

November 7, 2019

To Her Worship Mayor Helps and City of Victoria Councillors,

Earlier this month it was a pleasure to introduce Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe to the Sanctuary Youth Centre (SYC) space and programs. We covered a fair amount of ground from our history as an organization to present realities and future needs.

It was especially gratifying to be directly asked what our priorities are going forward in our aim to help young people at-risk lead more productive, healthier lives. As discussed with Charlayne, opening longer hours and eventually more days, will moves us closer to this objective by providing more opportunities to mentor and build trust relationships with Victoria's vulnerable youth, which is foundational to seeing positive change in their lives. Especially over the winter months, it would also close the gap between our current closing time at 6pm and the opening of the Out of the Rain Youth Shelter at 9pm on Friday-Sunday. The Centre, located in the downtown core, provides a healthy, safe alternative to any youth seeing no other choice but to remain outdoors for the weekend evening hours.

In summary, we are looking for additional annual operating funds of \$21000 to open the Centre from 3pm to 9pm; currently we operate 3pm-6pm, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The funds would be primarily used to cover additional staffing costs, costs of utilities, insurance and some meals.

In addition, we would also welcome \$5,000 in funding to open during the day when there is an Extreme Weather Protocol which applies from November 15, 2019 to April 2020. This would be in partnership with the Coalition to End Homelessness and would provide youth with a safe, daytime alternative to the streets if and when EWP is called. Hours of operation would be from 9am-8pm.

Kindly let us know if you require further clarification or need for a detailed budget. We believe this partnership has potential to seeing more vulnerable youth accessing services and as a result, exiting street life.

Sincerely,



Darin Reimer, Executive Director

Board

Ken Arcuri
Eric Stellingwerf
Gloria Quarless
Jennifer Gibbs
Penny Fenske
Dave Murray