

VANCOUVER POLICE FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY REPORT

2019/2020



Cst. Mariya Zhalovaga leads the Windermere Running Club, going above and beyond to serve our community

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF CONSTABLE ADAM PALMER

In policing, we say that no call is ever the same. As a patrol officer, when you get dispatched to a new call, the circumstances will always be unique and different than all other calls. The same goes for investigators who get assigned to new cases. Officers constantly exercise creativity and problem solving skills in the field to resolve calls and cases safely and successfully.

Policing is a highly regulated profession with many levels of oversight. However, at the same time, we give our officers the ability to use their judgement in the field and “think outside of the box.” We foster independent thought based on each officer’s skills, experience, and background.

This approach branches well outside of traditional policing and what people often think police are responsible for. However, this flexibility benefits the community greatly, as officers can come up with new solutions and programs to existing problems. And this is where they can turn to the Vancouver Police Foundation for help. The Foundation helps our officers turn their ideas into realities.

While the VPD’s budget allocation from the City of Vancouver covers the cost of traditional police work, grants from the Foundation allow our officers to connect with and interact with the community in new ways. We know that public safety and community engagement go hand-in-hand.

The Foundation grants allow our officers to deliver programs and initiatives that fill the gaps they identify through their day-to-day duties – whether it’s after school sports programming for at-risk youth, helping sex workers get proper government identification, or creating resources for seniors to stay safe online.

The relationships that stem from these interactions create trust and confidence in the residents we serve.

As Chief, I’m very proud of our officers and their proactive approach to community building. But I know that many of those initiatives would not be possible without support from the Foundation. For that, please accept my sincerest thanks.

Adam Palmer
Chief Constable
Vancouver Police Department



MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION

For 44 years, the generosity of people like you has allowed the Vancouver Police Foundation to support our front line officers with their community initiatives aimed at improving the safety and well-being of all citizens and strengthening the trust and understanding between police officers and our city's most vulnerable peoples.

Each year, donations to the Vancouver Police Foundation provide over a million dollars of support to a range of community initiatives and social services not captured within the City's regular operating budget. Many of these programs are led by officers on their own time, reflecting their emotional commitment to the people they serve.

We are so grateful for the generous support of our community that make these initiatives possible. Here are just a few examples of your impact in 2019:

- Anti-gang programs to help youth get on and stay on the right path. These include **Gang Tackle** (featured in this report), **Turning Point**, **Her Time** and **End Gang Crime**
- Initiatives like the Assertive Outreach Team **Carepacks**, the **Shoebox** program for women on the DTES, Victim Services Unit and the Domestic Violence and Criminal Harassment Unit's **flight and resource kits** and a healthy food program for children and families called the **Strathcona Backpacks** – which provide those in crisis with the basic necessities of life

- Youth leadership, resiliency and skill building programs such as the **VPD Cadets** and **Here4Peers**
- Programs aimed at empowering and supporting women and Indigenous peoples, such as the **Women's Personal Safety Workshops**, **SisterWatch**, **Lunch with the Chief** and the **Pulling Together Canoe Journey**

Knowing our officers risk their lives each day in the neighbourhoods they serve, and then coming back into those same neighbourhoods as volunteers, is what motivates the Vancouver Police Foundation Board, staff and volunteers to proudly support the VPD's 1,500 sworn officers.

As you look through these pages and read the stories of officer-initiated programs, we hope you see what we see at the Board of the Vancouver Police Foundation - officers that care deeply about the state of city. Most of all, we hope you see how your generosity has transformed lives and helped build stronger communities.

Thank you for your support and dedication to our city.

John Montalbano
Chair, Board of Trustees

boardchair@vancouverpolicefoundation.org

Andrea Wright
Executive Director

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FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

For 44 years, extraordinary people like you have helped the VPF fund officer-initiated programs that make Vancouver better for all. These are programs that build bridges with the community; that take care of the most vulnerable and marginalized; and that help youth get on, and stay on, the right track.

Your support has enabled high-impact special projects and programs like the VPD Cadets, Here4Peers (a peer-support, mental health program for youth) and the VPF St. Paul's Hospital Transitional Care Centre – a unique approach to addiction and mental health issues.

