

Empowering the Poor Since 1991



Anawim House
Empowered People Embracing Life

Anawim News

WINTER 2021

Hello all,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the faithful donors that have allowed Anawim to continue to operate during these trying times. For several months during the pandemic, we were unable to create the connections with guests that have made Anawim such a unique and welcoming home for the past 30 years. All we could do is serve as best as we could, providing laundry, showers, bagged meals, and clothing to our guests; we could not sit down and get to know them as we would have ordinarily done.

Our services were still desperately needed: our brothers and sisters on the street were being told "no, you can't do this," "no, you can't come in," and "no, we don't have the capacity" at so many places. Many of them experienced even more vulnerability as there was nowhere else to go but the street and there was so much bad press regarding the poor. I wonder how others would respond if they'd had to endure what our guests had to endure during this time!

Anawim did our best to still be friendly and welcoming even when we couldn't really welcome anyone to just be with us at the house. Fortunately, that began to change a little in June as BC moved into Stage 3 of re-opening, and we were able to have people come back into the house (at reduced capacity). Our guests were as cautious as anybody

else about the re-opening, and it took close to a month for our people to start coming back to us. Slowly, they started realizing there was space for them, and they wanted to come in and talk. Anawim started to feel like Anawim again!

We are still unable to have everyone participate in the making of meals and cleaning, but we have been able to have our family environment where folks can come and just be a part of the house. On Thanksgiving this year, we were able to have 23 people share a holiday meal together! It was amazing to be able to do this. One of the main things that our guests told us they were thankful for was the clean, healthy home that Anawim provides.

We celebrate the fact that we've been providing that family home environment in our community for 30 years! People know and can trust that the big blue house on the corner is going to be there when they need it. But while things are getting better, we're not out of this troubled time just yet. We are always in need of financial, clothing, and food donations. Volunteers are also welcome back at Anawim and this is a great way to give to others!

Again, I am so grateful for your ongoing support. Together we can weather the storms that life blows our way and provide safety and shelter to those who need us.

- Terry Edison-Brown, Director

Tree prices
will be \$10
more due to
forest fires

Mark The date
Dec. 1

Christmas Tree Sale





A Message from the President

Dear Friends,

Well, I think it would be an understatement to say that the last year and a half has been a time like no other. Like everyone else, we have seen COVID 19 disrupt life at Anawim House in ways unimaginable before the pandemic. I think it's fair to say that this great reset has brought out the best in many people and shone a light on the opportunities to improve. From the onset of the pandemic, it was clear that the poor and homeless were going to face exceptional obstacles in accessing the services they rely on to survive.

One of the silver linings of the pandemic was our partnership with a group called the Justice Van that delivers meals to people in need. For the first half of 2021, our staff prepared meals and Justice Van volunteers delivered them directly to people in need. Since February we have also allowed the Justice Van to use the Anawim bike room for added outreach and counselling services. We feel strongly that maximizing the use of the house to help others is a win-win scenario.

In March, the rezoning application for the Women's House was approved by Victoria city

council by a 7-2 vote. I want to thank the hard work of Aryze Developments and D'Arcy Jones for their vision and persistence in moving this project forward. The support for the house was overwhelming as demonstrated in the large number of letters of support we received. Our intention is to be a great neighbour, and we will work hard to earn the trust of the neighbourhood. You can read about the rest of the progress we have made on the Women's House on page 10.

We now turn our focus to the actual build. We have entered into a construction contract with Aryze and a building permit has been approved. We now hope to be able to start construction in the new year. We have already secured a number of large donations and have been pledged more. We will work hard to secure the funds to make this project a reality.

So as we embark on another year full of unknowns, the Board takes solace in knowing that we are supported by you—our members, donors, Staff and Residents, and frankly the Greater Victoria Community. Thank you for your continued support.

