswell Street PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE by calling office on 604 277 5137	 BEGINS National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day	HORAS MEMBERS FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC  1PM – 4PM Phone Anne Marie on 604 277 5137 to schedule appointment with Ken	HORAS MEMBERS FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC  1PM – 4PM Phone Anne Marie on 604 277 5137 to schedule appointment with Ken
			Financial Literacy: Why You Need An Estate Plan For More Information Thompson Community Centre Phone: 604-238-8422 Email: thompson@richmond.ca	
Office: 604.277.5137 admin@heartofrichmond.com www.heartofrichmond.com				#303 – 6411 Buswell Street Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2G5

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The 2017/18 income and expenses are presented in the figures below:



LOOKING FORWARD

As the only organization in Richmond to provide HIV/AIDS support and prevention services we are looking to build our relationships with other community partners. We will continue to focus on taking referrals from other service providers for those individuals who would otherwise “fall between the cracks” or not reach out themselves for a variety of reasons.

We also look to be in a position to deliver our HIV 101 Prevention and Education Workshops to all grade ten and eleven students in Richmond Secondary Schools and deliver the workshop to community partners.

Currently we have four members on the GAP (grocery voucher program) waiting list and hope to reduce this in 2018/19. Due to a decrease in 2017/18 funding we had to reduce our Supplementary Health Fund to \$200 per annum for low income members but are hopeful we can increase this next year, as the costs of living continues to increase.

The Board increased one new member this year and is looking to further fill positions on the board in 2018/19.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the following funders, and all the others who have supported us over the last twenty one years, for the confidence they have shown in us, which has allowed us to provide support to those in need.

Special thanks to our donors Vancouver Coastal Health, The BC Gaming Authority, The City of Richmond and the MAC AIDS Fund.

The Heart of Richmond could not operate effectively without the numerous volunteers who put in many hours preparing information packages, planning events and helping out in other ways. Volunteers are the foundation of our organization and we would not exist without them.

A very special acknowledgment is also due for the Outreach Committee of South Arm United Church (SAUC). This group of tireless volunteers has provided home cooked meals at our monthly group dinners for many years. They have shown great support and understanding for our members and their efforts contribute to our work in many ways.



CONNECT WITH US

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www.heartofrichmond.com