The programs align with the VPD's vision to make Vancouver the safest major city in Canada and fall into four pillars.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

We fund programs that keep youth engaged, active, and away from high-risk activities.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

We engage with local groups and residents to fund programs that build bridges with the community



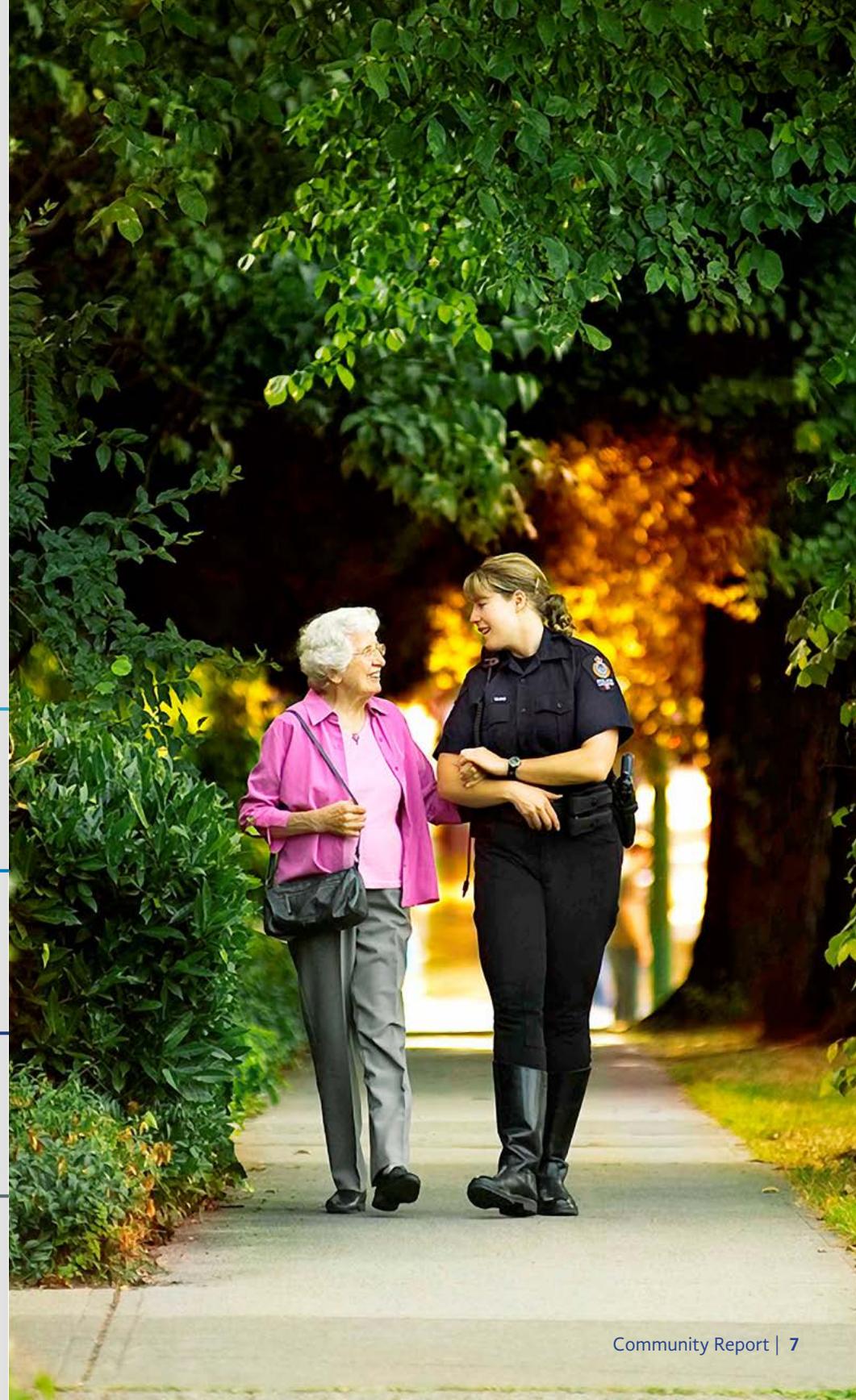
MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS

We provide support to improve the quality of life for those in crisis.



TECHNOLOGY & SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

We assist the VPD with innovative, state-of-the-art tools that save lives and prevent crime.



VPD CADETS

When the VPD Cadets program was developed in 2014, no one could have imagined that the world would face the challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic. However, we can't think of a group of young people better prepared for today's uncertain world!

This life-changing program empowers youth to become the very best they can be by increasing confidence and resiliency and by working with participants to help them overcome adversity.



