

## Van Tel/Safeway Credit Union Legacy Fund Spring 2021 Grant Report

The [Van Tel/Safeway Credit Union Legacy Fund](#) is held at Vancity Community Foundation and provides grants twice a year to charities supporting positive futures for vulnerable youth, and enhanced wellbeing for vulnerable seniors.

In the Spring 2021 grant round, a total of \$34,330 was approved for distribution to the following eight organizations:

Pacifica Housing Advisory Association

<https://pacificahousing.ca/>

While COVID-19 has impacted many seniors, it has hit especially hard for low-income seniors who are at risk of homelessness and facing isolation due to a loss of connection to family. With partial support from the VanTel/Safeway Fund, the Pacifica Seniors Lodge has been able to supplement their existing meal program with a daily afternoon healthy snack program, to provide additional basic needs for 40 vulnerable seniors living in their affordable housing facility.

Pacifica Housing has been a not-for-profit provider of affordable housing and support services for low-income families, persons with disabilities, seniors, and adults who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in the Greater Victoria area and Nanaimo for over 30 years. The Pacifica Seniors Lodge, where this project takes place, provides affordable supportive seniors living, including for those often struggling with behavioural issues, mental health concerns, and alcoholism.

Lower Mainland Purpose Society

<https://purposesociety.org/>

The Lower Mainland Purpose Society is a non-profit social service agency whose mission is to deliver a continuum of social, health, educational and residential services designed for individuals, youth, and families who are subject to personal and/or social distress, marginalization, and alienation.

The VanTel/Safeway Fund contributed to the Lower Mainland Purpose Society's *Integrated Youth Services Summer Program*, which focuses on recreation and arts programming for vulnerable youth aged 13-19. The Program will create an environment for youth in downtown New Westminster to engage in recreation, socialization, and wellness activities that are safe and close to home, including drama and dance workshops, games and trivia nights, a video editing and photography workshop, and more. Project facilitators will also be able to offer individual services for youth in need of support with accessing service referrals, career development, and other services at Purpose Society.

### Red Fox Healthy Living Society

<https://redfoxsociety.org/>

VanTel/Safeway funding helped the Red Fox Healthy Living Society to implement their *Youth Leadership Program*, which will deliver capacity building activities to Indigenous and racialized youth, youth living with disabilities, LGBTQ2S+ youth, and youth living on low incomes aged 14-18, along with some older youth who have cognitive disabilities or are on the autism spectrum. This program will help youth to increase their general employment skills, as well as skills specific to the recreation, youth work, and childcare fields.

Red Fox Healthy Living Society was launched in 2006, and delivers free active play, arts, and Indigenous cultural programs to over 2,000 children and youth at schools, community organizations, and parks throughout Metro Vancouver. Red Fox transforms the lives of these children and youth who face barriers through the power of recreation and mentorship.

### Silver Harbour Seniors' Activity Centre

<https://silverharbourcentre.com/>

As a vulnerable population, seniors have been encouraged to stay home during the COVID-19 pandemic to increase their safety; however, these restrictions have reduced seniors' access to food and diminished their mental wellness and social connectedness. Van/Tel Safeway funding helped the Silver Harbour Seniors' Activity Centre to provide nutritious food and social connections to low-income seniors on the North Shore through their *Free Seniors Meal Bag Program*. In addition to being low income, the majority of seniors served have a physical disability, life-limiting health condition, or difficulties with activities of daily living. This program provides each senior with a large, prepared meal bag, along with information about seniors' services and activities, and a kindness card contributed by a member of the community with positive images and words.

Silver Harbour is a non-profit and charitable organization that has been providing a gathering place, recreational activities, and social services for seniors in North Vancouver since 1973.

## Be the Change Earth Alliance

<https://www.bethechangeearthalliance.org/>

The VanTel/Safeway Fund contributed to Be The Change Earth Alliance's *Reclaiming the Environmental Narrative (REN)* program, which aims to use personal storytelling as an approach to reduce the adverse effects of eco-anxiety and help youth develop resilience. REN will focus on youth ages 12-24 from historically marginalized communities, namely Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour, across British Columbia, and will provide workshops on environmental justice, trainings on digital storytelling, opportunities to build cross-cultural relationships, and hands-on mentorship. The storytelling projects will be shared through a final virtual event, the UBC Climate Hub, and BTCEA's website.

Be The Change Earth Alliance has been committed to fostering interconnected environmental and social (eco-social) change in communities and schools across BC for the past 15 years. Their main focus is inspiring, educating, and empowering youth to take personal and collective action for a just, sustainable, resilient, and fulfilling world.

## Zero Ceiling Society of Canada

<https://zeroceiling.org/>

VanTel/Safeway Funding helped the Zero Ceiling Society of Canada to start their *Work 2 Live Youth Advisory Council*, which is a new initiative aiming to give Work 2 Live participants the power to influence the direction of their programs based on the needs, experiences, and priorities of vulnerable youth. The youth involved in this project will have all taken part in Zero Ceiling Society's supportive housing and employment program, and are youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness. VanTel/Safeway's funding will go directly to Youth Advisory Council members as an honorarium to support their economic wellbeing and to recognize their contribution to the Work 2 Live program.

Zero Ceiling Society of Canada was founded in 1997, and their mission is to end youth homelessness in BC. The Work 2 Live program provides 12 months of supportive employment, housing, life skills training, mental health support, and other unconditional supports to approximately 20 youth per year.

## Dan's Legacy Foundation

<https://danslegacy.com/>

Dan's Legacy Foundation provides trauma-informed and culturally sensitive counselling and life-skills programs to youth at risk in Metro Vancouver. The VanTel/Safeway Fund contributed to Dan's Legacy's *Indigenous Cultural Workshops Program* which aims to help urban Indigenous youth connect to community and culture in a clinically supported and culturally sensitive environment. The workshops are led by an Indigenous Elder and provide avenues for Indigenous youth to explore their history, cultures, and communities through song, storytelling, drum making, and other experiences.

Dan's Legacy's Indigenous youth clients have typically grown up in foster care with non-Indigenous families, or in Indigenous families struggling with intergenerational trauma directly attributed to the residential school system and the sixties scoop.

## Network of Inner-City Community Services Society (NICCSS)

<https://www.niccss.ca/services/what-we-do/>

The VanTel/Safeway Fund contributed to the Network of Inner-City Community Services Society's (NICCSS) *Multi-Dialect Chinatown COVID-19 Vaccination Education Campaign*, helping them to provide proper education about COVID-19 prevention and immunization to tenants of Single Room Occupancy hotels in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The campaign aims to address barriers to accessing health and safety needs through a community-based outreach, education, and promotion approach.

The NICCSS acts as an administrative sponsor for the Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative Society (SRO-C), which was established in 2017 to improve the well-being, safety, and housing security of single residency occupancy hotel tenants in the DTES and Chinatown neighbourhoods. In the wake of COVID-19, the SRO Collaborative has developed a comprehensive system delivering COVID-19 prevention information and supplies, harm reduction supplies, hot meals, and grocery hampers to over 2,000 SRO tenants.

## Contact Us

For more information about Vancity Community Foundation or the Van Tel / Safeway Credit Union Legacy Foundation, please visit: [www.VancityCommunityFoundation.ca](http://www.VancityCommunityFoundation.ca) or contact us at [give@vancity.com](mailto:give@vancity.com).