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PRESS RELEASE

CENTRAL OKANAGAN FOUNDATION HELPS THOSE WITH LIFE CHALLENGES

It's no secret that finding safe, supportive and low-cost housing is nearly impossible for vulnerable residents of the Central Okanagan who live with ongoing life challenges, barriers to employment, and rely on income assistance to get by.

Recognizing the great need, BC Life Builders Rehabilitation Society (local registered charity) has operated a supportive living home on Ethel Street in Kelowna for over 30 years. "Ethel Glen" is the name given to this independent-living-with-support residence where 14 men and women receive safe and warm shelter, healthy meals, positive affirmation, acceptance, socialization, life skills training, learning and volunteering opportunities. The name "Ethel Glen" was chosen as it links with and honors an early pioneering family of Kelowna.

Recent inflation has caused operating costs for non-profit organizations to skyrocket. With this in mind, the Central Okanagan Foundation has stepped forward with an Operational Grant to assist Ethel Glen in the provision of these much needed services to our most vulnerable citizens.

Bonny Koehn, one of the Society Directors stated, "It is not easy in these challenging times to continue to maintain a quality service at a reasonable cost. Our residents need assistance with their life circumstances and have incomes below the poverty line. It is a difficult situation for so many."

Tom Smithwick, the Board Chairman added, "We are so grateful to the Central Okanagan Foundation for their fortuitous contributions over a three year period. This enables us to budget over an extended period and gets us through these tough economic times. We are grateful and blessed by their generosity!"

The whole community benefits when we support those who would otherwise be at risk for homelessness. Thanks to the Central Okanagan Foundation and their generous donors, our residents truly are "Finding Purpose in Community" at Ethel Glen.