



Sunshine Coast
Community Services

Caring since 1974



Building
Together

An initiative of Sunshine Coast Community Services

CASE FOR SUPPORT

BUILDING TOGETHER

A stronger, safer, Coast for all.

Imagine waking up EVERY day worrying about paying your rent and whether or not you'll be homeless next month. Imagine having to make the hard choices between paying your utility bills and buying groceries.

For many on the Coast, especially women and children, this is a reality. 55% of children living with single parents on the Coast are living in poverty. That is 1,100 children and their families, struggling every day. They are your neighbours. They are the people who serve you at the grocery store and your favourite restaurant. The people you say hello to on the street. Many of these people are women with young children and they are struggling to keep it together.

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the vulnerability of thousands of our community members. Those at most risk are children, single mothers and women over 50. Often they struggle to meet the fundamental needs of safety, food and housing - things that most of us take for granted.

Rental housing on the Coast is expensive and in short supply. Employment options are limited, with many jobs barely paying enough to support the basic living expenses of an individual, let alone a young family. We know that affordable housing and access to support programs play a key role in keeping our entire community healthy and safe.

Today, we embark on an essential mission to support those who need us most. With your help, we will build new, affordable housing specifically for women and children on top of a redeveloped space for our support programs the entire community can access.

Our *Building Together* development will be built on land we own in downtown Sechelt, and with our thoughtful design and community approach, will revitalize our neighbourhood into a safe and welcoming area for all.

Government funding will cover much of this project cost, but we need to raise another \$3 million to ensure we make this desperately needed new facility a reality. We need your support.

***Now is the time to act and do everything we can.
Help us build a stronger, safer Coast for all.***

THE NEED

The most vulnerable members of our community are in real trouble.



With your support we can help change these numbers

448 women and children impacted by violence and trauma were provided with support in 2019

1575

calls made to our 24-hour access line from women seeking support, resources or transition house access in 2019

40% of women 50 and over say they are not safely housed*

1600 people access the Food Bank every month

52%

of Sunshine Coast renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing**

1 in 5 Sunshine Coast residents access Community Services' programs

1100

children are living in poverty on the Coast

“ It’s desperate out there. At age 51, I feel stranded, isolated and on the brink of having no shelter. I’ve worked my entire life but qualify for no assistance. It’s frightening. ”

SURVEY RESPONSE,
HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS REPORT
SCCSS, 2018

* Hidden Homelessness Report, SCCSS, 2018. ** 2018 Canadian Rental Housing Index. All others: SCCSS 2019-2020 Annual Report.



When I found out my husband was capable of horrific abuse, I no longer felt safe in my own home. There was no question I had to leave. I was offered a place to go that was welcoming and safe, where I could stay as long as I needed.

That was a few years ago. If I were going through that experience now, during this pandemic, and I didn't have the option to go off the Sunshine Coast for shelter, I might have to endure staying in my unsafe situation due to limited housing options in this region.

SCCSS CLIENT - WOMEN'S COUNSELLING PROGRAM

OUR PLAN

To build a stronger, safer, Coast for all through affordable housing for women and children and a space for accessible and inclusive programs for the entire community.

Following extensive community consultation in 2016, we learned that the most critical needs were for:

- New, affordable housing for women and children
- Easier access to the spaces and support we provide through more than 30 programs
- Safe, welcoming spaces for our most vulnerable community members

Help us to ensure that those most at risk have access to help and support.

Our Building Together project comprises a new dual-use structure and an enhanced outdoor community area. There will be 34 units of affordable housing specifically for women and their children, a range of spaces tailored to the needs of our community support programs, community gardens, pedestrian walkways and outdoor gathering spaces.

This development will be built on land in downtown Sechelt that we already own and on which we already provide a wide variety of community services. With our thoughtful design and community-centric approach, we will revitalize the neighbourhood at the end of Inlet Avenue into a safe and welcoming space for all.



Artist impression for illustrative purposes only.

PROJECT NAME:

Building Together

ADDRESS:

5638 Inlet Avenue, Sechelt

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Expected completion Oct 2023

ARCHITECT:

Studio 531 Architects



We have already raised most of the needed funding! With your help, we can close the gap. Building Together will raise \$3 million to provide a space that benefits the entire Sunshine Coast community:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



34 units of affordable housing for women and their children who are vulnerable to homelessness and poverty and may have experienced violence or abuse.

INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE PROGRAMS FOR ALL



A redeveloped Community Services space, purpose-built and better able to accommodate our programs while meeting current and emerging community needs.

A SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD



Increased safety and security of the neighbourhood with better lighting, improved pedestrian walkways and more organized activities that will build connections between neighbours.