Cadet Class 6 was nearing the end of their program when the pandemic hit. The regular program activities weren't possible, but Cadet Instructors Michelle Neufeld and Mark Baird were able to come up with creative ways to support the Cadets during this challenging time and still deliver the final elements of the curriculum remotely including the creation of a virtual spring camp complete with fort building, "karaoke" and campfires.



The resiliency of the Cadets was tested but their commitment to the program and each other meant that they embraced the changes and had a successful graduation. Following in the footsteps of those before it, a majority of Grade 12 students are going on to some form of post-secondary education.

This quote from one of the Cadets and published in the first-ever yearbook describes this life-changing program.

"Everybody in Cadets was so selfless, trustworthy and respectful. Honestly, getting to know you Cadets and Instructors has been the single greatest accomplishment in my life. I will never forget our time together. I love you guys."

Several amazing donors stepped up to fund this program last year. Thank you to **Thiessen Equipment, RBC Foundation, Tong and Geraldine Louie Family Foundation, Summit Foundation, Justin Goodrich, Nicole Gray, Douglas Pugh.**





YOUTH PROGRAMS

YOUR IMPACT 2019 VPF GRANTS

Streetfront

600 full and half-marathons completed in 10 years
& **1** qualifier for the Boston Marathon 

 **Windermere Running Club**

48 youth whose lives were changed by running

End Gang Life

2,738 Grade 8 students learn the dangers of gang life

Cadets

90 students learning leadership, resiliency and life skills 
& **92%** pursuing post-secondary education

Winter Invitational Basketball

240 students from 16 high schools connected through sport

Here4Peers

3,200 students working to reduce the stigma of mental health

& **5,000** volunteer hours logged by student mentors



MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Shoebox Project for Shelters

40 shoebox gifts delivered to vulnerable women 

ID4ME
1,400 

pieces of identification obtained for vulnerable people in the DTES

Lunch with the Chief

300+ meals served to DTES residents 


Strathcona Backpacks

450 children fed healthy meals when school is closed 

Women's Personal Safety Team

5,614 women and girls empowered since 2012 

Pulling Together Canoe Journey

20 canoe families, representing 
& **400** people, working on reconciliation and building life-long friendships

Trafficking Awareness

8,636 people reached about human trafficking

Project 529 **100,000** bikes registered in Vancouver alone 

& **40%** decrease in bike thefts since 2015

TECHNOLOGY & SPECIAL EQUIPMENT



TRAFFICKING AWARENESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY



“He said he loved me. And then he told me to have sex with his friend.”

Shocking, but this is a tactic that predators use to lure victims into the sex trade. It’s known as human trafficking and yes, it happens right here in Vancouver. VPD Sex Crimes Unit investigators have worked on cases with victims as young as 12.

Even more disturbing is the fact that the victims come from all backgrounds. With more young people online than ever before, VPD Detective Constable Karen Szeto wants to stop the predation. She believes that by helping youth understand the warning signs, they can avoid becoming victims themselves.

With generous support from the **TELUS Vancouver Community Board** via the **TELUS Friendly Future Foundation**, a comprehensive online campaign aimed at youth was launched across a variety of social media channels. To date, over 8,000 individuals have seen the campaign and visited the website for more information.



CAREPACK BACKPACKS



The Assertive Outreach Team (AOT) is a unique collaboration between VPD and health care professionals who support vulnerable and at-risk clients struggling with mental health issues and drug addiction.

Cst. Ian Mayne saw an opportunity to partner with the VPF to help one of the most vulnerable groups of clients – homeless individuals that self-isolate and refuse to visit shelters. He proposed creating carepacks to provide these clients with some basic necessities, but also to allow AOT team members to engage with them more easily.

So far, 150 Carepacks have been distributed and have had a profound impact on those receiving them. One client, suffering from schizophrenia and drug addicted, was initially distrustful of the team and wouldn’t engage. After the carepack was introduced, he was very thankful and became more open about his life and background. He began to ask for Ian by name and became much more stable, ultimately transitioning to care by the Community Mental Health Team of Vancouver Coastal Health.

We are so thankful for **Thiessen Equipment** for their generous support that made this life changing program possible.



GANG TACKLE



Today's youth are under constant pressure to become involved in gang and drug activity. While many come from dysfunctional, low-income homes with a lack of positive role models, others are lured by the possibility of easy money. Gang Tackle was developed by Cst. Alex Charles to provide education and strong alternative choices for at-risk youth who are vulnerable to the drug trade. It also builds strong, positive relationships between youth and police and encourages youth to make positive choices before it's too late.

