



newsletter

That's A Wrap!

We're wrapping up another successful year at Pathfinder Youth Centre Society, and we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who have played a role in our achievements. A sincere thank you to everyone, from dedicated volunteers to valued community partners; your contributions have not gone unnoticed. Your support has been integral to our success, and we look forward to continued collaboration in the future.



What's In Store for 2024?

Support us in our goals for the new year!

Program Updates

Learn more about the services we provide and the updates we will be making next year!

Summer Games

Our annual community fundraiser was a great success! Learn more on page 7.

Acknowledging Traditional Territories!

We acknowledge that the activities and programs of Pathfinder Youth Centre Society take place on the traditional and unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Semiahmoo, and Tsawwassen Nations. We recognize the enduring connection of Indigenous peoples to this land and express our gratitude for the opportunity to live, work, and engage in our activities on their ancestral territories.





Executive Directors Note



Pathfinder Youth Centre Society successfully embraced 2023 as the year of #strengtheningourcommunitytogether, and we express immense gratitude to everyone who contributed to turning this mantra into a tangible reality. A special acknowledgment goes to our valued community partners who actively participated in our annual fundraiser, Summer Games. We extend heartfelt thanks to our new funders for their belief in the impact of our work and for joining us in making a positive difference in the lives of individuals who walk through the doors of Pathfinder.

We sincerely appreciate The Vancouver Foundation for BIPOC funding, Rogers Community Grants, Surrey Community Cares Foundation, Civil forfeiture grant, City of Surrey, RBC, CIBC, Vancity, New Media Hope, Maple Ridge New and Used, and other generous contributors. We also want to recognize the unwavering support from Service Canada, Community Living BC, and the John Volken Foundation. Together, we are creating a lasting impact on our community and are grateful for the continued collaboration and commitment of all those involved.

-Ruth Lee

What Is In Store for 2024?



In 2024, Pathfinder Youth Centre Society is gearing up for an exciting array of initiatives to enhance its impact and reach. The organization is set to unveil a dynamic refresh of our current programs, ensuring that its offerings remain innovative and responsive to the evolving needs of the youth it serves. In addition, the ambitious goal to acquire a multipurpose van, facilitating enhanced mobility and expanding the centre's outreach capabilities. Lastly, Pathfinder is planning to elevate its annual charity summer games fundraising event, scaling up the scale and impact of this vital initiative to support the organization's mission. These strategic endeavors underscore Pathfinder Youth Centre Society's commitment to fostering positive youth development and making a lasting difference in the community.



It's Bean Fun!

It's BEAN an exciting year for Bean Around Books! This year, we've had over **20 volunteers** gaining work experience and life skills, with 11 of them from SD42 and 12 who heard about our work experience opportunities. New this year, **Foundry has partnered with us**, bringing youth who want to gain work experience here at Bean Around Books. We continue to spread the word within our community, participating in events like Garibaldi Dungeons and Dragons, the Garibaldi Winter Market, serving coffee and tea, and presenting at SD42 WorkBC sessions to inform youth about our Pathfinders program.



We've maintained our collaboration with the **Life After School Transition (LAST)** committee, holding monthly meetings to inform other organizations about our programs and brainstorm on how we can reach more people. Additionally, Bean Around Books hosts parents' information nights once a month for drop-ins, providing support for parents struggling to find programs for their kids.

What do you get when you combine three ladies playing canasta and a father-daughter writing dual? Without fail, every Tuesday, this group of five makes their way to the cafe. You won't even know it until it's over, but you will likely become a part of this group's vortex of conversations. And if you don't, I would bet you would be listening and smiling. If you work here, you better be ready to be bossed around: 'MORE TEA, PLEASE!' 'HEY!!! THAT BOOK IS IN THE WRONG SPOT!!!!' 'YOU FORGOT MY SUGAR!' They are not shy, to say the least (sometimes I think they believe they own this place). This family of five has come together to fill the building with warmth, laughter, and a welcoming environment, truly embodying what we are all about here at the bookstore.

Groups That Meet at Bean Around Books Monthly Include:

- The Grumpy Grandmas
- The Golden Girls
- Probus (Worldly Discussions)
- Probus Book Club
- Three Ladies Canasta
- Bean Team Book Club
- FRIS – an Indigenous Women's Group
- Saturday Games Group
- Spanish group



Employment Beginnings Program

It takes a village...

Over the last four years, the Employment Beginnings Program has served **389 youth** between the ages of 16 to 30 experiencing barriers to employment and representative of our diverse Canadian society. Following the program, **262 youth have found permanent employment** or gone on to educational opportunities. **32 youth are currently still in the program.**

The achievement of these impressive statistics relies on remarkable companies aligning with a shared vision, committed to giving back, and fostering a mutually beneficial scenario for both parties.

This month, we celebrate our newest community partner, **Comfort Keepers**, based out of White Rock, B.C. Comfort Keepers, a renowned provider of quality in-home care, has proven to be more than an employer. Demonstrating a profound understanding of the diverse needs within our community, Comfort Keepers has actively engaged with our New Employment Beginnings program. This program, a core initiative of Pathfinder Youth Centre Society, focuses on empowering youth and young adults by building essential life and employment skills and providing mentorship and valuable one-on-one support during a time of transition into the workforce.