Dan Greco



The Year In Pictures



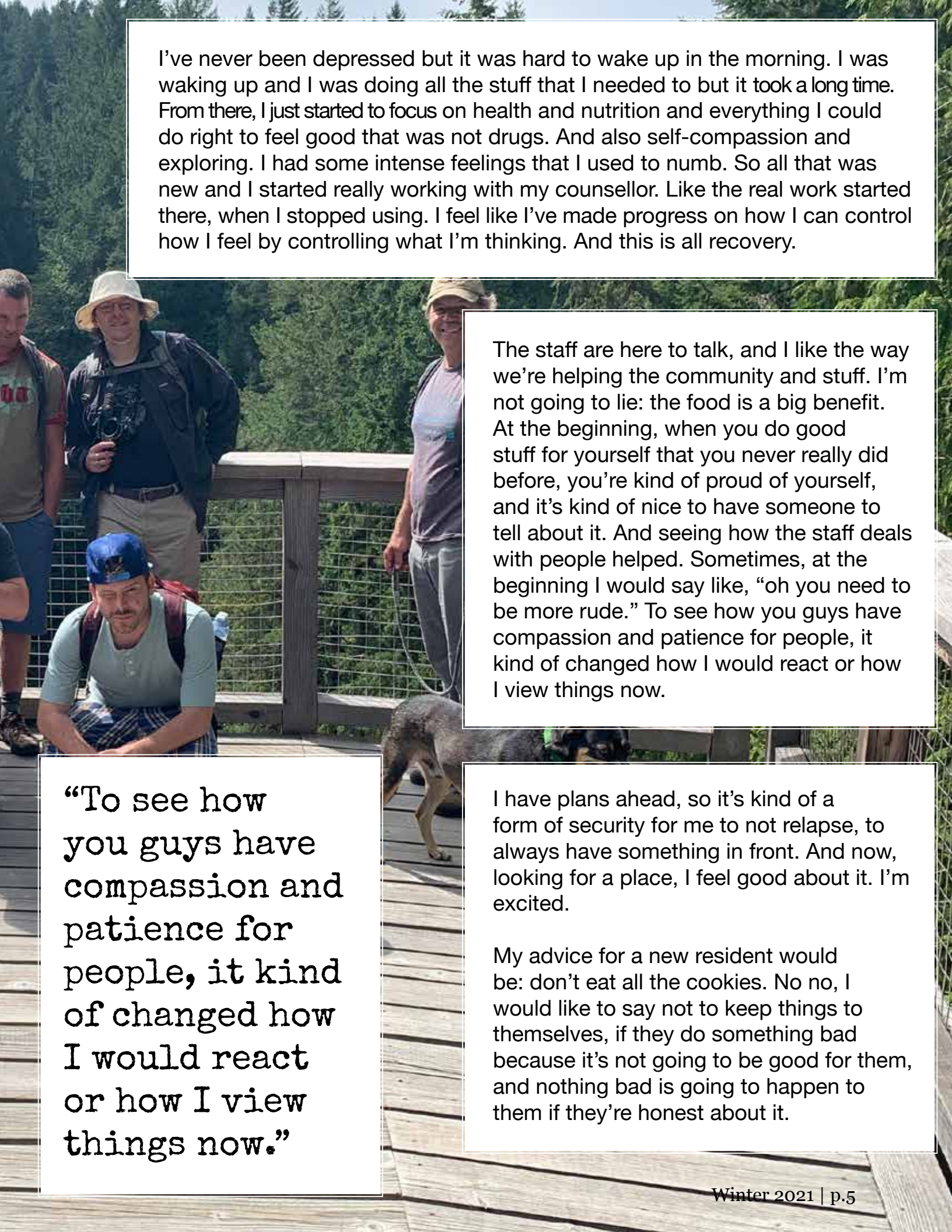
Dominic's Story

Dee told me I should come live here when I was in detox. I started really thinking about it after my relapse when I was looking for a place to stay in the summer of 2019. My friend went to get me in detox, and she gave me a ride here and I applied as soon as I got dropped off. I came here every day for two weeks, almost every day, and met all the staff. I managed to stay sober living in the street for two weeks waiting to come here, to be accepted.

I struggled at the beginning. Like, hiding stuff. I was continuing to use substances and I didn't go too far into recovery. I was going to meetings, I was in a step group, working with my sponsor, but the work was not really helping me because I was kind of obsessed with what the substance could give me. So that's why my beginning here at Anawim is a bit blurry for me.

