

Van Tel/Safeway Credit Union Legacy Fund Spring 2022 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 2022 grant round, a total of \$33,090.00 was approved for distribution to the following ten organizations:

Aunt Leah's Independent Lifeskills Society

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

For 30 years, Aunt Leah's Place has been helping kids in foster care and young mothers achieve a better future. Aunt Leah's Thresholds Residential Support Program works with women with experience in the foster care system who self-identify as Indigenous, new immigrants, women with developmental disabilities, and street entrenched women who are at risk of homelessness. They are new mothers who face the threat of having their children taken into government care if they cannot secure safe, affordable housing and obtain individualized support for parenting, life skills, employment and education.

Funding from the VanTel/Safeway Credit Union Legacy Fund will help pay for childcare providers to look after babies and children while their moms are participating in the Thresholds Residential Support Program. This funding will ensure that young mothers have the time and support they need to move to independence sustainably.

Autism Society of BC

<https://www.autismbc.ca/>

The Autism Society of British Columbia (Autism BC) is committed to enhancing and improving the lives of those affected by autism in BC. Autism BC is led by the voices and needs of the autism community, and envisions an inclusive society where people on the autism spectrum reach their full potential.

The VanTel/Safeway Fund contributed to Autism BC's *AutismBC Goes Program*, which builds accepting, inclusive and supportive communities by providing social opportunities for neuro-diverse children, youth and families to connect, have fun, and build their social confidence, experience, and network. Both autistic children and their loved ones will benefit greatly from the social bonds they will form at these events.

Be The Change Earth Alliance

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

The VanTel/Safeway Fund contributed to Be The Change Earth Alliance's (BTCEA) *Youth Climate Justice Collaborative*, which aims to combat eco-anxiety – the feelings of fear, distress, and grief due to climate change – and improve mental and social health and well-being in vulnerable youth. The *Youth Climate Justice Collaborative* will empower 20-40 diverse youth participants in 3-4 youth teams in Metro Vancouver to design and launch climate justice projects in their communities. These projects will promote local climate solutions and increase awareness about climate justice issues. BTCEA will provide youth teams with hands-on mentorship, training workshops, educational materials, and seed funding to launch their projects.

Be The Change Earth Alliance (BTCEA) was founded in 2005 to support positive, interconnected environmental and social change in schools and communities. Their mission is to inspire, educate, and empower youth to take personal and collective action for a just, sustainable, resilient, and personally-fulfilling world.

Gordon Neighbourhood House

<https://gordonhouse.org/>

Gordon Neighbourhood House began in 1942 as a place for residents in Vancouver's Downtown-West End neighbourhoods to drop by for a cup of coffee. Today, they work closely with local residents, businesses and organizations to create dozens of programs, services and initiatives that respond to the needs and dreams of their neighbourhood. Their Seniors Programs offer a variety of activities that aim to empower, connect, and engage local seniors.

VanTel/Safeway funding will help facilitate Gordon Neighbourhood House's *Frozen Meals Delivery Program*, which is designed to serve seniors who are facing food insecurity due to a combination of health, mobility, and financial barriers. For this program, frozen and home-delivered meals are provided at zero-cost to a group of vulnerable seniors who are experiencing barriers to food access in the West End.

Hollyburn Community Services Society

<https://www.hollyburn-society.ca/>

The VanTel/Safeway Fund contributed to the Hollyburn Community Services Society's *Life Success Program*. The Life Success Program (LSP) is a transitional housing program that supports homeless, transitional-aged youth ages 18-24, to acquire the skills needed to live independently. Key areas of focus include employment, education, interpersonal relationships, and community integration. The Life Success Program gives youth at risk of homelessness or who are currently homeless a chance to shift into stable living, build life skills, and form a web of community resources around them.

Hollyburn Community Services Society has a robust mission to end social issues in our community. They work and advocate to ensure individuals and families are safe from violence, that marginalized youth receive the tools to accomplish amazing things and that our youth, seniors and families have sustainable and affordable housing.

Leave Out Violence (LOVE) Society BC

<http://leaveoutviolence.org/bc/>

Since 2000, LOVE has supported marginalized youth, age 13 to 19, in Surrey, Burnaby and Vancouver, who have been impacted by violence to gain the work, life and leadership skills to achieve successful futures and end the cycle of disadvantage.

