



POSITIVELY McLaren

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



Message from the Executive Director

Each year we ask residents and program participants to complete a short feedback survey.

One question says: "What impact/change has McLaren had on your life?"

"Saved my life by bringing me closer to medical supports."

"I would not be above ground if it wasn't for McLaren."

"Created a sense of community."

"It has re-connected me with my LGBT and HIV communities and has taken some financial strain off an already below poverty line income. It has given me the chance to focus on health issues and self care."

McLaren Housing Society in its 32nd year remains a vital resource in providing housing and support services to the HIV/AIDS community in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland of B.C.

As always, vacancy rates for Helmcken House and 1249 Howe Street remain low and the demand for affordable housing in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland remains consistently high.

During July and August, McLaren Housing Society was the community partner for Dance In Transit which organizes free dance events in public spaces across Vancouver each summer. The events are inclusive and provide free lessons for beginners. Two of the events took place at Jim Deva Plaza in the heart of the West End and McLaren staff and volunteers were seen dancing



McLaren staff Rachel, left and Hailey, right at Dance In Transit at Vancouver Art Gallery.

along with everyone else. A lovely way to spend the summer evenings in this beautiful city of ours.

Our Holiday Appeal is open for November 1st 2019 until January 15th 2020. Please consider us in your charity giving and or legacy planning. 100% of these monies go directly to programming and support.

Thank you and best wishes for a happy holiday season!

2019 Highlights:

Out & About program

Our program for people aged 50+ aims to break the cycle of isolation among seniors who live in our housing. Isolation and loneliness still remains very high within this population and this program has been very successful.

During the spring and summer participants enjoyed:

- A day trip to Victoria
- A visit to FlyOver Canada
- An outing to Grouse Mountain
- A day trip to Bowen Island

To date this program has reached more than a thousand participants.

During the year we implemented our agency annual evaluation for program participants:

- Over 45% applied to McLaren for housing because they could not afford their current rent
- 96% had not been homeless in the last year
- Over 55% reported no housing stress



Our wonderful Life Skills Worker, Isabella on the ferry to Bowen Island

Connections to health and social services

- 94% reported having a family doctor and HIV specialist
- 74% reported not attending ER in the last year and 88% considered their health to be from average to excellent
- 83% reported their overall health and wellbeing as improved since their involvement with McLaren
- 80% rated their enjoyment of life to good/excellent

Overall feedback

- 92% indicated that they were delighted or very satisfied with MHS housing/support services

Annual stats for

October 2018 – October 2019:

- 109,500 nights of housing
- Over 12,480 hours of support
- More than 7,800 meals served in all programs

As of October 1, 2019

the waitlist has:

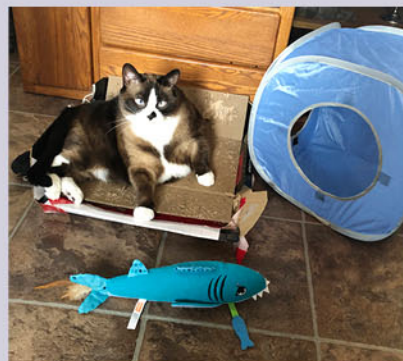
- 1084 applications on the waitlist

The opioid crisis continues to impact our community. All staff are trained to respond in an emergency and lives have been saved.

The families and individuals who receive housing and support services from this agency continue to inspire us to move forward with our work. To see the positive improvement in their lives once they receive assistance from McLaren makes the work throughout the year worthwhile.

Pet corner

Meet Jackson! He lives in Helmcken House with his mom,



Teresa who took him in five years ago when a tenant from Howe Street could no longer care for him.

He couldn't be happier! Treat time is his favourite, but he also loves to scratch his cardboard box, lounge in his tent, and attack his stuffed shark toy.

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.



The 2019 Pride Parade

The theme for this year's Pride was "50 Years & Still Fighting," which marked the partial decriminalization of homosexuality in Canada and the Stonewall uprising of 1969 in New York City which gave birth to the Pride movement that spread across the globe.

Our summer student Hailey Dash helped make it a year to remember! Peter Fitzmaurice from Gardenworks gave us a wooden arch that local artist Amira Routledge painted into a gorgeous rainbow which we can use for years to come.

Thanks to everyone at False Creek Design, Garden Works, Seacoast Sound and all the McLaren staff and volunteers who worked so hard to make it a great day.



McLaren Sparkles 2019



Nicole Davison, British Consul General to Vancouver with McLaren Executive Director, Kim Stacey.

The McLaren family celebrated with sponsors, donors and guests at the 19th annual McLaren Sparkles on Wednesday, July 31st. The event was emceed by the Unstoppable Conni Smudge and was generously hosted by Grant Minish, Regional Manager, LGBTQ2+ Business Development Western Canada, TD Bank Group and his team in their gorgeous penthouse on the 29th floor of the TD Tower.

Guests enjoyed a sparkling wine welcome; host bar featuring Thornhaven Estate Wines and Off the Rail beer; delectable canapés from our catering partner Lazy Gourmet; bidding on our live and silent auction items; the Sparkle & Shine, Pick Your wine treasure table; and the Honda Celebration of Light fireworks.

Thank you to all our sponsors and guests for making this sold-out event such a success each year.



Conni Smudge with the TD Bank team.



Jim & Dale from False Creek Design.



Conni Smudge with Sidney & David of Dolormiti Homes.



Sunday, December 1, 2019

**The theme of this year's
World AIDS Day is
"Communities make
the difference."**

The commemoration of World AIDS Day, which will take place on December 1, 2019, is an important opportunity to recognize the essential role that communities have played and continue to play in the AIDS response at the international, national and local levels.



Help make the holiday season shine for McLaren!

Traditionally, McLaren asks friends, members and supporters to consider making a donation during the holidays. Donations above \$25 qualify for a tax receipt, and may be made in memory of, in honour of, or in celebration of a loved one.

Our goal each season is to raise a minimum of \$5,000 and donors will be mentioned in the first POSITIVELY MCLAREN newsletter of the New Year.

Thank you all, and have a great holiday season!

(anonymous donations will not be published)