

Rosalie's Village: Targeting Youth and Chronically Homeless

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul's (SSVP) Rosalie's Village will target serving both youth and the chronically homeless (which for this project would include young mothers, their children and older women).

Youth - Young Single Mothers

This project uses the Government of Canada definition of youth as individuals 31 years of age or younger. The majority of the young single mothers living in this project will fit into the under 31 definition of youth. In addition, SSVP is developing a separate tenancy agreement for youth ages 16 -19 (as youth under 19 do not fall under the Residential Tenancy Act), geared towards youth women in the foster care system that often have nowhere to go if they become pregnant at a young age. The programming of this project is specifically targeted towards supporting a younger demographic in gaining the life skills that they need in order to become self-sufficient. This program is geared to breaking the cycle of poverty (research indicates a large portion of chronically homeless – upwards of 50% - were at one time in the foster care system), not only serving homeless or at-risk youth, but keep youth from cycling back into homelessness as adults (see the following section on a more robust discussion of how this project directly serves the chronically homeless).

In addition, it is important to note that the children of young single mothers living at Rosalie's are also tenants and would fall under the category of youth. The daycare component of this project, along with housing and supports, provides specific support to children under five. The daycare is free for tenants of Rosalie's Village, significantly reducing monthly costs for young single mothers and provides children under five the opportunity to access high-quality daycare services. There are no other upcoming projects in the Greater Victoria Area that address childhood homelessness and poverty in this way.

Chronically Homeless

The rents required to make this building operational do not initially appear to target chronically homeless, however there are several key factors that allow this project to target chronically homeless individuals and families.

While rents collected are set higher than the shelter portion of income assistance in British Columbia, SSVP anticipates a number of the tenants in this building will access rental supplements and rental assistance from a variety of programs, including those offered by the Society, in order to allow individuals and families on income assistance to directly access these units. The table on the next page indicates how rental supplements or assistance can provide tenants on income assistance the opportunity to access units at Rosalie's Village.

Through research during the conceptual phase of Rosalie's Village, SSVP was able to contact numerous non-profit and social service organizations, such as the Cridge Center for the Family, the Women's Transition Center, Pacifica, Our Place, Kool Aid (specifically the Rock Bay Landing Shelter program) and PEERS, all of which work with chronically homeless individual. Through partnerships with these organizations, most of which have Homeless Outreach Program (HOP) and Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) that they administer, SSVP will be able to fill the Rosalie's Village units with Chronically Homeless individuals on income assistance and still collect a rent necessary to support the operations of the program. Of these organizations, the Cridge, Women's Transition Center and PEERS, specifically, have indicated a struggle to find suitable accommodation for women accessing rental assistance/supplements, indicating Rosalie's Village can expect to fill a number of units (indicated in the chart on the following page) with individuals dealing with chronic homelessness. In the case that rents may still be above shelter after the maximum amount of support from these programs, the Society will

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match the small amount needed to allow individuals and families on income assistance to access units at Rosalie's Village. The Society also has a rental assistance program and participates in the Community Splits Program – with Our Place, Kool Aid - that offers rental assistance, which women accessing Rosalie's can apply to, and SSVP anticipates a number of residents will be using this program as well.

Finally, it is important to note that while not all of the tenants in Rosalie's Village will be accessing rental assistance, or be on income assistance, these units will still be directly impacting chronic homelessness in Victoria. Young women under 19 will receive rental support from the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, and without this safe supportive option, may struggle to find a foster situation that will properly support a young woman with a child, putting that woman at risk of homelessness.

In addition, many individuals currently continue to occupy units offered at shelter rate as there are often no other viable alternatives for these tenants to transition into. Rosalie's Village will take tenants from the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul's downtown building and other projects (see agreements with Pacifica and M'akola on intake and referrals) where tenants have stabilized and no longer need an intensive support environment, directly freeing up units with supports that are targeted towards chronically homeless. Rosalie's Village will play an important role in freeing up units in downtown Victoria that can house chronically homeless individuals.

Rental Assistance and Support Breakdown

	# units	One-Bedroom	# units	Two-Bedroom	# units	Two-Bedroom Twnhs
Rosalie's Rents	11	\$750	6	\$960	8	\$1,050
Market Rents	10	\$855	4	\$1,107		
Rental Assistance (SAFER, RAP)			4	\$648		
Rental Support (HPP)	5	\$450				
Rental Support (Society of Saint Vincent de Paul)*	5	\$30				
Rental Support (HOP)	5	\$300				
Rental Support (Society of Saint Vincent de Paul)*	5	\$75				
Rental Support (Society of Saint Vincent de Paul)	2	\$480	2	\$450	4	\$480
Avg Rent (after assistance)	12	375	6	525	4	570
Avg Rents (not incl. shelter)	9	\$800	4	\$1,019	4	\$1,050
Emergency Shelter Rents	2	\$570	1	\$570		

*supplement to increase support from HPP and HOP to achieve shelter rate rents on these units