When I was using, I was accomplishing things, but my pleasure in life was coming from using and not from accomplishing these things, and I was not growing inside. And when I realized that, it started to give me more anxiety because of the fact that I was hiding something—like at the beginning, it was ok, I kind of accepted that I was hiding it, but after a while it wasn't aligned with who I want to be.





I've never been depressed but it was hard to wake up in the morning. I was waking up and I was doing all the stuff that I needed to but it took a long time. From there, I just started to focus on health and nutrition and everything I could do right to feel good that was not drugs. And also self-compassion and exploring. I had some intense feelings that I used to numb. So all that was new and I started really working with my counsellor. Like the real work started there, when I stopped using. I feel like I've made progress on how I can control how I feel by controlling what I'm thinking. And this is all recovery.

The staff are here to talk, and I like the way we're helping the community and stuff. I'm not going to lie: the food is a big benefit. At the beginning, when you do good stuff for yourself that you never really did before, you're kind of proud of yourself, and it's kind of nice to have someone to tell about it. And seeing how the staff deals with people helped. Sometimes, at the beginning I would say like, "oh you need to be more rude." To see how you guys have compassion and patience for people, it kind of changed how I would react or how I view things now.

"To see how you guys have compassion and patience for people, it kind of changed how I would react or how I view things now."

I have plans ahead, so it's kind of a form of security for me to not relapse, to always have something in front. And now, looking for a place, I feel good about it. I'm excited.

My advice for a new resident would be: don't eat all the cookies. No no, I would like to say not to keep things to themselves, if they do something bad because it's not going to be good for them, and nothing bad is going to happen to them if they're honest about it.

Helping Victoria's Poor Help Them



Anawim House
Empowered People Embracing Life

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Become
A Board Member

Greeters

VOLUNTEER

CONT

Clothing Room

AS AN
INDIVIDUAL

Special

Skills

Leaving A

Legacy

Art
Program

Remember us in
your will. Please
talk to your lawyer
or call us at
250-382-0283 if you
would like more
information on legacy
gifts or any other
options for helping us.



