Thank you to our supporters

It takes a community to provide feminist, trauma-informed services to survivors of sexualized violence. Thank you to all who have supported us as we’ve adjusted to the new COVID-19 reality.

We are deeply grateful to each person who has responded to our mailings, phone calls, to third party fundraisers and events with incredible generosity.

At the beginning of the pandemic, we were fortunate to receive support from the Rapid Relief Fund and the United Way of Greater Victoria Local Love in a Global Crisis grant. Thank you to the Victoria Foundation, Jawl Family Foundation, Times Colonist, and individual donors to the Rapid Relief Fund, and to the United Way of Greater Victoria for your confidence and support.

It is through the responsiveness of our community of supporters, adaptability of our staff, and the resilience of survivors that we will continue our work in healing, education, and prevention.

THANK YOU from all of us at VSAC!

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

If you’re looking for additional ways of supporting the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre this fall please consider these easy options:

Use your Thrifty’s Smile Card
We are fortunate to be part of the Thrifty’s Smile Card program. When you use your Smile Card to pay for groceries at Thrifty Foods 5% of your purchase will be donated to VSAC! Call us to get your card today: 250-383-5545

Fundraise on Facebook
Thank you to everyone who has fundraised on our behalf via Facebook! If you are having a birthday or other event, you can ask your friends and followers to donate to a cause that’s close to your heart in lieu of gifts. To start a fundraiser go to: https://www.facebook.com/fundraisers/ and click on the “Raise Money for a Nonprofit” button. The sign up process is quick and easy, and funds raised are sent directly to VSAC through the PayPal Giving Fund.

Questions? Contact Carissa at carissa@vsac.ca

TRI OF COMPASSION

June marked the 27th annual Triathlon of Compassion and our first ever virtual race!

When COVID-19 threatened our largest fundraiser of the year, Human Powered Racing, our partners who host the race on our behalf, stepped up to save our fundraiser! They did an amazing job modifying the event to a virtual format that respected social distancing measures.

We weren’t certain how the event would go, but the tenacious fundraisers exceeded our expectations raising $15,887 for sexual assault support services! We can’t express how grateful we are to each person who fundraised, raced, and donated.

A special thank you to our top fundraisers Nancy Carleton, Sarah Hagklj, Johanne-Pascale Audet, and Grace Lore for their commitment and determination. Truly inspiring!

Here at the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre, we’ve been busy adapting in the last five months to remain steadfast in our commitment to end sexualized violence through healing, education, and prevention.

From the start of the pandemic, our Clinic, Access Line, and Sexual Assault Support Team have remained safely operational as front-line services.

Following public health officials’ guidance, most of our services in counselling and education moved to remote options with new forms of technological access and engagement. Throughout the organization, folks are going above and beyond to create more pathways towards prevention and healing.

Like many organizations, we’re also taking steps to meet better the needs of those who are most vulnerable. Our current public health crisis is revealing in ever-deeper ways what we’ve always known, that the work of ending sexualized violence is integral to individual and community health.

A key element in our ability to adapt and continue offering our services is the outpouring of support we’ve witnessed from individual and group donors, local foundation grants, continued municipal support, and provincial and federal relief funds. The recognition that we are all in this work together is what will sustain us moving forward.

The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre recently completed an organization-wide strategic planning process, and we’re preparing to integrate this work into our operations.

Fall Newsletter 2020

Find us on the Web!
www.vsac.ca  www.yesmeansyes.com
@Victoria Sexual Assault Centre  @Project Respect - VSAC
@VictoriaSexualAssaultCentre  @VSACentre

Photos from race day shared by Triathlon of Compassion participants.

Fall Newsletter 2020

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Questions? Contact Carissa at carissa@vsac.ca

OUR MISSION

The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre is a feminist organization committed to ending sexualized violence through healing, education, and prevention.

We are dedicated to supporting women and all Trans survivors of sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse, through advocacy, counseling, & empowerment.

#201-3060 CEDAR HILL RD. VICTORIA, BC, V8T 3J5 • BUSINESS LINE: 250-383-5545
ACCESS LINE: 250-383-3232 • VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.VSAC.CA
CHARITABLE BUSINESS NUMBER: #10822 0054 RR0001
What have the changes been in Direct Client Services since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic?

We halted in-person sessions with clients in the middle of March and staff began working from home, delivering individual counselling sessions, Victim Services and Access Line meetings virtually on secure platforms and over the phone.

Our Sexual Assault Clinic remained open and our Sexual Assault Response Team, Clinic Coordinator and Forensic Nurse examiners continued to provide care to recent survivors while maintaining physical distancing protocols.

Aside from offering our counselling groups, we did not have any major disruption in our services and never turned a client away in their increased time of need. In fact, our statistics show that in many areas we provided services to just as many clients as we had prior to the pandemic.

How has DCS adapted to these service delivery shifts?

I’ve been floored by the fact that DCS staff have been able to adapt in such a quick way! We had quite an intricate pathway for clients and aligning with our agency values, as well as developing materials and adapt activities to prepare for virtual groups in the fall. We are immensely grateful to the Victoria Foundation and the United Way for their support.

The majority of DCS staff will continue working from home in the fall, continuing to predominantly provide virtual counselling sessions as many staff and clients find this way of connecting more accessible and safer. At a time of immense uncertainty, we look forward to continuing to offer healing services to survivors.

How has funding from the Victoria Foundation and the United Way helped us navigate this crisis?

This funding has been huge for us in terms of providing technical infrastructure to adapt our in-person services to virtual delivery, proper protective equipment, as well as the additional hours to see clients and complete the extra administrative labour of converting physical files to our digital system. With this funding, counsellors have been able to develop an information meeting video, ensuring its accessibility for clients and alignment with our agency values, as well as develop materials and adapt activities to prepare for virtual groups in the fall. We are immensely grateful to the Victoria Foundation and the United Way for their support.

Is there anything upcoming in the fall in DCS that you can speak to?

We are excited to be offering two virtual Skills for Healing groups starting in September! The groups will be live and delivered through an encrypted and HIPAA compliant virtual platform to ensure confidentiality.

The Indigenous Response Network has been focused on connecting with Indigenous folks who are homeless and are experiencing disproportionate impacts during the pandemic, including limited access to support to address sexualized violence.

Since the dismantling of homeless camps and a shift for many folks into motels some of the work that the Network is doing has shifted to meet the ever changing needs of Indigenous folks in these different communities throughout Greater Victoria.

We are so excited to see where this new reality is taking our program, and we thank you so sincerely for your support!