VanTel/Safeway funding will support the *Skills for a Successful Future Program*, which is a 32-week program that is run against a backdrop of violence prevention and intervention, and media arts training. *Skills* focuses on supporting youth with emotional intelligence, financial literacy, digital literacy, and advocacy training. Participants in the *Skills* Program have the opportunity to participate in violence prevention committees, where students develop and take ownership of anti-violence strategies and use them to become positive influences within their communities. Students also have the opportunity to plan and facilitate a variety of workshops for schools and youth organizations such as healthy relationships, social justice, anti-oppression and inclusion, bullying/cyberbullying, importance of youth engagement in their community, and more.

Lumara Grief & Bereavement Care Society

<https://lumarasociety.org/>

Lumara Grief & Bereavement Care Society is a charitable organization that helps children, youth, adults & families cope with serious illness, grief, and bereavement. They provide virtual and in-person programs including family and individual grief counselling, support groups, expressive arts therapies, community choirs, retreats, youth adventure programs, and grief and loss education, reaching people in urban, rural, and remote communities in BC.

The VanTel/Safeway Fund contributed to Lumara's *Youth Outdoor Adventure Program*. This program will support bereaved youth through facilitated outdoor adventures in a land-based healing program. While youth build new coping skills as they engage in outdoor challenges, the true strength of this program lies in the intentional development of a unique community of support of peers, trained volunteers, and professionals with lived experience of significant loss. This year-round program will include a family bereavement retreat in September, a surf camp in the spring, a 4-day summer camping adventure, a monthly virtual drop-in meeting to connect between adventures, access to other Lumara programs, and counselling.

Pacifica Housing Advisory Association

<https://pacificahousing.ca/>

Operating for over 30 years, Pacifica Housing is one of Vancouver Island's largest providers of affordable homes and supportive services. Through their community services and nearly 1,300 affordable homes, they support over 2,500 individuals and families in Greater Victoria and Nanaimo. Pacifica's housing portfolio includes supportive housing for those experiencing chronic homelessness and seniors supported housing for low income seniors at risk of homelessness.

VanTel/Safeway funding will support Pacifica Seniors Lodge's *Healthy Snacks Initiative*, which will serve the 45 residents of Pacifica Seniors Lodge in Nanaimo. As the cost of living continues to rise, PSL residents, some of whom have dietary restrictions and diet related health conditions, will be relying more than ever on Pacifica Housing to meet their nutritional needs. Providing additional snacks helps to reduce the cost of living for PSL residents and their need to leave the residence for shopping, thereby lowering their risk exposure to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

South Vancouver Neighbourhood House

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

South Vancouver Neighbourhood House (SVNH) is a community-based organization that focuses on connecting people and strengthening the neighbourhoods in South Vancouver. Their mandate is to develop harmonious relationships among community groups of different cultural, economic, religious, and social backgrounds. Programs and services are determined by conditions within each community and by the needs and interests of the people living in that community.

The VanTel/Safeway Fund contributed to SVNH's *Frozen Meal Delivery Program*, which enhances the wellbeing of vulnerable seniors by providing low-barrier, dignified meal delivery for those who are food insecure due to financial hardship. VanTel/Safeway funds will help to increase the number of complimentary meals provided to isolated and financially-insecure seniors.

Stanley Park Ecology Society

<https://stanleyparkecology.ca/>

Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES) has been in operation since 1988, operating with a mission to promote awareness of and respect for the natural world through collaborative leadership in environmental education, research, and conservation in Stanley Park. Every year, SPES's conservation team engages hundreds of community volunteers in habitat restoration and wildlife monitoring across the park's 404 hectares of forest, wetland and beach, while educators connect over 20,000 people each year with nature through school and public programs in-person and online, and through the operation of Vancouver's only Nature Centre.

The VanTel/Safeway Fund provided funding towards SPES's *Stronger Together: Supporting Diversity in STEM Program*, which will provide critical support to SPES's immersive education programs for K-12 students (children & youth) who are vulnerable, low-income, under-represented students from BIPOC, LGBTQ2SIA+ and/or multi-language communities. *Stronger Together's* culturally relevant activities and approaches will lower barriers to science education and inspire interest and engagement with science, with the goal of providing deep, meaningful and lasting connections with nature and science.

Contact Us

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