

**THE
PEOPLE
OF**

coolaid.



WINTER 2025

Thank you for offering independence—and the opportunity for a fresh start

“Cool Aid is giving me that stepping stone.”

“I’m really grateful to have a new studio apartment in a building that’s clean and modern. Plus, it’s a different part of the city, so I’m looking forward to exploring the neighbourhood.”

You can hear the excitement in Jarad’s voice as he talks about settling in at The Chestnut, Cool Aid’s mixed-use building on Gorge Road offering both supportive and affordable homes to people in need. Last November, Jarad moved from Cool Aid’s Johnson Manor, a more structured housing community.

Jarad says, “I feel like this is a new start and I’m gathering the tools I need to move from point A to points B and C. Cool Aid is giving me that stepping stone. I’m on the right path to continue my education.”

A musician, who sings, plays the guitar and drums, and

writes songs, Jarad is planning to pursue studies in project management. “As an artist, I’d like to use my creativity and skills to work with different types of companies,” he says.

Jarad was homeless for 17 months and had an encounter with the justice system. After being found not criminally responsible and receiving treatment, he’s optimistic about his future.

“I’m trying to get educated and improve myself. While I don’t want to dream too big and then be disappointed, I do want to keep going forward in my life,” he adds.

With the generosity of supporters just like you, Cool Aid offers a continuum of solutions to homelessness including health care, emergency shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing, and



affordable market housing.

In the next month, more neighbours like Jarad will be moving into Crosstown, another mixed-use community that will build on the success at The Chestnut.

Last December, Jarad performed at our Crosstown

New homes, a second mobile health clinic, and new beginnings—all thanks to you!



I'd like to thank you for everything you made possible in 2024, including the following:

Construction at Crosstown is now complete and residents will be moving into 100 new affordable market homes and 54 new supportive homes

within weeks. I'm very excited that residents there will have access to the Dr. Joe Haegert Community Health Centre, a commercial kitchen, a daycare, and artist spaces. These amenities and services will have a profound impact on residents' quality of life and the overall community.

In July, the first residents moved into **The Lily (on Balmoral Road)**, a site that provides 56 supportive homes to people in Victoria who need them most. Meanwhile, **The Chestnut**, a mixed-use building on Gorge Road, continues to offer a new start to residents like Jarad. (Please see page 1.)

I'm also happy to tell you that a **second mobile health clinic is on the road**, increasing our capacity to deliver health care to marginalized patients who may struggle to access the complex care and trauma-informed support they need.

Through all of our programs, we're working to meet the growing complexity of our clients' needs. That's why, as we continue to serve our community, your support means so much. Thank you!

Elin Bjarnason
Chief Executive Officer

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open house embodying the reality that so many of Cool Aid's clients have talents that go unseen when they are challenged to meet basic needs. Jarad says, "I feel this is a great step in the right direction in rebuilding my life. The detour feels like it's finally over and I have a glimmer of light once again."

With spring still a few weeks

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away, Jarad is looking forward to growing herbs, vegetables, and fruit in The Chestnut's gardens.

In the meantime, he appreciates his independence and is getting to know his neighbours.

"People are welcoming and friendly. I meet a lot of characters here and the staff

are lovely. Life is looking up."

Thank you for supporting our clients as they begin to heal from homelessness, trauma, and other complex challenges. Combined, The Chestnut and Crosstown provide 151 affordable market homes and 75 supportive homes in Victoria. ●

UPDATE: The Dr. Joe Haegert Community Health Centre at Crosstown

The Dr. Joe Haegert CHC (Community Health Centre) is set to open soon.

The new clinic will be located near several supportive housing sites where many Cool Aid health clients live, in addition to the 154 units of supportive and affordable housing units at Crosstown.

Expanding upon the successful care model currently practiced by Cool Aid CHC, our new CHC will address the needs of neighbours experiencing homelessness and/or facing complex mental health and substance use challenges.

In addition to clinic space, The Dr. Joe CHC will be an important outreach hub. Mobile health clinics (vans) will be



replenished there, and it will house pharmacy supports, counselling, physiotherapy, acupuncture, visiting specialists and three medical office assistants, plus other services from the downtown clinic.

With your generosity, our medical teams will continue to provide compassionate and accessible health care to the most vulnerable neighbours in our community. Thank you for supporting this vital work. ●



Renderings of the future Dr. Joe Haegert Community Health Clinic provided by Low Hammond Rowe Architects

YOU inspire us.

Making an incredible difference to our community: Meet Sue and Carl Stovel

"We've been very lucky. Giving back is not an option—it's just what you do."

Sue Stovel is explaining why she and her husband Carl are matching every donation made to Crosstown and the new Dr. Joe Haegert Community Health Centre up to \$100,000.

As a psychiatrist, Carl supported patients with serious mental health challenges, while at the Ministry of Health, Sue worked to overcome social barriers to health, from housing insecurity to poverty.



Now retired, the Stovels are long-time Cool Aid supporters and volunteers. Carl says, "We think Crosstown is a

terrific model. It's a true representation of all that's needed: housing, health care, and community. The issues are multi-faceted, as are the solutions."

We'd like to thank Sue and Carl for their heartfelt and very generous contributions to supporting Victoria's most vulnerable people. To learn more about the Crosstown and Dr. Joe Haegert CHC, please visit coolaid.org.

Your **GENEROSITY** in Action

Here's the difference you're helping to make at Crosstown



54

**NEW SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING UNITS**



100+

**MEALS/DAY
IN THE NEW CROSSTOWN
KITCHEN**



100

**NEW AFFORDABLE
MARKET UNITS**

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