

# Spring Updates from Care BC

April 2021

Dear Friends and Supporters of Care BC:

I am hoping this brief letter finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe. As we look forward to the summer, I would like to update you on the trials, as well as successes, we've had this past year. While the COVID-19 pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges within our community as well as within Care BC, I am pleased to report that our charitable programs have continued operations, albeit with modifications, including increased precautionary measures. Care BC's commitment to serving has not wavered, and thankfully neither has the support Care BC has received from our loyal volunteers, generous financial donors, and our dedicated staff.

*Thank you!*

Care BC's **Meals on Wheels** (MOW) programs - Western and Chinese - have continued to serve the communities of Vancouver and Richmond. Last year our team of over 350 volunteers delivered more than 120,000 meals to over 1,000 homebound seniors at risk of isolation. Over half (54%) of our clients were aged 80 or older, and 60% reported living alone. At the beginning of the pandemic, some volunteers took a break as they were at increased risk themselves due to COVID. We are very grateful for the volunteers who remained, as well as for the new volunteers who joined our team since March of 2020. All have adapted well to the safety protocols that were implemented to protect our volunteers and the clients.

There have also been developments within the North Shore MOW program, operated by the North Shore Meals on Wheels Society. Care BC has been approached by their Board about assuming responsibility for their MOW program, as they do not have the resources to continue to increase their operations. As planning for this transition progresses, more information will be forthcoming.

Unfortunately the **Family Respite Centre** (FRC) has been more severely impacted by the pandemic. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Ministry of Health totally suspended the operation of the FRC in March 2020. However in August 2020, the Overnight Respite (ONR) program reopened at 50% capacity, and I am very pleased to advise that the Adult Day Program will also be gradually re-opening effective April 20, 2021. Precautionary measures for the clients and the staff have been introduced.

Care BC's **Community Integration Project** (CIP), which assists people with newly acquired disabilities to adapt to their housing and daily living needs, has not been significantly affected by the pandemic and the program has continued to operate.

And before closing, I would like to highlight a few upcoming events. This year's theme for **National Volunteer Week (Apr. 18-24)** is "*The Value of One; the Power of Many*"; and reflects on the awe-inspiring acts of kindness by volunteers and the magic that happens when we work together towards a common purpose. To all our volunteers, we say THANK YOU! Last year we were unable to celebrate in person due to COVID-19 concerns. This year we are planning an event in fall of 2021. For more information please refer to Care BC's website: [www.carebc.ca/volunteer-appreciation-2021](http://www.carebc.ca/volunteer-appreciation-2021)

At 10am on Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> 2021, Care BC has scheduled its **122<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting**. Closer to the date, details for the event (including how to participate) will be provided on our website.

Finally for now, plans are underway for **Care BC's Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**. We will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Care BC's Chinese Meals on Wheels program with entertainment from "The Fab Four ever", Canada's Premiere Tribute to the Beatles. Further information will be announced on our website, [www.carebc.ca](http://www.carebc.ca), in early summer.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [schamborzki@carebc.ca](mailto:schamborzki@carebc.ca) if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Warmest Regards and Best Wishes,



Inge Schamborzki RN, D.Ed.  
Care BC Executive Director

*P.S. Please look for Care BC's "Leave a Legacy" feature in the April 24<sup>th</sup> Vancouver Sun or The Province, April 25<sup>th</sup>, about Helen Shore, a truly exceptional supporter of Care BC, who sadly died in November 2020. Helen left Care BC a bequest which will have a significant impact on our charitable programming for many years to come.*



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