



Connections Place

Together We Can Reduce Stigma, Help People With Mental Illness Recover Their Health and Lead Happy and Productive Lives in Greater Victoria

We invite you to learn about the **dire need for an Accredited Clubhouse International** facility to serve the needs of the **20% of people in Greater Victoria who struggle with a wide range of mental illnesses.**

The humanitarian work done at **Connections Place will also bring countless benefits** and relief to the Parents, Siblings, Families, Friends, Teachers, Classmates, Employers, and all levels of Social Services. We plan to enhance public awareness to reduce the stigma of mental illness in hopes of saving lives.

Clubhouse International is a non-profit organization established to promote the development and strengthening of Clubhouses worldwide. It offers communities a scientifically validated, proven approach to recovery from mental illness by using best practices, quality assurance systems that are supported by a global advocacy network adhering to strong traditions and successful partnerships. The original Clubhouse was founded in 1948 in NYC. It's called 'Fountain House'. Due to its **amazing success** there are now 330 Clubhouses worldwide following this model of rehabilitation based on 37 International Standards.

Connections Place is the name of the Clubhouse we are forming to serve the needs in Greater Victoria. We are a Non-Profit Society and members of the Canadian Clubhouse Coalition. Once we receive our own charity status we will become part of the Global Network of Clubhouse International facilities that guide approximately 100,000 members to social inclusion each year. There are currently **18 Clubhouse models in Canada.** Our mentor Clubhouse is the Pathways Clubhouse in Richmond B.C.

Our Mission: *The establishment of an Accredited Clubhouse International that will provide people whose lives have been disrupted by mental illness the opportunity to recover meaningful and productive lives through integration within Society.*

Our Vision: *Our community Clubhouse will be a vibrant, innovative and collaborative space dedicated to creating opportunity and purpose for those with mental health challenges. The Clubhouse will be dedicated to nurturing respect, equality and dignity for all.*

How Connections Place Will Work

People who join **Connections Place** will be deemed '**members**' not clients or patients. Our members will be encouraged and supported to rejoin the world of friendship, family, employment and education. All participation in a Clubhouse is on a voluntary basis. While sustained **long-term recovery** is the goal for everyone, there are no time limits on membership.

We will be a community center for People, **18 and older** with a mental illness. Our primary goal is to provide opportunities to help them achieve their full life potential. We will focus on healthy lifestyles, while highlighting and developing skills and strengths as opposed to emphasizing illnesses or disorders to build self-esteem and independence in **hopes of them achieving life long mental wellness**. It will be much more than a place to go for much needed fellowship and to experience inclusion; it will be a place where members can and will feel valued, needed and productive.

'**The Work Ordered Day**' is the foundation of the Clubhouse model. Understaffing is intentional, as it is the members who are needed and wanted to help with the important work that takes place there. Staff and members work side by side on all aspects of the operations of the Clubhouse. Members decide on time involvement and what 'unit' to participate in. Examples are: food services, administration, enrollment, reach-out, employment, horticulture, education, finance, maintenance activities, social planning and wellness. In the finance unit members are encouraged to participate in tracking income and expenses from unit operations, budgeting, banking, inventory control and supply ordering.

How Many People Can Benefit From Connections Place?

We can potentially serve 500 adults each year with an active membership of approximately 125 people and an estimated daily attendance of 50 members. Membership is voluntary and open to anyone with a history of mental illness that meets the Clubhouse membership criteria.

How Effective Is A Clubhouse? A few examples . . .

- **Pathways Clubhouse has achieved a Societal Financial Return on Investment of 14:1** Success Markets independently evaluate charity programs based on their investigation of expected and actual results realized by beneficiaries relative to program costs and risks. Benjamin McNamee, Senior Analyst of Success Markets, an experienced evaluator, states "generally well-managed non-profits expect to receive a Social Return on Investment (SROI) in the \$2 - \$5 range" **Donors can be assured that Connections Place will aim for a similar SROI of \$14 : \$1**

- **Pathways Clubhouse** has earned a **four-star rating from Charity Intelligence Canada**, which ranks how charities spend their money and the work they do. Pathways is the only Richmond-based organization and **1 of only 11 in BC to receive the four-star rating** – it's the highest rank possible and joins the 15% of charities across Canada that qualify for this impressive ranking!
- The cost per member for a day in a Clubhouse can range from \$10 - \$40. versus up to \$1,500 for an acute bed in hospital. **The savings are evident** but when you consider the possible **positive outcomes** for everyone involved **it's not only effective - it's financially responsible.**

What's Needed To Start Connections Place?