PROJECT BUDGET:

\$23 million

FUNDING MODEL:

\$20 million through Federal and Provincial funding and grants

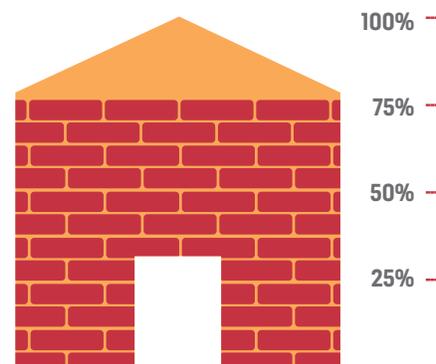
FUNDRAISING GAP:

\$3 million from our local community

WE ARE ALMOST THERE!



We are so close to making this project a reality - we need your help to close the gap.





WHY US?

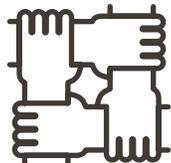
Community Services is uniquely qualified to help.

For more than 45 years, we have provided resources and services to people living on the Coast. This past year we supported over 5,000 people, through more than 30 programs offered in one of our eight facilities located in Sechelt and Gibsons.

Our services support pregnant and new moms, families, children, youth, adults, and seniors through the provision of crisis response, support programs, housing, and advocacy. Programs include Arrowhead Clubhouse, Bellies and Babies, Youth Outreach, the Sunshine Coast Food Bank, Police-based Victims Services, Better at Home and Childcare Resource and Referral.

Community Services has always been an integral part of the Sunshine Coast community - this is what sets us apart.

How we help strengthen our community



We offer programs and services that strengthen the people of our community. From counselling to vocational training, from coaching to drop-in centres and family resources, there is something for anyone needing our support.

How we help with housing



We provide women and children with safe and supportive short-term housing through our Yew Transition House and Thyme Second Stage Housing. We also provide housing and support for people living with mental illness at Legacy Housing.

How we help improve safety and security



We have a range of programs that support people whose lives have been impacted by violence and trauma and provide crisis intervention, shelter, counselling, advocacy and non-judgmental emotional and practical support.

Together, we've achieved so much since 1974. With your continued help and support, there's so much more we can do.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are almost there! Your support will help close the \$3 million funding gap for this essential and necessary community project.

Help us get there

With your support, we are looking to our community to close the \$3 million gap for this important project. Every dollar raised will go towards building long-term, affordable housing for women and children and creating an accessible and inclusive Community Services space that will benefit the entire community.

We will provide name recognition to donors for gifts above \$3,000, up to and including opportunities at \$750,000. Consider naming a beautiful bench in our wellness garden in honour of someone you love or have your family's name be a lasting legacy in this state-of-the-art building supporting thousands of community members.

We know that affordable housing and access to support programs play a key role in keeping our entire community healthy and safe. Help us build a stronger, safer Coast for all.



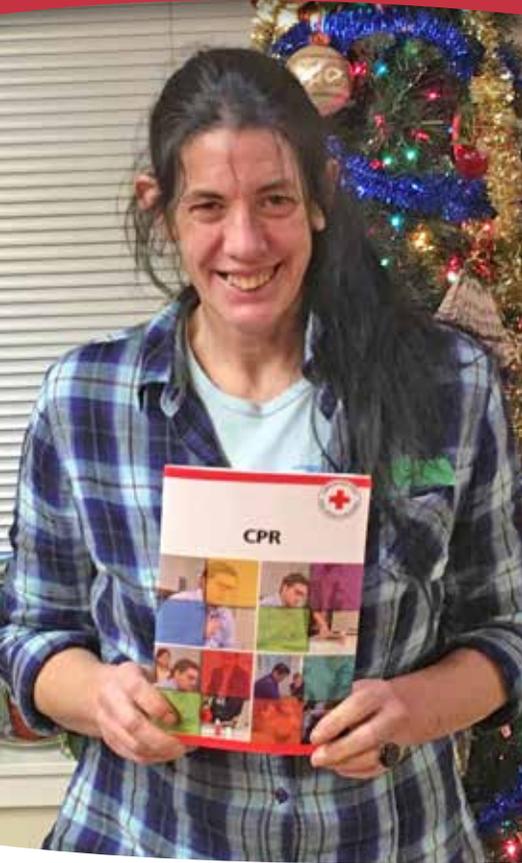
Artist impression for illustrative purposes only.

Contact Catherine Leach on **604-885-5881** or email cleach@sccss.ca to learn more about how you can leave a lasting legacy on the Sunshine Coast.



Join us today and start Building Together.

We are honoured to provide services on the unceded, ancestral and traditional lands of the shíshálh (Sechelt) Nation and the Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw (Squamish Nation).



Thank you!

For making a difference in your community.

Contact Catherine Leach

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