



Fall & Winter Campaign Newsletter

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE PROJECT!

Letter from JBCP Executive Director, Kaye Kennish

Dear Friends and Supporters of James Bay
Community Project,

I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for the many people who provide the rich and varied contributions that make the JBCP the happy, helpful, constructive, and thoughtful organization that it is for our participants. If you are reading this you are one of those people, and so my thanks go directly to you, whether you are a donor, participant, volunteer, staff or tenant (or a combination of these).

Thank you for adding to the busy “buzz” that has largely returned to the building after the worst of the pandemic, and for making it possible for programs and services to function smoothly and effectively. Through the donation of your time and/or funds, for making friendships here which add to the richness of everyone’s experience - and for genuinely caring about the people with whom you work, volunteer, learn and play - your contribution is substantial.

I thank you in advance for your continued help and support. During times of general uncertainty and concern about the future, it really helps to know that people like you will be there with and for JBCP going forward.

In Appreciation,
Kaye Kennish

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Arriving in Canada: One Family's Story at The James Bay Community Project

As newcomers arriving in Canada last March 2022, Ani, her husband Paul and then 7-month-old daughter used to live down the street from James Bay Community Project (JBCP). Through word-of-mouth, a fellow mom in the area introduced Ani to the Mother Goose Program held in the Family Centre. Having no friends or family around in Victoria, the JBCP programs helped this family make connections with people whom they now regularly visit and with whom they participate in the engaging and interactive environment that is JBCP.

Because their daughter has attended programs here since the age of seven months, it has become a safe space for her, and she is very much at home with the Family Centre staff and in love with Nancy, the Family Centre Coordinator. Since the Soup & Play group got going after the pandemic, the family has started coming in to enjoy that too. They attend programs on Tuesdays and Fridays, and they are grateful for the number of programs that can accommodate different schedules.

Ani and Paul found it difficult to learn of all the opportunities for their child's age group. "One good thing about this place, is that we came to know of other programs like gymnastics or music programs in the community," Paul explained. "We both work full-time so it is difficult to constantly know what is going on in Victoria. In meeting other parents, we have learned other things we can explore. Another good thing about this program is that it is a good alternative to transition to preschool and school, since there are few daycare spots around Victoria available. We get to learn about daycares that are possibly taking on younger aged children."

For Ani and Paul, it was a priority to give their child a different environment and social setting than just their home, as they know this is important for her learning and development. Their daughter has made good friends and so have they. "It's less isolating especially after the pandemic," says Ani. "Also, there are people from different walks of life. Not just newcomers to the city or country, those who have lived here a long time." The family is settling in well, and there are three or four families who have become good friends with them who they met at JBCP.

Our Vision:
A community of
connected,
resilient people.

Our Slogan:
Building
community
together.

Our Mission:
To build
resilience
through
connections.

**James Bay
Community Project:**
547 Michigan Street
Victoria, BC V8V 1S5
250-388-7844, Ext 0
askus@jbcp.bc.ca

**Community Closet
Thrift Store:**
435 Simcoe St
Victoria, BC V8V 4T4
250-388-7810



OUR PROGRAMS:

- ◆ FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE
- ◆ YOUTH & FAMILY OUTREACH
- ◆ YOUTH FOOD SKILLS
- ◆ SENIORS OUTREACH
- ◆ BETTER AT HOME PROGRAM
- ◆ VOLUNTEER-DELIVERED SERVICES FOR SENIORS
- ◆ SOCIAL PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS
- ◆ DIGITAL DIVE-IN (PORTABLE TECH INFO SESSIONS FOR SENIORS)

Letter from JBCP Board Chair, Rory McAlpine

In a chaotic world it is sometimes easy to forget the power we have to make things better right where we live. Everyone associated with the James Bay Community Project holds firm to that belief and, beyond the individuals and families we serve directly, the broader community benefits every day. If you are reading this newsletter, you are part of that community.