SPI

One Ti
Don

DONATE
GOODS

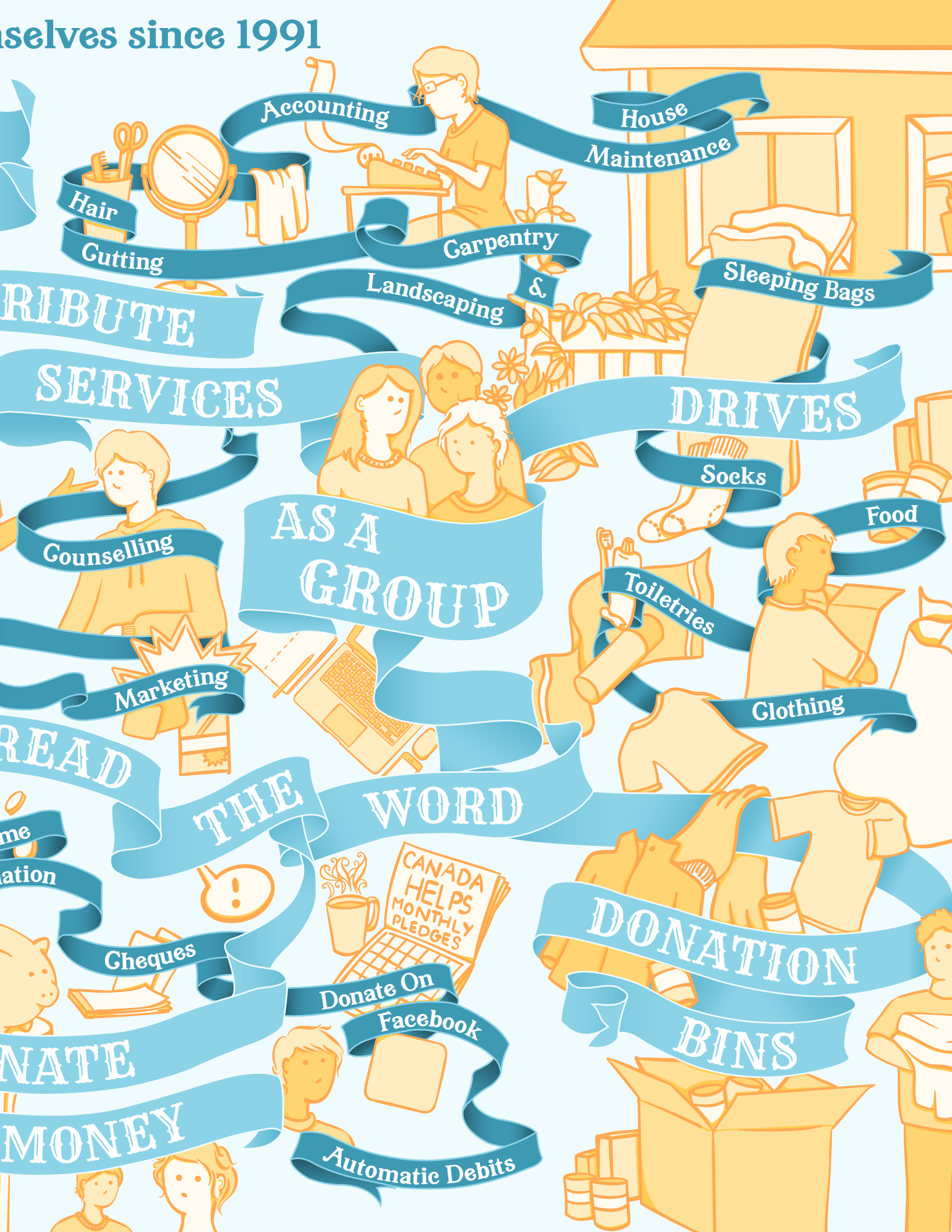
Your Grocery List
x 30

Clothing

DO

Canned Good
Fruit and
Vegetable
Non-
perishable
Frozen
Meat
Tea

...selves since 1991



...RIBUTE

SERVICES

DRIVES

AS A
GROUP

...READ

THE
WORD

DONATION
BINS


...NATE
MONEY

CANADA
HELPS
MONTHLY
PLEDGES

Jamie's Story

I've been living in addiction since I was 15. I first became aware that it was an addiction in the early '80s, when I tried to stop. All the stuff I was doing, I thought everybody did—all the sex, drugs, and rock n' roll, this is normal! Then I moved from Toronto to Calgary, starting to grow my career, and it was time to put my lifestyle down, but I wasn't able to. My career was going, my life was functional, but then in 2000, I added crack to the equation. When crack came in, it was no longer functional. I chased it 24/7. It was time for me to sell the little business that I had, and concentrate on getting healthy, because I wasn't doing what I told people would do. And that bothered me. And I thought it would be a quick fix.

Over the next ten years, I was in and out of recovery houses. It really debilitated me. And it's not until lately, when I went into detox, stabilization, and then here, that things started to be different.



I find the unconditional acceptance is here, and me receiving it is what I'm learning to do, 'cause that's not easy. I need to be able to receive compliments and, y'know, truly let them get in. Just to know, I'm an okay guy. As I'm saying that I'm starting to believe it. People might criticize me, so what? You know what, I'm not perfect. I'm also not a bad dude.

"I find the
unconditional
acceptance is
here."

You guys know my story, and you say here's a place, we love you, we're here for you. I'm now realizing I might make a mistake but that whole life is behind me. It's so encouraging. I can't play with fire—the old "just one more time." I don't like that, I don't want it. It's good to have a couple of people that know me and I can be honest with and not be afraid of being shaped by. A good solid talking and suggestions and maybe even, "No, I wouldn't do that" is good. I need that. And so, I'm glad I'm here.

I'm thankful that I'm now able to sort of put the puzzle together. Onward I go. A little piece here, a little piece there. If the rest of my life is like that, I'm accepting that. I'm cool. I'm now understanding: I'm just living life. My advice for a new resident would be: you have a place to live where you're going to be unconditionally accepted, that you get to be part of. And I'd advise that, as I've learned, we need help. We can't do this alone.

