



Dear friends and James Bay Community Project supporters:

What a time we're all living in. What a time the year 2020 has been so far. And who knows what kind of time is ahead for all of us?

Whatever lies ahead, it will require a trait supported and nurtured at JBCP: **Resilience.**

It's a wild new world and while JBCP is still here and still supporting James Bay, the money available for community relief funding is dwindling. There's less money, yet the need is growing.

We had to close The Community Closet Thrift Store due to COVID-19. We hope this closure will be short and temporary, but due to the evolving COVID-19 situation we are unsure when it will open again. The Closet usually earns between 15 and 20% of the revenue JBCP uses to function. We depend on money raised by the Closet to fund programs and purchase what we need to deliver neighbourhood services.

It is a significant financial loss.

Last January, we heard about a flu-like virus affecting lots of people halfway around the world. It seemed very far away from us here in Victoria.

We need your help to help others.

By mid-March, the James Bay Community Project was effectively shuttered by a pandemic of that flu-like respiratory virus, COVID-19.

The required public health response meant we were unable to provide our programs in the normal manner to seniors and to young families, unable to offer a gathering place for our participants, volunteers, friends, and supporters.

JBCP staff and volunteers are both resilient and resourceful: they turned on a dime and figured out different ways to provide ongoing connection with JBCP's participants and volunteers.

Under lockdown, people could no longer come to us, so we went to them.

JBCP staff and volunteers maintained contact by email and by phone with seniors who usually came for the Seniors Social Connections weekly luncheon. Direct Service volunteers stayed in touch with participants by phone and email and dropped off groceries (and sometimes did other errands) when needed.

JBCP also rose to the challenge of providing some of the local services under the umbrella of the Safe Seniors Strong Communities initiative of BC 211 and United Way. This program meant additional contact-less grocery shopping trips and regular, chatty check-in phone calls to seniors isolated at home by the lockdown.

Even without our regular drop-in programs for parents and families, JBCP staff helped members of those stay in touch with each other, providing a designated Facebook page and by offering Storytime and other programs for children (such as Cool Cues for middle grade students) online via Zoom. Tuesday's Family Dinner morphed into Family Dinner Take Out, again, using technology to maintain the community even when families and children couldn't gather at our Michigan Avenue home base.

So we did a great job of pivoting and now we need your help to keep on doing what we're doing.



With the constant possibility of a surge in COVID-19 cases or a Second Wave of the pandemic, we're doing our best at JBCP to adapt to this new world.

While nobody has a crystal ball to be able to accurately predict what's next, we all now know what's required of us to stay safe: Stay home. Wash your hands. If you need to go out, stay two metres apart. If you can't do that (even if you can), wear a non-medical mask. And limit your interactions with others.

We at JBCP have done innovative things for our community in the face of an unprecedented situation that threatens great hardship for vulnerable populations: seniors and young families. The need for support will likely continue until there are effective treatments and ultimately a vaccine for COVID-19.

The truth is this: **We need your help** more than ever to continue helping others in our James Bay community and beyond.

Many of the things we had to do to reopen during the pandemic (such as install Plexiglas barriers) meant unexpected costs.

Many of the things we had to do impeded our income stream: In addition to closing the Community Closet Thrift Store, we had to stop renting our facilities to community groups because of the public health regulations, and we have not received the usual kind donations from participants in some of our programs.

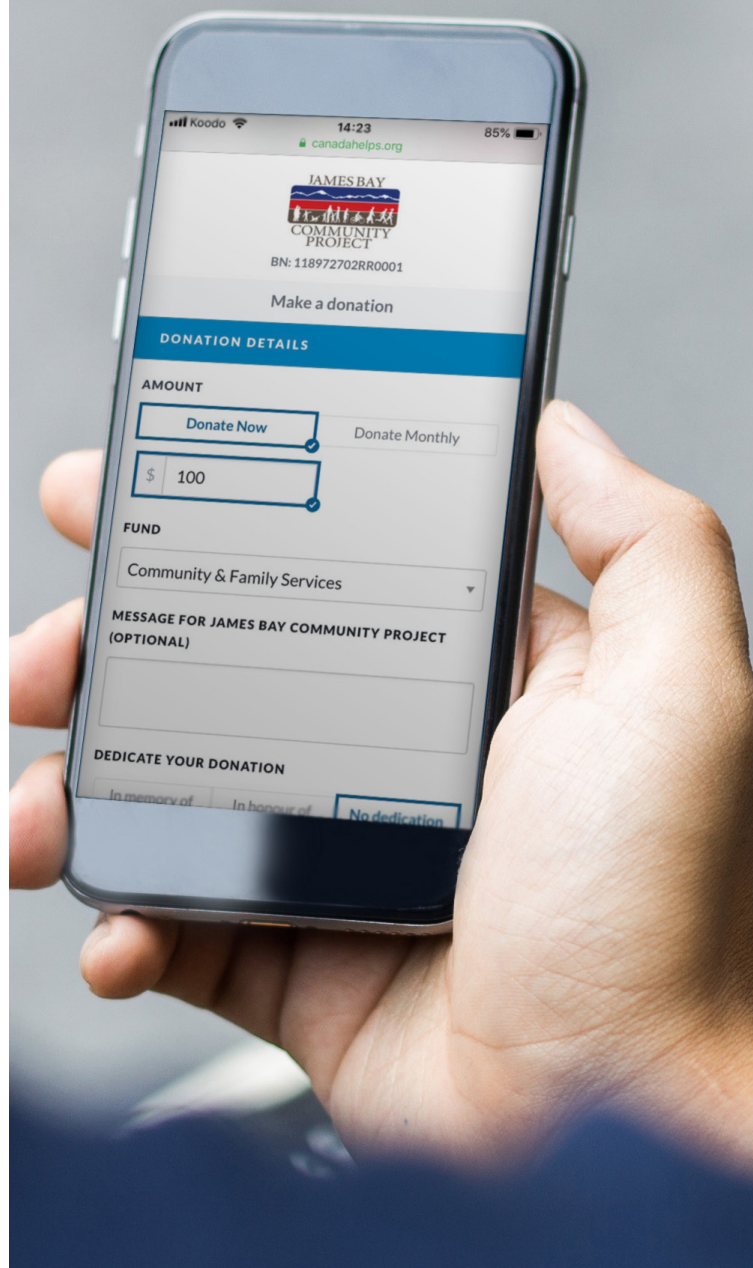
And we thank you for all you do to support us.

Use the form attached here or online at the JBCP website.

Just hit the **DONATE** button in the upper right hand corner of the Home page:

www.jbcpr.bc.ca/donate

**Please donate
and help us to
keep helping
our community
members.**



I would like to support programs at James Bay Community Project

Enclosed is my cheque payable to James Bay Community Project for:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500

☐ Other amount: _____

I prefer to give on my ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Name on Card:

Card Number :

Expiry: ____ / ____ CVV: _____

The CVV Number on your credit card is a 3-digit number on the back of the card next to your signature.

Signature:

Yes I would like a charitable tax receipt. Please send to:

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Phone:

Email:

☐ I wish to become a monthly donor, please charge 12 monthly payments of \$ _____ to my credit card

OR

☐ I wish to become a monthly donor, please find enclosed 12 postdated cheques

☐ I wish my donation to be anonymous

☐ I would like to find out more about leaving something to JBCP in my will

Yes I'd like to receive the JBCP Newsletter by: ☐ Mail ☐ Email ☐ No thank you do not send me any mail

Please mail your donation with this form, or drop it off at reception:
James Bay Community Project, 547 Michigan St., Victoria BC, V8V 1S5

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