



POSITIVELY McLaren

For friends, family & supporters of McLaren Housing Society of BC

Message from the Executive Director

We had a visit to Helmcken House from one of our funders recently and in our conversation we chatted about the vital role housing plays in HIV health and wellbeing. I was telling this funder about how last year one of our long-term residents passed away. During his illness he had a long-time friend stay with him and care for him. The friend "Mike" had nowhere to live when our resident passed away and so became homeless. "Mike" was always respectful to staff and residents and often came to chat with me about his life. He made a living by doing odd jobs for people as he did not want to be a burden on the system. All his money went to paying for hostel rooms which left little or no money for food. Often, he would come by the office for a chat and staff would make him breakfast.

As time went on, he became unable to pay for housing and he began to live on the street. As such, his physical health deteriorated and he became thin, gaunt and began to struggle with a chest infection which eventually led to a collapsed lung. Reluctantly, he ended up in St. Paul's where he was diagnosed with HIV. Once on medication and following their medical advice, his overall health rapidly improved. At the point of diagnosis, he had AIDS and his body was beginning to shut down.

Several months later as he left the hospital, he was interviewed by our team and was offered a unit at 1249 Howe in our supportive housing building. "Mike" enthusiastically moved in but was still determined not to be a burden on the system. A year later he is undetectable, which means he cannot infect anyone else, he is consistently taking his medication, has put on weight, and is on disability allowance. With support, he even filed 10 years of taxes!

I visited "Mike" last week. His unit is spotlessly clean and tidy and while I was visiting, he told me this is the first home he has had since he was a teenager some 30 years ago. When we first met him, he possessed only a few belongings, including a set of speakers which we had stored for him. Now those very speakers sit proudly in his home and play some fabulous music for "Mike" and his visitors. He is back to his old self, and often volunteers in the community kitchen at Howe Street. Bravo!

My hope is that in sharing this story with you, it truly highlights the very large impact that adequate housing has for those who are living with HIV/AIDS in our city and elsewhere. With your help, and in collaboration with the medical adherence and support offered to residents, McLaren Housing Society is truly saving lives. For that, we thank you.

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McLaren provided me affordable housing which created a permanent living space-stability and ease of anxiety of being homeless within me.

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Thornhaven Estates invites you to Visit Their Intimate Charming Winery

For the 2nd year in a row, Thornhaven Estates Winery has supported McLaren Sparkles! our signature fundraising gala by donating all the wine served at the event. This is a very thoughtful and supportive donation as it covers what would be a huge cost for us in hosting the event.

Thornhaven is a family run winery elevated on the slopes of Little Giant's Head Mountain in beautiful Summerland B.C. and is fronted by its flourishing vineyards. The spectacular views from their courtyard patio overlook the picturesque landscape of Summerland's orchard-laden valley floor, Okanagan Lake and distant rolling mountains.

Thornhaven is a must-stop on your trips to the Okanagan as it is one of the few wineries that allow picnics to be brought in, they host live entertainment

every Saturday and Sunday in July and August on their patio, and is family owned and operated since 1999. For more Info please visit thornhaven.com



Dance In Transit

If you think dancing isn't for you, you haven't tried it yet! Everyone can dance at some level that brings them joy. Dance in Transit is a street dancing festival—it's not about wearing special clothing or fancy shoes; it's about moving to music, one foot at a time. It's safe, healthy, good for your brain and body and it will make you feel alive! Join us for free outdoor dancing in downtown Vancouver as Dance in Transit builds community one dance step at a time. For more information on this great project, visit <http://danceintransit.com/>.

DANCE
in **TRANSIT**

S Sam's
dance

Confirmed Dates	Venue	Time
FRIDAY, JULY 5	JIM DEVA PLAZA	6:30-9pm
SATURDAY, JULY 6	ROBSON SQUARE	8-11pm
FRIDAY, JUNE 12	VANCOUVER ART GALLERY NORTH PLAZA	7-10pm
SATURDAY, JULY 13	ROBSON SQUARE	8-11pm
FRIDAY, JULY 19	VAG NORTH PLAZA	7-10pm
SATURDAY, JULY 20	ROBSON SQUARE	8-11pm
FRIDAY, JULY 26	VANCOUVER ART GALLERY NORTH PLAZA	7-10pm
SATURDAY, JULY 27	ROBSON SQUARE	8-11pm
FRIDAY, AUGUST 2	VANCOUVER ART GALLERY NORTH PLAZA	7-10pm
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3	TBC	8-11pm
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4	PRIDE PARADE	TBC
FRIDAY, AUGUST 9	VANCOUVER ART GALLERY NORTH PLAZA	7-10pm
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10	ROBSON SQUARE	8-11pm
FRIDAY, AUGUST 16	VANCOUVER ART GALLERY NORTH PLAZA	7-10pm
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17	ROBSON SQUARE	8-11pm
FRIDAY, AUGUST 23	VANCOUVER ART GALLERY NORTH PLAZA	7-10pm
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24	ROBSON SQUARE	8-11pm
FRIDAY, AUGUST 30	JIM DEVA PLAZA	6:30-9pm
SATURDAY, AUGUST 31	ROBSON SQUARE	8-11pm



