

# Annual Report

## 2021-2022



**MENTAL**  
~~**ILLNESS**~~  
*Wellness*

## Our Vision

Our community Clubhouse is a vibrant, innovative, and collaborative space dedicated to creating opportunity and purpose for those with mental health challenges. The Clubhouse is dedicated to nurturing respect, equality, and dignity for all.

## Our Mission

To provide people whose lives have been disrupted by mental illness the opportunity to recover meaningful and productive lives through reintegration within the workplace and the community.



*"A place for people with mental health challenges to gain confidence, respect, hope, and opportunity. We offer unique programming focused on wellness, employment, and education."*

## The Clubhouse Guarantee

- ◇ A place to come
- ◇ A right to meaningful work
- ◇ A right to meaningful relationships
- ◇ A right to a place to return



**Mike Tibbles**  
Executive Director

Connections Place Clubhouse triumphs hope as one of our core goals. Hope for members to return to full and meaningful lives in the community, hope for the community to embrace our members as equal and valuable participants, and hope for the world to move towards de-stigmatizing mental illness.

This past year, we have focused strongly on establishing sustainable core funding. We were honoured to receive a grant from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions this year in the amount of \$415,000. We continue to work with our partners in the Ministry to establish multi-year sustainability. Other partners included the United Way and the Victoria Foundation who provided much needed support over the past year.

As the Clubhouse continues to grow, we are prioritizing Transitional Employment development, and preparation for our first accreditation in November. Accreditation is a quality assurance process that assesses a Clubhouse's fidelity to the International Standards for Clubhouse Programs and can be used by funding sources as an objective evaluation of the quality of services available at our Clubhouse. Transitional Employment provides a starting point for members to join or return to the workforce.

The Clubhouse has sent two staff and a member to the two-week Comprehensive Colleague Training in Salt Lake City, Utah. Colleague Training has taught us a culture, a way of working with people that is vastly different from the traditional day treatment programs. This is a comprehensive experience, which benefits the entire Clubhouse community, not just the participants. We gained practical experience and a comprehensive understanding of the fundamental aspects of Clubhouse model practices that incorporate the International Standards for Clubhouse Programs. These are utilized by over 320 Clubhouses in 35 countries worldwide.

We continue to develop our programming, and this year plan to work towards being open for evenings and weekends.



**Jackie Powell**  
Board Chair

During 2021/2022, Connections Place transitioned from a virtual program to a hybrid program and finally to being fully open again. We remain grateful to our staff and members for their dedication through this challenging time.

This year, we received government funding from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions that has allowed us to truly blossom as a Clubhouse. We are very grateful for the foundations, grants, and private donations that continue to support us as we grow and expand our programming. Partnerships in the community continue to flourish, along with a growing membership, and I am so thankful to the many people and organizations that have pulled together for our Clubhouse.

We continue to work towards sustainability with our funders and supporters. Our number one goal is to continue to be here for our current and future members. Coupled with that goal is a plan to work towards being open some evenings and weekend days. Mental Health doesn't take weekends off, and we know that many of our members have voiced a desire for support on the days and times when they don't have access to the Clubhouse. Our Gala in November this year will see these areas as a prime focus.

Our Board of Directors is a strong team that complements the Clubhouse, and I am grateful to their commitment to see our Clubhouse flourish. We plan to achieve accreditation this year through Clubhouse International. As we work towards this milestone, we are earnestly working to develop our employment and housing programs and meet all 37 International Standards.

# Our Team



## Staff

- ◇ Mike Tibbles, Executive Director
- ◇ Neelam Pahal, Team Lead
- ◇ Leah Ralph, Program Staff
- ◇ Katherine Howell, Program Staff
- ◇ Louise Baert, Program Staff
- ◇ Ivy Gifford, Program Staff

## Board of Directors

- ◇ Jackie Powell, Chair
- ◇ Darcy Eggleston, Vice Chair
- ◇ Jeany Shipley, Treasurer
- ◇ Alex Ashby, Secretary
- ◇ Chery Lynn Brown
- ◇ Sandy McManus
- ◇ Adrian MacLaren

## Members

With more than 245 members, the Connections Place Clubhouse has become the vibrant, innovative, and collaborative space that we hoped it would be. Nothing happens at the clubhouse without the input, contribution, and hard work of our members. It is the energy, spirit, and passion of our membership that give life to Connections Place and make this all possible. Thank you all!

# 2021-2022

## By the Numbers

1,728

Member Visits

245

Members

72

Tours

2,016

Meals Served

\$668,810

Funds Raised

# Program Development

## COST Pilot Project

The Concurrent Outreach Support Team (COST) pilot project – created by Connections Place Society and Umbrella Society – provided comprehensive person-centered support that attended to both an individual's addiction recovery and mental health needs.