Recently the Board of Directors held a retreat where we reviewed our progress against the 2023-26 Strategic Plan. It felt good to note progress in several areas, especially our ability to bring onboard our new fundraising professional, Elissa Bergman.



The Project's mission is to "build resilience through connections" and only by strengthening our own financial resilience can we achieve that. As generous donors we can all help Elissa achieve early success.

As I anticipate my second grandchild, I am grateful and hopeful for the future. I am also proud to serve an organization that is doing practical things to bring hope and gratitude into lives that may find those things in short supply.

Thank you to all our staff, volunteers, programme participants, board members and donors - together we are indeed making things better right where we live.

Quilt Raffle on Until January 15, 2024



Enter to Win!

Win a Queen-size Handmade Quilt in this RAFFLE, with bonus door prize draws of a James Bay Culinary Adventure & Wellness Package for coming in. Thank you to Il Covo and Heron Rock Bistro for providing the Culinary Adventure, and to For Good Measure and Focus on Dental Hygiene for the Wellness Package.

For just a few dollars, enter to win this Handmade Queen-size Quilt valued at \$1,500 made by Rebecca McAlpine (Certified Quilt Judge with the Canadian Quilters Association).

RAFFLE TICKETS are available at The James Bay Community Project, 547 Michigan St in James Bay or at our Thrift Store, The Community Closet, in James Bay Square. Inquire at reception or call (250) 388-7844 ext. 0 or email askus@jbcp.bc.ca. ***If you are unable to make it to us, please call or email and we can arrange to get you tickets***

Tickets:

3 for \$10

1 for \$5

*Draw date is noon January 15 and the winning ticket number will be announced on our website and social media, and you will receive a call/email (your information WILL NOT be used for any purpose beyond this raffle).



Fall 2023 Campaign Update

Did you receive a mailed letter or email about our Fall Campaign? The Campaign Goal is \$17,000 and with your support, however small or large, we will together continue to build community! We have reached \$10,500 and we still need your help, if you can!

This is how your donations make a difference:

- ☛☛ \$10 provides round-trip transportation on public transit for two families to attend a Family Centre program
- ☛☛ \$25 provides a healthy snack for new parents and their babies in our Parent-Child Mother Goose Program
- ☛☛ \$25-100 provides a vulnerable youth with a grocery gift card for food security assistance
- ☛☛ \$50 provides for a comfort and personal care package for a low-income senior
- ☛☛ \$100 is the cost of a Christmas hamper for an isolated senior
- ☛☛ \$450 ensures a low-income family receives a bi-weekly medium size Good Food Box
- ☛☛ \$650 ensures a low-income family receives a bi-weekly large size Good Food Box
- ☛☛ \$1,000 funds 10 hours of educational support to low-income seniors so they can increase their confidence using a mobile device to maintain independence and expand their communication options with loved ones

Thank you

**Donors, Funders, and
Volunteers!**



OUR HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS FROM NEARLY 50 YEARS

In the early 1970's James Bay citizens formed the James Bay Community Association (JBCA) in response to the City of Victoria's proposal for high density land development in James Bay. The JBCA was successful in lobbying City Council to zone James Bay for single family/duplex homes, thereby saving many existing houses. The JBCA went on to become involved in the development of a community elementary school with recreational programming.

In 1973, the JBCA, the James Bay Community School and the local Human Resources office began meeting regularly to discuss community issues and planning for health, education, recreation and human resource developments.

They submitted a proposal to the provincial government for a medical clinic integrated with Human Resources and in 1975 became one of four "Community Human Resources and Health Centre" pilot projects in BC. These projects were legislated by the Community Resources Board Act and were responsible for the delivery of health and social services in their local areas.

In 1984, the Community Resources Board Act was rescinded and JBCEP was reconstituted under the Societies Act as the James Bay Health and Community Services Society.

In 1990, JBCEP bought and renovated the building at 547 Michigan Street as part of a dream to house medical, home support and community services "under one roof".

In 1997 a successful fund-raising campaign resulted in the expansion of the building, doubling space and allowing all the services of JBCEP to be located together in order to increase integration of services.