

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Our organization’s long term goal is to develop an effective social support system that enables seniors to age in their neighbourhood, be part of the inner city community, and minimize health risks by creating a sense of belonging, contribution, and fulfillment.

To attain our goal, we work with our program staff within our organization and our other community partners. We organize special events for the members of our Seniors Centre through our Neighbourhood Helpers Projects (NHPs). Apart from hosting a Ukrainian Christmas Lunch for approximately 145 seniors, NHP volunteers and staff hosted a “Where’s the Beef?” lunch for 70 seniors. In addition, we continue to collaborate with the program staff of the Carnegie Community Centre, Youth for Chinese Seniors and Chinese Community Policing Centre to organize programs for the community. We had



DESC LINE DANCERS PERFORMING AT MOON FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

a special talent show in February and a celebration of the Moon Festival show in September in the auditorium of the Carnegie Community Centre.

- We are sad to say goodbye to our long serving Board Member,

Patricia McKenzie, who passed away in early 2017.

- Two new members have joined the Board of Directors to strengthen our fund-raising and marketing skills.

Chinese Outreach Project



HISTORICAL CHINATOWN TOUR ON JUNE 16, 2017

Together with our seniors community we celebrated Canada 150 and the official designation of Chinatown as a National Historic Site. We launched the “We love Chinatown” project with a series of activities: storytelling of the early Canadian Chinese immigrants, historic tours of Chinatown, and a community celebration. Led by seniors at Roddan Lodge we organized a Canada 150 party before the residents dispersed and the building was demolished. In mid summer we organized a day trip to Harrison Hot Springs. Seniors from Downtown Eastside and Downtown South shared a glorious time together. All these programs are initiated by our seniors and funded by the Neighbourhood Small Grants and in collaboration with our community partners. *We are better together!*

The Continental Seniors Centre

The Continental Seniors Centre continues to move forward one step at a time. Our greatest success has been our volunteers who maintain our reception desk and computer program. The computer program has become an intergenerational program with current and past UBC Students working with our senior volunteers to run a fully engage daily service for our members. The senior volunteers have enhanced their computer skills. One volunteer in his mid 60’s who has set up a facebook page expressed pleasure in the fact that he is more connected to the goings on in the outside world. Together the computer volunteer team



COMMUNITY FESTIVAL AT THE CONTINENTAL SENIORS CENTRE

with input from membership have assembled a series of workshops for the general membership. In November, 25 people participated in a “How to Set Up a Facebook Account” workshop. Various workshops will be held monthly, connecting young to old, family to friends and family to each other!!



Downtown Eastside



WHERE'S THE BEEF POSTER

The volunteers and staff at the DTES Neighbourhood Helpers Project rely on outside sources to fund events hosted for residents and members in the community. In 2017, we worked very hard and have been successful in hosting four community events. One, which has become an annual event is funded through our gracious funder, Bob Rennie. Three smaller events were made possible through the Neighbourhood Small Grants provided by the Vancouver Foundation. In the first week of January, we hosted the 3rd Annual Ukrainian Christmas luncheon where we served up cabbage rolls, kolbasa sausage, perogies, salad and buns to approximately 145 seniors. We also hosted a Choi Ping's Bbq for the residents of Antoinette Lodge, a Where's the Beef? Prime rib steak dinner for seniors who are members of the DTES Seniors Centre and a DTES Best Buddies outing where our volunteers selected a senior to accompany them on an outing to Steveston where we all enjoyed fish & chips and ice cream outdoors on a beautiful sunny day. We absolutely appreciate the support we get to host these unique events because they certainly do enhance our relationships with the seniors we interact with.

These events help us form trusting and positive relationships and that is what we pride ourselves in most, here in the DTES Neighbourhood Helpers Project.

Downtown South

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR AND A YEAR OF DOING OUR BEST WITH WHAT WE HAVE! Our top story this year is the coming together of the tenants at The Gresham Residence. Their building has become a safe place for the residents, visitors and our volunteers. The tenants have created their own community, taking care of each other in many ways. In previous years the weekly Community Kitchen meal program was facilitated by the Downtown South volunteers with some assistance from the residents. In the last year three tenants of the building approached the volunteers and asked to run the program on their own. The tenants now plan 7 weeks' worth of menus at once based on what they want to eat and what is available in the pantry. The tenants shop and pick up supplies from the office and off they go to cook lunch for up to 15 people in the building. The Cooking Crew has successfully served 3 Turkey dinners with all the trimmings throughout the year. The meal program has brought the tenants together and because of their participation in the program some are volunteering in the community and getting out and about more which is fantastic!



FINE DINNER TOGETHER

Christmas is coming: Please help!



Once again we will be hosting a special Christmas brunch for our seniors. Your donation makes this lunch possible and will provide support for all our programs.

THANKS TO OUR 2017 FUNDING PARTNERS:

City of Vancouver, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, United Way of the Lower Mainland, The Province of British Columbia, Face the World Foundation, Government of Canada New Horizons for Seniors Program, Soroptimist International of Vancouver, Rennie Family and you –our loyal individual supporters.