The COST team met with people upon discharge from hospital psychiatric emergency services to connect them to community-based mental health and addiction support programs. The goal was to increase an individual's sense of wellness and the likelihood of a successful recovery through comprehensive service provision.



## Employment Program

Ideally, a Clubhouse will offer transitional, supported, and independent employment opportunities to members. However, the pandemic brought plenty of hardships for the community including difficulty forging new and existing partnerships with employers. This year, we focused our energy on our Independent Employment program as per the interest of our membership. We developed a variety of resources for individuals seeking employment on their own accord such as drop-in worksheets and weekly workshops that rotate on a monthly basis.

For three years now, the Clubhouse has partnered with Marian Paris of Paris Roka Candy to provide meaningful, paid employment opportunities to our membership. Paris Roka offers members a living wage for weighing and packaging candy in a supportive group employment environment. Net proceeds from Paris Roka's candy sales are generously donated to the Clubhouse. Thank you Marian for your continued support and innovation with Connections Place!



## Member Testimonials

The Clubhouse has given me a place to connect with others and participate in activities and the Work-Ordered Day. I like music group, mindful movement, and celebrating the birthday bash. I come to the Clubhouse to socialize and have lunch.



Mike

I'm so grateful for the Clubhouse, it really helps my mental health. I love the people – I feel I fit in. I love to help in the kitchen!

The Clubhouse is an awesome place to go with a friendly environment. If it wasn't for Connections Place I don't know where I would be. I have hope, a sense of purpose, and a routine.

Shauna



Yvonne



I like coming to the Clubhouse because it gets me out of the house. I like the lunches, colouring, baking, and I just joined the book club. I have so much fun baking!

Coming to the Clubhouse gives me the chance to improve my employment skills and work towards finding a job. My favourite part of the Clubhouse is the people – they're friendly, helpful, and easy to talk to.

Patricia



Connections Place provides a safe place where I can practice social skills with my peers, and engage in meaningful work during the course of the Work-Ordered Day. I am grateful for the Clubhouse and everything it provides.

Leo



With a recent diagnosis of dementia, I have found Connections Place to be a supportive network.

Andrew



Chris



## Clubhouse International Accreditation

Members and staff of the entire Clubhouse work together to prepare for the Accreditation visit, evaluating the Clubhouse performance in relationship to the Standards. Each area of the Clubhouse is reviewed and discussed at community meetings, unit meetings, and other special forums convened to prepare for Accreditation. The result of this 'self-study' process is a written report from our Clubhouse to Clubhouse International and the consulting team, describing the Clubhouse and its areas of strength and relative weakness, as seen by our members and staff.

The Accreditation visits are made by members of Clubhouse International's Faculty for Clubhouse Development. The Faculty consultants are members and staff from strong Clubhouses around the world. Each Accreditation visit is made by a team of one staff and one member from the Faculty for Clubhouse Development.

After receiving and reviewing the self-study and other relevant materials submitted by the Clubhouse, the Clubhouse International Faculty team will visit the Clubhouse for 3-4 days. While on site, the Faculty team confirms the information

presented in the self-study, and meets with members, staff, board members and other stakeholders of the Clubhouse. The Faculty team participates in Clubhouse meetings, the workday, and other Clubhouse activities. The team visits residential, employment, and education sites where the Clubhouse is working with members. The Faculty team evaluates how well the Clubhouse has implemented the International Standards for Clubhouse Programs and provides ongoing consultation to the Clubhouse while on site.

After completing the visit to the Clubhouse, the Faculty team prepares a written report of its findings and submits it to Clubhouse International. The report includes a detailed description of the Clubhouse, a review of the areas in which the Clubhouse is strong, and a set of specific recommendations about how our Clubhouse can improve and come more fully into compliance with the Standards.

Clubhouse International Accreditation is awarded for either one or three years. This determination is made based on the extent to which the Clubhouse is complying with the Standards.





## Thank You to Our Donors!

Every donation makes a difference in building a community of recovery and wellness.

### Major Funders



### Generous Donors



- ◇ Isaiah 61 Foundation
- ◇ Joan Cronk
- ◇ Kari & Andreas Dolberg
- ◇ Michele Cupit
- ◇ Mary & Melvin Forster
- ◇ Rose Aarrestad

### Monthly & One-Time Donors

It is with the support of our 17 monthly donors and many more one-time donors that Connections Place is able to continue to provide meaningful programs and services to our community.



# Let's Stay Connected

To learn more about Connections Place, we encourage you to book a Discovery Tour with us!

Contact us at (250) 483-3748 or [info@connectionsplace.org](mailto:info@connectionsplace.org)

 [connectionsplace.org](https://connectionsplace.org)

 [@connectionsplace](https://www.facebook.com/connectionsplace)

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