Gang Tackle consists of a friendly flag football game with varsity and professional athletes, police and the youth in the program. Students then hear from former gang members as they talk about their experiences with gangs and the negative impact it had on their lives. This past year, the generous support of the **Diamond Foundation** enabled 60 students to participate.



ID4ME

Many of us take for granted the ease with which we obtain our personal identification – BC Services Cards, passports, social insurance numbers and more. We more often worry about what happens if this ID is lost or stolen. But imagine not having the paperwork to get this ID in the first place? How would you open a bank account? Obtain a cell phone? Rent an apartment?

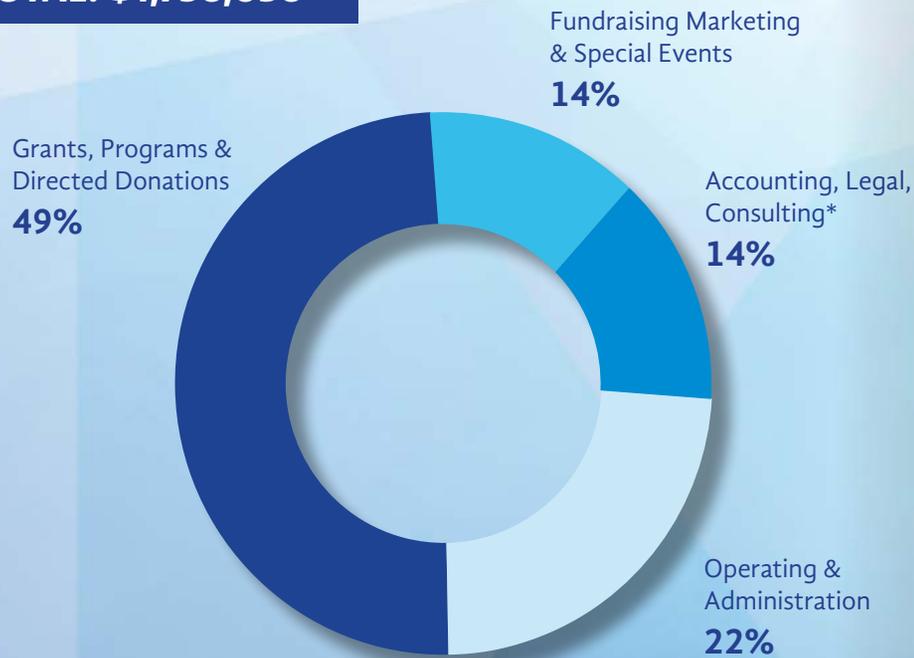
For many, this is a sad reality. Cst. Linda Malcolm, the VPD's Sex Industry Liaison Officer, has been working with hundreds of individuals in the sex work industry and on the Downtown East Side since 2012 to help them obtain identification. Without it, they struggle to access needed services and it impairs their self-esteem.

As of 2019, donors like you have helped Cst. Malcolm obtain 1,400 pieces of identification for community members through the ID4ME program. Some of the success stories include a young woman who returned and finished high school after obtaining ID needed to register for her courses. Three other women were able to get on flights home to see their families and participate in healing ceremonies because they obtained identification through this program.



FINANCIALS

USE OF FUNDS
TOTAL: \$1,756,036



*Includes one-time expenditure of \$200,000 related to stewardship of gifted asset.



SOURCES OF REVENUE	2019	2018
Fundraising & Events	\$1,104,404	\$1,027,792
Investments	(\$608,838)	\$816,634
	\$495,566	\$1,844,426

The financial highlights on this page are based on Vancouver Police Foundation's audited financial statements for our fiscal year ending April 30, 2020. The Foundation's statements are audited by Crowe MacKay LLP.

Every single gift to the Vancouver Police Foundation makes a difference.

We are fully committed to transparency and accountability of financial information and are proud to operate by the Association of Fundraising Professional's Donor Bill of Rights.

For more information or for a complete set of financial statements, please contact info@vancouverpolicefoundation.org or call 604-717-3700.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We are so very grateful for our dedicated donors, volunteers and Trustees for their generosity and time.

Your support, especially during this time of uncertainty, continues to fuel life-changing programs that make a real difference for our city. By helping fund over 50 different initiatives each year, you help make communities safer and more vibrant.

Thank you for all the ways you support the Vancouver Police Foundation, and please reach out if you have any questions. We're here to help.



Donate



Volunteer



Attend



Observe

**VANCOUVER POLICE
FOUNDATION**



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