A GRAND OPENING!

As you may have seen on the news, Wednesday, February 17th, 2016 marked the day the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre opened **Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic**! The picture above captures the official ribbon cutting ceremony that opened this groundbreaking new program. Community organizations and members were invited to participate as ribbon cutters as a symbol of our dedication to ensure all communities across the greater Victoria area are represented, not only in the creation of the Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic, but in its ongoing services delivery.

It is through our community partnerships that our goal to create an inclusive, accessible and welcoming Clinic can be met. The Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic is a place where survivors of all genders can access the medical and support services they deserve, especially those survivors who experience marginalization and where current service delivery may not meet their needs.

The Clinic Grand Opening felt special in so many ways, but most of all because it saw BC government officials, Island Health, Police departments, community organizations, donors, staff, volunteers and survivors come together to create a collective voice to say services for survivors of sexual assault is a priority.

In the week following the Grand Opening, the clinic has *already been accessed*, which solidified all the reasons we undertook this project in the first place. To quote Forensic Nurse Examiner Kelly Branchi, her first experience of using the clinic was, “meaningful. The space was comfortable and quiet, and we never felt rushed. I truly believe this experience helped start the healing process for this survivor.”

**Please note:** The Clinic will be housed in the new Victoria Community Response Centre, a shared space with the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre’s Victoria Child Advocacy Centre.
Thank you! D. Forbes Contracting Ltd. took on the job of renovating the Clinic space to create a warm and welcoming environment. We are blown away by the results and are incredibly appreciative with the amount of care and attention to detail Darryl Forbes and crew have put into creating this space.

We have been fortunate to receive donations from local business to help furnish the new Clinic space. We would like to extend a big thank you to Pine Lighting (track lighting & bathroom vanity lighting), Canadian Tire Douglas St. (bathroom vanity), Budget Blinds (blinds), Ruffell & Brown (curtain for exam room), SpeedPro Victoria (window frosting for confidentiality), Best Western Plus Inner Harbor (waiting room chairs & couch for support space) and Splashes Victoria (heated towel & blanket rack).

Images of the new Clinic (left to right):
- Picture 1 - Small kitchen area, survivors will have access to food and hot beverages when accessing the services of the Clinic.
- Picture 2 - Eagle Feather, given to us by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres. The Eagle feather can be used by survivors that need it.
- Picture 3 - Clinic Coordinator Karen Wickham sitting in one of the Clinic’s confidential support spaces.
- Picture 4 - Police interview room with fully equipped audio-visual equipment for survivors to make a police report if they choose to.

UPCOMING EVENTS

VICTORIA GODDESS RUN
SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016
Participants can choose to sign up for the 5K, 10K or 15K. The weekend of activities include a Women’s Expo at the Westin Bear Mountain, Yoga at Sunset, Bathrobe Run and Kids Run.

VSAC is proud to be one of three partner charities to receive five dollars from every registration! Sign up to walk/run or raise pledges at www.victoriagoddess.com.

Volunteers needed: volunteer@victoriagoddess.com

TRIATHLON OF COMPASSION
SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016
Swim, bike and run for the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre! Whether you are a first timer or seasoned athlete, this friendly and fun event is the triathlon for you. Sprint distances are: 500m pool swim, 20K bike and 5k run. Register to race at www.triofcompassion.com

Proudly brought to you by Human Powered Racing. Located at Esquimalt Recreation Centre.

Volunteers needed: volunteer@triofcompassion.com

“I COULD NEVER DO A TRIATHLON”... WELL, YOU MIGHT SURPRISE YOURSELF!

2016 marks our 23rd annual Triathlon of Compassion, a yearly fundraising event for the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre. Throughout those 23 years, we have seen countless people complete their first sprint triathlon (meaning shorter distances) and have fun doing it!

A lot of our first time triathletes have told us that they doubted they would ever be able to complete this event and absolutely surprised themselves when they did!

The Triathlon of Compassion is an inclusive event where people of all ages (5 year olds to people in their 70s) and all athletic abilities can participate. Participants have the option to sign up as an individual or as part of team.

If you are looking for a great way to support the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre and perhaps completing a triathlon has been on your bucket list, we have the info session for you!

On Sunday, April 17th at 2pm, the Triathlon of Compassion race director Rob Dibben and the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre will host an info night for first-time triathletes and people interested in learning more about the event.

This info session will take you through what to expect leading up to and on race day, as well as provide some useful guidance on preparing for a triathlon and how to start your own fundraising campaign!

Triathlon Info Session, please sign up by April 4th by contacting Lindsay at lindsayp@vsac.ca or call 250-383-5545 ext.115