How You Can Help

Visit the webpage below to donate via Credit Card, PayPal, or Canada Helps Gift Card:

www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-anawim-companions-society

Make out a cheque to Anawim Companions Society and mail it using the form below or reach out:

(250) 382-0283

info@anawimhouse.com

ANAWIM WOMEN'S HOUSE UPDATE

For years, supporters of the Anawim Companions Society **have asked us to open a women's residence**. In 2018, the Anawim board of directors interviewed many of the existing women's service providers in Victoria to determine the need for a women's house and the challenges of operating one.

From this survey and ongoing discussions with local organizations working with Victoria's street community, we now have a clear view of what we should provide for women in need, and progress is well underway towards achieving it.

Vision

The women's house will function and operate similar to our men's house: it will provide residential and other services with the aim of **empowering the women residents** while also holding them accountable for rebuilding their own lives.

The house will include seven private rooms with partial bathrooms, a communal kitchen, and communal living spaces.

Providing transitional **housing for women living in poverty** is one aim of the project.

Another is to support the women by providing

opportunities for them to learn or engage in mental and physical health services, gardening, arts and recreation programs, nutrition and exercise programs, financial and employment skills, social enterprises (like the men's Christmas tree sales), and personal development programs.



Rendering of the Women's House

Residents will be responsible for cooking meals together, gardening, housekeeping, and light maintenance such as cleaning, watering the plants, etc. They will also carry out minor home repairs where possible, such as painting.

We will start out with 24-hour supervision of day-to-day operations. The goal is eventually to operate without 24/7 support in the same way as we operate our men's house.

Progress Report

A generous supporter donated a house and lot for the purpose of building a women's house. **Holy Cross Parish started to collect funds** for the women's house.

Rezoning for a women's residence has been approved by the City of Victoria.

The old house has been removed, and fencing, temporary power, and water are in place.

Architect plans have been submitted for a City of Victoria building permit (expected to be issued before the end of 2021).

The estimated move-in date is Spring 2023.

We have already received generous donations totalling \$550,000.

We will be asking suppliers for financial help through donations or heavily discounted material and labour.

We are hoping to find **donors who will support the cost of specific rooms and features** of the house, with donations made in five annual payments. For example:

7 bedrooms or the living room @ \$25K each,
kitchen@ \$30K, handicap elevator@ \$40K,
vegetable garden@ \$10K, fence@ \$15K,
landscaping@ \$20K.

We will be sending out more details regarding our fundraising plans and construction progress.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation this year, or to help with our fundraising for the women's house, please contact us:
email: info@anawimhouse.com
phone: (250) 382-0293

YES! I would like to help the Anawim Companions Society*

☐ Single Gift Amount:

☐ Monthly Pledge Amount:

- ☐ Post-Dated Cheques Enclosed
- ☐ Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD)

Anawim now accepts Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD). If you have selected the PAD option, please fill out the contact information below. The appropriate forms will be sent to you. Charitable tax receipts will be mailed annually.

Name:

Address:

Prov: Postal:

Phone: () - -

☐ Yes, I want to save paper and postage and receive the Anawim newsletter by email.

Email:

Leaving a Legacy

How we will be remembered after we're gone is worth thinking about. How can we continue to support the homeless and the working poor of Victoria when our lives are over?

This is an important question that takes into consideration our broader family: our fellow citizens and the community in which we live. A "legacy gift" to Anawim ensures that its future is securely funded for the hundreds of people who rely on our help.

Whether a bequest in a will, stocks or mutual funds, life insurance or RRSPs, a legacy gift is a way for your charitable work to continue after your lifetime. Please call us if you would like to discuss planned giving.

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO:

ANAWIM COMPANIONS SOCIETY
973 CALEDONIA AVENUE
VICTORIA, BC V8T 1E7



*Tax receipts are mailed annually. Registered Charity No. 119212256 RR0001

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 CORPORATE AND AGENCY DONORS

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