- **A space of approximately 6,000 square feet** with a kitchen and restroom facilities that will accommodate space for 65 members at one time. The space will convey a sense of wellness, respect, dignity and community.
- **Necessary Operating Funds** for the first three years is estimated to be approximately \$1.5 million while sustainable government funding is sought.
- **The Location** must have access to public transportation, shopping and banking facilities. We hope to find a location that is fairly central and offers parking for staff and members.
- **Implementation** will begin once funding and the space has been secured. Dave MacDonald, the Executive Director of Pathways Clubhouse in Richmond has become a leader in the Clubhouse movement internationally. He has evaluated Clubhouses all over the world including England, Korea, Sweden, Finland and throughout North America. In 1994 Dave left Pathways Clubhouse for one year to open a Clubhouse in Perth, Australia. **Dave has committed to assist with our start-up and guide us step by step through the process.**
- **Housing** is a vital component of the Clubhouse Model; it's Phase 2 of this amazing initiative.

Greater Victoria Needs Connections Place to Provide this Vital Service!

- It costs \$31,000 per year for each homeless person for salaries of law enforcement officers, jail stays, emergency room visits and hospitalizations for medical and psychiatric issues *Times-Colonist July 5, 2014*
- Victoria has the highest homeless death rate per capita in BC. *Times-Colonist, November 6, 2014*
- There were 1,725 emergency shelter users reported in the 2014/15 Report on Housing and Supports – *Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness*
- Once on the street "individuals quite likely to end up with a mental/emotional crisis if there was not one already" Jennifer Chambers, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health – CBC First Hand.
- *The Homeless Hub* reports that people who have a severe mental illness are over-represented in the homeless population, as they are often released from hospitals and jails without proper community supports in place.
- Depression and anxiety topped the list for chronic conditions, with 63,135 patients for the Greater Victoria Area or 28.6% of the population *Island Health 2012 Local Health Area Profile*

The Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian 2014 Award of \$1.5M – “Over the past 66 years, Fountain House/Clubhouse International has developed an extraordinary program to help those with severe mental illness thrive and find purpose through employment and socialization, rather than isolation and stigmatization from society,” said Hilton. **“The mental health crisis in this country and globally can no longer be overlooked. It is a virtual epidemic when one out of four families includes a member with a mental illness.** We hope the Prize will spotlight the work of this organization and lead to more clubhouses in the U.S. and the world, providing opportunity and hope for more and more individuals and families.”

World Health Organization - ‘Mental health is an integral part of health; indeed, there is no health without mental health’

Mother Teresa - “Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty.”

Heather Stuart a Professor at Queens University (Research Chair of Mental Illness & Stigma)- “The stigma around mental illness is often worse than the illness itself.”

Glenn Close the Actress – a volunteer at Fountain House “I have been moved by the fact that Fountain House purposefully depends on people with mental illness for it’s daily operation and future, from answering the phones, to designing and running programs and serving on the board of directors.”

‘Mental illness leads to homelessness in BC’ – this finding was among the research presented at a summit ‘Health of the Homeless’ in Vancouver. 22 Jun 2010 | TheTyee.ca

A Message from the Directors of the Board of Connections Place – “While tents and homelessness are visible signs of mental illness, you cannot see those who are isolating, not going to school, couch surfing, unemployed, in hospital, in jail or those who harm themselves or take their own life. These people are often invisible and do not have a voice - this is why we need Connections Place. We the Families, Friends and Support People will benefit greatly from this ‘all encompassing place’ that will provide meaningful help to our loved ones and those in need.”

For more information please visit our website
www.ConnectionsPlace.org
 or contact us at info@ConnectionsPlace.org



CONRAD N. HILTON
HUMANITARIAN PRIZE



Clubhouse International
Creating Community. Changing the World of Mental Health