41st Annual Pride Parade

Sunday August 4th, 11am to 6pm

The McLaren Housing family is excited to be working on our float design with our in-kind design team from False Creek Design Group and GardenWorks! This year's float will be themed around celebrating the colours of pride and we are very much looking forward to showing it off, along with our pride August 4th! Visit www.vancouverpride.ca for more details on the event and for parade route.

#stillfighting50 #vanpride
#McLarenHousing
@mclarenhousing



McLaren
Sparkles

Celebrate Pride with fun, frivolity, food & fireworks at the
19th Annual McLaren Sparkles!
Meet, mingle & raise funds for Canada's
first and longest running HIV Housing Provider.

Wednesday, July 31st, 2019
Doors Open @ 7:30pm
Sparkling Wine Welcome, Host Bar, Scrumptious Canapés,
Live & Silent Auctions and fabulous
"Sparkle & Shine, Pick Your Wine!" Treasure Table.

TD Tower Penthouse, 29th Floor - 700 West Georgia Street

\$140 per Guest (tax receipt issued for \$60)
Tickets at mclarenhousing.org or 604.669.4090

Host & Emcee
**"The Unstoppable"
Conni Smudge**

Presenting Sponsor Dolomiti Homes	Event Sponsors BC HOUSING GS TD	Venue Sponsor Thornhaven ESTATES	Wine/Host Bar Sponsors FALSE CREEK DESIGN GROUP
Radio Sponsor NEWS 1130	In-kind Partners the Love Journal Xtra Shaw	 McLaren Housing Society www.mclarenhousing.org Facebook Instagram YouTube	

Get Tickets Here

Our Mission

To provide housing and support services for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS to increase the opportunity for improved health, wellness, independent living and sense of community.

Pet Corner



McLaren Housing has always welcomed pets in our buildings, especially dogs and cats, and we are happy to introduce you to our newest addition, Sadie!

Sadie has been adopted by one of our long-term residents Ken and comes to us all the way from Texas. She is a 5-year old German Shephard who was a support dog while in Texas. Sadie is settling into her new home in Vancouver and can often be found resting on the couch next to our Executive Director Kim.

Once Sadie finds her "paws", it is hoped that she can also become a support dog for visitors to Helmcken House and a future therapy dog. Since her arrival, Sadie has become a much loved and welcomed member of the McLaren family, as we are all animal lovers and appreciate and understand the positive impact animals play in our daily lives.

If you are also a pet lover, please consider a donation to McLaren's Pet Program which provides food and basic vet care for our furry friends.

Annual General Meeting

McLaren's Annual General Meeting will take place Wednesday, June 26th 2019 at 5:30pm in the Lounge at 649 Helmcken Street in Vancouver. Members please call all 604 669-4090 or email us at agm@mclarenhousing.org to RSVP.

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After being homeless for four months, I desperately dropped in to McLaren Housing's office (hoping not to look too scattered), to update my file. When I was asked for a phone number, I hesitated to say that I was in a shelter and homeless, but had no choice. Then the staff person turned to me and said "Can you come in for an interview? You are at the top of our wait list and we've been trying to contact you!" I started to cry because of the possibility of having a place to live. I had applied for housing a long time ago. I knew this would bring inner strength, clarity and peace for me. Being homeless has weakened my soul. No one should ever have to carry that burden of hopelessness. Now I have a goal, and feel more grounded, and centered, and most of all, to strengthen my inner self and feel part of society once again.

Sincerely,

Me

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[/McLarenHousing](https://twitter.com/McLarenHousing) [/mclarenhousing](https://www.instagram.com/mclarenhousing) [/McLarenHousingSociety](https://www.facebook.com/McLarenHousingSociety)

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT MCLAREN HOUSING SOCIETY OF BC

First & Last Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Pr: _____

Postal Code: _____ Email: _____

Donation Amount: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$ _____ In Memory of: _____

In Honour of: _____ In Celebration of: _____

☐ Anonymous Donation ☐ Please do not send me newsletters or other information via email (mailing list)

Visa/MasterCard #: _____ Exp: ____/____ 3-digit code on back of card: _____ or ☐ Cheque enclosed

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Or visit www.mclarenhousing.org to donate online. All donations gratefully accepted.

We do not rent, sell or trade our donor info/mailling list. Information is collected for tax receipt purposes only.