

Fall 2024 Newsletter

Building Community Resilience

RESILIENCE OF 50 CAMPAIGN
JAMES BAY COMMUNITY PROJECT



50th ANNIVERSARY MONTHLY DONOR DRIVE

**Building on a legacy of 50
years, we invite you to join us in
supporting resilience in children,
youth, and seniors, and in
strengthening families in Victoria.**



Celebrating 50 Years

Grateful Participant Story



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“Thanks for the services. I needed the help. I am getting better at managing my life and getting access to information.”

- Grateful Participant, Digital Dive-In (portable tech info sessions for seniors)

HOW ONE CONNECTION LEADS TO ANOTHER, AND ANOTHER, AND STILL OTHERS

BY GEORGE JAMIESON, VOLUNTEER & DONOR

In early autumn of 2023 a woman we'll call "Mary" phoned the James Bay Community Project (JBCP). It was not her first call to us, but it was the first time she asked to speak with the Executive Director, Kaye Kennish. When she got through, she wanted to say "thank you" for the services we had arranged for her, services that she says changed her life for the better. Mary, who lives alone and faces health challenges that limit her mobility, had first contacted JBCP a few months earlier, asking if we could help. We quickly arranged volunteer drives to her medical appointments and provided assistance with shopping. Mary was especially grateful that our drivers stayed with her throughout the appointments, simplifying the process compared to booking multiple Handi-Dart rides.

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STATS AT A GLANCE



Over 1,500 Families and Individuals are supported through our programs and services each year.

Our staff and volunteers provide 19,000+ hours each year to support our program and services' participants:

- Full program stats available in the 2023-24 Annual Report on our website.

Grateful Participant Story

Continued...

OUR slogan

Building
community
together.

For Ani and Paul, it was a priority to give their child a different environment and social setting than just home, as they know this is important for her learning and development. "It's less isolating especially after the pandemic." - Grateful Participant, Family Centre



OUR PROGRAMS

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

Our outreach workers also connected her to light housekeeping services through the Better at Home program, which we administer in partnership with the United Way. Beyond reducing her physical burdens, Mary said these services made her feel more connected and supported. As a result, she has now joined two of our social groups: the Wednesday Coffee Club and the Seniors Connections lunch on Thursdays.

"It is especially gratifying" says Kaye, "when a person with difficulties takes the time to tell us how we've made things a bit easier. That tells us we've succeeded, by helping her succeed"

This story is why we need your support in helping our program participants succeed!

Nothing creates connection quite like in-person contact the old-fashioned way, and it can change a person's life. This especially rings true for the over 1,500 families and individuals who are James Bay Community Project's (JBCP's) program participants. These may be isolated and frail seniors, a vulnerable youth, a family who requires our outreach services, a parent and young one who attend our family centre programs, or a person on a low income.

The James Bay Community Project exists – next year being our 50th Anniversary – to support families and individuals before they reach their breaking point. We help in different ways, such as: supporting isolated seniors to stay connected within the new technology era; holding a safe space for parents and children to interact and learn with help from Family Resource Workers and their peers; supporting youth during anxious times and providing groceries for those struggling financially. Our mission is to build resilience through connections for vulnerable people across neighbourhoods in the City of Victoria. **CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE...**

Why Us, Why Now?



OUR mission

To build resilience through connections.

OUR vision

A community of connected, resilient people.

The post-pandemic economy has increased the financial, emotional, and mental stress on families and individuals. Rising costs of housing, groceries, and services have made life harder for many. At JBCP, we strive to meet these challenges by continuing to provide essential services, thanks to the support of our staff, volunteers, and generous donors.

The James Bay Community Project is a community centre which provides Family, Community, and Volunteer programs and services for all ages. We provide opportunities for volunteerism and participation in community life and work in partnership with many other agencies and organizations. We are a non-profit society (James Bay Health and Community Services Society), with a volunteer Board of Directors. A crisis can strike anyone, challenging us to a possible breaking point because it is a situation that is so foreign.

This is why we need your help to contribute to the health of individuals, families, and as a result, the larger community in Victoria.

Donor compassion is the magical touch that helps people like “Mary” whose story we shared earlier. Our programs and services exist in part because of donors – people just like you who connect with our mission and have empathy for the serious challenges that others experience. Entering our next fifty years means our program participants continue to experience a place of refuge from everyday stressors like inflation, isolation and often having to work several jobs. For five decades providing this place of refuge, practical support and connections has been possible thanks to generous individuals, charitable foundations and government programs.

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How Donations Help

James Bay, the oldest neighborhood in Victoria, has shaped our mission since the 1970s, driven by the belief that no one should face their struggles alone. Our dedicated staff and volunteers walk alongside those we serve, providing life-changing support. Donations help us offer grocery gift cards to families in need, teach seniors how to connect with loved ones through technology, and ensure our staff can continue outreach to those in distress. Your support strengthens JBCP's mission to build resilience in communities across Victoria.



Examples of how your donations help...

Support for Seniors

- Daily life pressures can be overwhelming for seniors. Our programs provide support.
- Digital skills learned in our digital dive-in program.

Support for Families

- Our programs assist families facing the challenges of raising children, from infancy to youth.
- Donations ensure these families receive support through our center programs and outreach, addressing child development and daily concerns.
- For low-income families, this sometimes includes providing essential food and grocery cards.

Adapting for the Future

- As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, we are evolving to meet the needs of the changing economy and social landscape.
- We are in the early stages of exploring a Building Renewal Project to accommodate growing demand and serve even more community members.

Your support enables us to continue these life-changing programs and adapt for the future. Every donation makes a meaningful difference in the lives of vulnerable individuals and families.

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Ways To Donate



The concrete ways that you can make a difference in our 50th Anniversary Campaigns:

1) Join the “Builders” in the Resilience of 50 Campaign (RO50)

- 85 people contribute \$50/month for total \$51,000 in one year

2) Join the “Champions” Resilience of 50 Campaign (RO50)

- 42 donors contribute \$100/month for a total of \$50,400 in one year

3) Join the “Heroes” Campaign in the 50th Anniversary Endowment

- 10 donors contribute gifts to fund a \$50,000 endowment

Please join us, if you can, in the Resilience of 50 (RO50) Major Monthly Donor Campaign as a donor or contribute to the 50th Anniversary \$50,000 Endowment with a lump-sum major gift of securities or cash. Or perhaps you would rather consider our much longer-term security by declaring a Legacy Gift, or by making a major donation to our Family & Community Services. Any amount donated helps our program participants and the health of James Bay Community Project as we look upon our next fifty years. This is a way to give back to many causes and people. **Please contact Elissa Bergman, JBCP’s fundraiser at (250) 388-7844 ext. 340 or fundraising@jbcp.bc.ca, or go to jbcp.bc.ca/donate.**

Together we can make a difference and raise \$150,000 in these 3 Campaigns!

James Bay Community Project:

547 Michigan Street
Victoria, BC V8V 1S5
250-388-7844, Ext 0
askus@jbcp.bc.ca
www.jbcp.bc.ca

Community Closet Thrift Store:

435 Simcoe St
Victoria, BC V8V 4T4
250-388-7810