TRI OF COMPASSION

SUNDAY JUNE 21, 2020
Where: Esquimalt Rec Centre
Swim, bike and run for the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre!

Meet Jodi Bali, a community member who plans an annual holiday fundraising raffle to support our Clinic Program. We checked in with Jodi to talk about why he is a third party fundraiser and how he raised over $3,300 for the Centre.

What inspired you to fundraise for the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre?
It’s a unique, one of a kind non-profit organization providing much needed services. To help provide much needed funding as VSAC relies on community raised funds & donations.

How did you raise over $3,000 for the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre?
1. I solicited community minded businesses to donate wonderful prizes
2. Made a poster explaining VSAC and demonstrating it’s a very worthy cause, posted it all over the ER department and on our Facebook page, as well as word of mouth not only to colleagues, but friends & family.
3. When selling or upselling the raffle tickets explaining what VSAC is about, getting folks excited about the VSAC & the raffle that they were willing to buy more and/or spread the word.

What suggestions do you have for others who are interested in fundraising on behalf of VSAC?
1. Choose a fundraising type activity that will resonate with your potential donors. Be creative but ensure you understand BCLC rules if selling prize tickets, as well as policies & procedures within your own organization.
2. Have a brief but powerful message.
3. Communication & advertising is key. Think about the best way to reach a large volume of donors.
4. Set a realistic goal and timeline.
5. Have fun with the fundraising process. We had a fun little challenge with each other: who could sell the most raffle tickets each day. We would text each other throughout the day bragging how much we sold, to help motivate and challenge each other to keep selling.
6. Provide updates on what percentage of your goal has been achieved. It’s a good reminder & motivator.
7. Have a tracking device to keep track of your donors, their contact information and the funds raised. I used an Excel spread sheet.

Have fun, be creative. It’s a great team building activity. It’s very rewarding to be able to raise funds for a non profit, worthy organization.

THIRD PARTY FUNDRAISERS

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Welcome Elijah Zimmerman, VSAC’s New Executive Director!
I am pleased to introduce myself as the new executive director of VSAC, and as a guest to the territories of the Lkwungen and WSÁNEC peoples. I grew up on the traditional homeland of the Dakota and Dîjîhwe, also known as Minnesota, in a working class and farming community of Scandinavian, German, and Scottish-Irish settlers. I come to the work of ending sexualized violence through intersecting experiences of having served in the military, obtaining my doctorate in communication and culture with a focus on consciousness-raising, feminism, and healing, and my lived embodiment as trans masculine.

I’m arriving from the West Kootenays and the territory of the Sinixt, where I enjoyed canoeing Slocan Lake, hiking with my partner and dogs, and appreciating the wildlife. I also recently spent 18 months on the homeland of the Inuit, Dene, Cree, and Métis on the Hudson Bay in Churchill, MB as an executive director for a field station supporting Northern research and education. Here, I was transfixed by sea ice, in awe of aurora borealis, besotted with beluga whales, and inspired by polar bears. Some of my favourite things are public libraries, community recreation, art, wooden boats, and dogs.

It is a privilege to be chosen to lead a feminist organization dedicated to anti-oppression, inclusivity, and to healing colonial, systemic and personal violence. I bring to the transformation of trauma into justice. I look forward to the many conversations and meaningful actions of care we will share together.

Thank you.
Elijah Zimmerman

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, counselling, & 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
The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre has started a new program, the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre for Indigenous People. This program is led by Indigenous youth and is designed to provide support to Indigenous women and gender equity. The program is being developed in partnership with the Indigenous Women’s Centre of Greater Victoria and the Indigenous Issues Committee of the BC Government.

The program has always strived to encourage youth to be leaders towards social change through training youth facilitators, delivering social action training in schools, and encouraging inter-generational collaboration at camp each year.

What is consent-based education an important part of gender-based violence prevention? At Project Respect, we acknowledge systems of violence such as colonization, binary understandings of gender, patriarchy, & racism to be the root causes of sexualized violence. By exploring these forms of violence, we are able to recognize the ways in which they cause harm and devalue consent.

Through our consent-based education in schools, we engage youth in understanding & resisting shifting power inequities in their relationships and support them to build skills to practice consent. All of this works to build communities free from violence.

What is your favorite aspect of this work? Although I adore collaborating with my awesome adult prevention team, my favorite aspect of our work is the amazing youth that we work with. Hearing the different perspectives and ideas in each classroom is such a gift. I began my involvement with Project Respect led by Indigenous people and me join the table & discussion of decentralizing services for Indigenous people. It is important to recognize their laws and ways of healing as this project moves forward. In this way, agency for Indigenous people is maintained by local nation members to take guidance from those that are not from these territories. In this way, we can ensure that we are following Coast Salish laws & protocol as we build the Network’s capacity to connect & address issues of gender-based violence & Indigenous people.

What are the successes of the project so far and where is the project going? Again, back to relationship building with community, one success is that we have reached out to local Indigenous communities to join the table & discussion of decentralizing services for Indigenous people. We have fostered gender-based violence. A goal for the project is that we work alongside rather than trying to lead or guide communities & give space to those most vulnerable in Indigenous communities to share their experiences & thoughts with regards to decentralizing services & breaking down barriers for accessing services.

INDIGENOUS COUNSELING

Our counseling service at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre can be accessed by connecting with VNFC: 250.384.3211.

Did you know that we provide one-to-one counseling to Indigenous survivors of sexualized violence at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre? In order to carry out our mission to support our people, we have had a 10-year-plus relationship with VNFC. This relationship has allowed us to strengthen culturally safe(s) support, decrease barriers for Indigenous survivors to access our services, as well as to recognize and respond to the higher prevalence of sexualized violence experienced by Indigenous people, and to Two-Spirit people from indigenous communities.

INDIGENOUS RESPONSE NETWORK

The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre has an important role in connecting Indigenous people to the resources they need. We work with Indigenous communities to build capacity to respond to sexualized violence.

The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre (VSAC) is a leader in Indigenous response and is recognized as a leader in the field. We are committed to working in collaboration with community agencies and we are proud of our 10-year-plus relationship with VNFC. This relationship has allowed us to strengthen culturally safe(s) support, decrease barriers for Indigenous survivors to access our services, as well as to recognize and respond to the higher prevalence of sexualized violence experienced by Indigenous people, and to Two-Spirit people from indigenous communities.

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