

What is Life Without a Home?

Life without a home is a life of insecurity, chaos, danger and often death. This reality is the life lived by over 250,000 Canadians each long day and dark night. No roof, no comforting pillow, no warm cleansing shower. Summer heat, winter cold. Cardboard mattress. Another harsh day of struggle after another. Add to this the burden of mental health issues for up to 75% of those in this daily chaos.

We look at, but maybe we don't really see, these "walking dead" on our streets each day. We sometimes feel uncomfortable, sometimes fearful. These strangers are someone's daughter and someone's son. 250,000 stories of trauma and hopelessness.

These are more than just stories easily forgotten, easily dismissed. These are humans who need help, hope and love, who need someone to see them and care.

This is our mission at Freedom's Door. We do see and love and care for those who have lost everything. And we have been offering hope and healing since September 1, 2002. Approximately 2,000 men have come through our doors seeking freedom from a life of pain and addiction; and they have found a home and a family of support. They have sought and found an addiction recovery program that offers them a whole new life. This includes connections to doctors and counselors, which begins the healing process. A 90-day recovery course follows. Then life skills training brings a new perspective and possibilities for healthy relationships and employment.

There are no quick fixes, but with support, group counseling and individual guidance, the long-hidden talents come bursting out. The core of goodness and value becomes visible in the mirror in the morning, followed by a smile and often a tear. "Yes, I can!"

We currently have 97 people in our long-term healing programs. But we need more beds as our waiting list never ends and, in fact, gets longer. The solution: To construct more housing on our existing properties on Belaire Avenue. Our plan is to build 12 townhomes which will contain 52 bedrooms; this project will be completed over three phases. Phase 1 to hopefully begin in 2024, will be 4 townhomes containing 16 bedrooms.

This is transition housing for those who have graduated from our primary programs. The support continues as men find jobs and enter educational programs in the trades, or college and university courses.

Our men are working hard in their recovery. Our staff and volunteers are talented, dedicated and caring. Our Board of Directors is full of great and achievable plans to build homes for the homeless.

As always, we need the generosity and open hearts of the "Friends of Freedom's Door" to bring these exciting plans to reality, with Phase 1 commencing this year. Please

check out the details and construction budget enclosed or on our web site: www.freedomsdoorkelowna.com.

Your tax-deductible donation will create homes for those in great need.

Together we can empty the tents. We will bring them home.

We are seeking your assistance with much gratitude for all that has been offered to us over the past 22 years. God Bless you and your loved ones.

The Directors

George Arambasich • Patrick Groening
Helmut Hubert • Chris Matte • Mel Newth
Sandy Shier • Tom Smithwick



Belaire Townhomes Project – Phase 1

"You are never too old to set a new goal or to dream a new dream."

~ C.S. Lewis

Giving Back to Our Community

The program for our residents includes teaching them the importance of volunteering in our community. Our donors and volunteers give so much to us. It is the obligation of all of us to give to our community.

The residents of Freedom's Door contribute to many organizations during the year for a total of over 4,500 hours. A few of the organizations to which our men give their time include: Food Banks (Kelowna, Lake Country and West Kelowna), Helen's Acres Community Garden, Share Depot, Salvation Army, Westside Daze, Rutland Winter Light Up, Tree of Hope Christmas Tree, Mission Thrift Shop, Now Canada, Kelowna Pregnancy Care Society and many more charitable organizations.

A big thank you goes out to all volunteers who make our hometowns wonderful places in which to live!!



Success Story

I started using marijuana and beer when I was 12. I followed with LSD at 13. Then a serious addiction to cocaine, marijuana, alcohol and other drugs from age 14 until age 48. I am now 61, and I have been clean for 13 years.

I tried several recovery homes over the years. I also went to jail, more than once, with lengthy terms. I guess the programs were not quite right, or maybe, I just wasn't ready to take recovery seriously.

On April 15, 2011, I entered Freedom's Door. I knew at that point, I was going back to jail, or I was going to die, or I was going to make a major change. I chose change.

I did the initial 90 Day Program, and I stayed sober. And then I started to give back to my Freedom's Door family. I became a volunteer monitor. I did extra chores. I paid it forward. I was willing to try something different and that included a faith-based program. I had never done that before. I came to recovery with no sense of self-worth. But I was hearing that I had brothers who cared for me, a God who loved me, that I had worth. I started to believe it and my whole life changed.

Since leaving Freedom's Door I have been employed. My jobs have been working with the disadvantaged, the challenged, people who were like me and needing hope. I love what I do. I have an important purpose in my life. I like what I have become and what I can offer to my community.

If I can offer a message, it would be, "Don't give up. Be willing to change. In addition you often don't feel that you are worth it, but you are! Give faith a try. Help people and that will help you. It is in giving that we receive and have purpose. People are often afraid to reach out, to ask for help. You feel that makes you weak. Not true. It takes courage to ask for help! Seek it and don't give up!"

I am so glad that I asked for help 13 years ago. I thank Freedom's Door for being there for me and for so many hundreds of others. Thank you to those who support Freedom's Door so that this valuable work can continue. God Bless.

Geoff Haney

Inspiration

"Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go...LOVE intentionally, extravagantly and unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is in you."

~ L.R. Knost

"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start, where you are now, and change the ending."

~ C.S. Lewis

A Very Happy Anniversary

In the recovery world, a one year, two-year, twenty-year, or any anniversary of a person's sobriety is important and celebrated with a cake.

In February 2023, eight men, independently, entered Freedom's Door seeking healing and recovery. One year later, February 2024, all eight of these men gathered to celebrate their one-year cake! Yes, every single one of them was sober and continuing in their Freedom's Door program. In addition, other men also received their two, three and more year cakes. Their hard work and resulting success are to be acknowledged and applauded as it symbolizes hope for all who continue on this brave path. They are achieving a whole new life of positive relationships and employment opportunities.



100% success for these eight men shows us all that what we do makes a difference in the lives of the men seeking this success as well as the lives of family members and friends who are waiting in anticipation. Congratulations all!

You Can Help Make Miracles Happen

Please consider offering an automatic monthly donation

Donation: \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____
 \$ _____ per month

Giving Options:

- Cheque or Post-dated Cheques
- Cash
- Debit or Credit: Please call 250.717.0472
- Online: www.freedomsdoorkelowna.com
- Estate Planning: Consider including a charitable donation to Freedom's Door in your Last Will.
- Property: A gift of appreciated property is highly valuable and generous, and includes contributions such as shares and stock, mutual funds and real estate. Special tax considerations can be available for these types of gifts. Contact us for more details.



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Donations are tax-deductible

Resurrection Recovery Resource Society
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