We're delighted to share the inspiring news that Comfort Keepers has not only embraced our program but has also welcomed three participants from our Employment Beginnings initiative into their family. Two individuals contribute their administrative and customer service skills in an office setting. At the same time, the third has taken on a caregiver role, directly impacting the lives of clients in an outreach position.

This collaboration between Pathfinders and Comfort Keepers exemplifies the transformative power of community partnerships. Comfort Keepers' commitment to recognizing the potential within every individual perfectly aligns with the mission of our Employment Beginnings program. Together, we're empowering young individuals with the skills to successfully transition into the workforce.

Comfort Keepers, standing as a beacon in the realm of in-home care, continues to set the standard for excellence by enriching the lives of its clients and providing a fulfilling work experience for its dedicated caregivers. We're grateful for their support and commitment to making a positive difference in our community. Join us in celebrating this remarkable success story, where collaboration, compassion, and community converge to create lasting change. From all of us here at Pathfinders, thank you, Comfort Keepers!

Thank you to all of the employers, industry trainers, guest speakers, mentors, and community partners who have participated over the years.

If you feel inspired to be involved as an employer (job shadowing, informational interviews, wage subsidized employment opportunities, etc.), mentor (one-to-one guidance, interview preparation, etc.), or guest speaker (industry-specific, cultural, motivational, employment, etc.) don't hesitate to get in touch with one of the Program Coordinators, **Anneliese Ganske-Surrey** (aganske.pycs@shaw.ca) or **Alana Lewis-Maple Ridge** (alewis.pycs@shaw.ca).



Second Chance Thrift + Vintage

Second Chance is more than just a thrift and vintage collection— it celebrates individuality through consciously curated fashion. In July, Second Chance recently welcomed a new management team, injecting fresh energy into this unique initiative.

Originating during the COVID era, Second Chance emerged as a **youth-driven project** aimed at fundraising for the Pathfinder Youth Centre Society's (PYCS) Life Skills Program, providing crucial support for youth with cognitive and developmental disabilities.

Operating exclusively online, Second Chance invites volunteers to join their mission, assisting with clothing curation, styling, and modelling. To stay connected, follow @secondchance.pycs on Instagram and explore their collection at www.secondchancethriftvintage.com. Embrace the charm of second-hand fashion while contributing to a meaningful cause.

Rag Rack

Introducing Rag Rack, an innovative initiative that took root in June 2023 at the Pathfinder's office in Surrey. Spearheaded by the Second Chance Thrift + Vintage team and operating under the umbrella of Pathfinder Youth Centre Society, Rag Rack was conceived with a mission to address the environmental impact of textile waste.



The core objective is to recycle clothing and reduce the volume of garments destined for landfills. Priced affordably at **\$10 and below**, Rag Rack offers a unique shopping experience one Saturday a month. What sets Rag Rack apart is its altruistic purpose — all proceeds generated from the sales contribute directly to funding the mentorship program for youth with cognitive and intellectual disabilities. This youth-led and operated initiative welcomes year-round donations of gently used clothing, emphasizing community engagement and sustainable practices. Stay updated on all things Rag Rack by following their Instagram page: @rag_rack.



Skills For Life

We concluded the year with a fantastic Christmas gathering, where the classes came together and enjoyed a wonderful time filled with games, delicious food, and the exchange of presents!

As the great philosopher said ***“Change is good donkey” – Shrek.***

Starting in 2024, our former Skills for Life program has transformed and is now proudly named ***Harmony In Motion***, embodying the theme of ***“empowering our abilities.”***

Harmony in Motion represents more than just a change in name; it signifies a commitment to ***empowering abilities and fostering a holistic approach to literacy, recreation, and socialization for all participants.*** We continue to uphold our unwavering dedication to a person-centered approach, ensuring that each individual not only works towards their personal goals but also enhances their social skills along the way.

As we embark on this exciting journey, we invite you to stay tuned and witness the remarkable achievements that our clients will undoubtedly make within the Harmony in Motion program. Your continued support is crucial in creating an environment where growth, learning, and positive transformations thrive.

Thank you for being an integral part of our Pathfinder Youth Centre Society community. We look forward to the harmonious strides we will collectively take in the coming year.

Wishing you a prosperous and fulfilling 2024!





Charity Summer Games

The highly anticipated annual Charity Summer Games, hosted by Pathfinder, took place on August 18, 2023, drawing a remarkable turnout of **18 non-profit and for-profit organizations**. This event involves a series of games played by diverse non-profit and charitable organizations, aiming to accumulate the most points and secure the champion title.



Beyond the competitive dynamics, these games serve a dual purpose by offering a valuable platform for charities to enhance visibility and amplify their voices. Participants not only engage in friendly competition but also utilize the event to showcase their missions, connect with the community, and raise awareness for their respective causes. In essence, the Charity Summer Games integrate philanthropy with friendly rivalry, creating a distinctive space where organizations can highlight their athletic prowess and their significant work in service to various social causes.

This year's standout champions—**SFU Football Alumni, BCEA, and Passion for Youth**—distinguished themselves among the competitors. Pathfinder extends sincere gratitude to all participating organizations for their contributions in making the Charity Summer Games a resounding success, embodying the spirit of unity and altruism. Special appreciation is extended to our dedicated staff and volunteers for their unwavering commitment and hard work during the Charity Summer Games. We also want to acknowledge and commend our youth summer students for their leadership in spearheading and organizing this remarkable event, as their enthusiasm and efforts played a pivotal role in its success.

