

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

This past year, our organization continued operations and implemented COVID-19 Emergency responses to support low-income seniors through one drop-in centre and three community outreach programs in three different communities.

The DTES, the Downtown Eastside Seniors Centre was instrumental in the support for outreach, care, space for meetings and organization of seniors and partners in the neighborhood. Our Centre closed on March 19, 2020 due to the pandemic. But we continued in-person activities and provided low-cost meals to isolated seniors with barriers to food access, checked in with seniors by phone or through their building managers; and worked in collaboration with outreach and program staff, and volunteers to deliver hot meals and food hampers to needy seniors.

With the availability of the COVID vaccines, we re-opened our Centre on July 19, 2021 to fully-vaccinated members wearing face masks. Our program and outreach staff continue assisting the seniors with one-on-one or referral services so as to assist them to navigate through the government and health care systems.

Our daily attendance has dropped from an average of 60 to 80 individuals in pre-pandemic times to between 7 to 23 individuals now. The drop in attendance is attributed to the pandemic and our

members' reluctance to venture out in public for fear that they might catch the disease. In addition to members' regular drop-in, we have started implementing structured programs such as Moon Festival Celebration Party, Bingo Games, Birthday Parties which have drawn a gradual increase in daily attendance up to 20 to 34 on the days when structured programs are offered. We continue to serve hot meals, provide seniors phone calls and work with our Outreach Staff and volunteers to deliver meals and food hampers. More programming will be launched in phases to ensure safety to all.



MEMBERS PLAYING MAHJONG

Downtown South Neighborhood Helpers Project & Continental Seniors Centre

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, most of the Downtown South Neighborhood Helpers outreach programs such as coffee sessions and community kitchens remain suspended. During the summer, we were able to coordinate two seniors outing events at the BC Parks Heritage Centre in collaboration with the Elders Council for Parks. The first event was a forest ecology walk joined by a Biologist, while the second event was a nature close up photography walk joined by an award winning photographer. These two events brought seniors out of their homes for the first time in a long while, and into the nature.

As fall and winter approaches, our team of dedicated

volunteers continues to pick up food donations from local Supermarket every morning, but also assemble and deliver individual food hampers to the seven SRO hotels. We hope that our outreach work during this prolonged COVID-19 battle will touch the hearts of many residents in the neighbourhood, and at the same time provide them with the reassurance that they are not alone.

With the Continental Seniors Centre being closed, all in-person activities are halted. However, we aim to remain in touch with the existing members virtually either through email or phone in hopes that we would be able to provide them companionship through these difficult times.



SORTING OF FOOD FOR OUR FOOD BASKET PROGRAM



Downtown Eastside Project

At time of writing, the highways that connect Vancouver with the rest of Canada have been severed by floods and rains, preventing connections. How often do we take for granted these connections to other cities, other communities, and even other people? Moving into the holiday season, these roads become even more important to maintaining us physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Here in the Downtown Eastside, the NHP does the work of building these roads between people. Connecting the isolated to each other. For those who have been afflicted with crisis after crisis these connections are not only life-enriching but lifesaving. Over the past year we've continued to distribute food from last year, now having given over 1200 bags to seniors in need, allowing them to wait out this pandemic. We've also been able to start some limited socialization events so that seniors can see each other face to face. We're committed to filling the deep need for support in this neighborhood with our time, our energy, and our love. Please remember to support your community during this holiday season; it can be as simple as making coffee. Because no one deserves to be alone.



MEMBERS PARTICIPATING AT MOON FESTIVAL PARTY

Chinese Outreach Project

The low-income Chinese seniors in the DTES face numerous challenges during this lingering pandemic. Because of language and technology barriers, they had difficulty in making vaccination appointments. Recognizing this, we collaborated with other community agencies to advocate for this marginalized group. 1,800 vaccinations were administered at the six Vancouver Coastal Health pop-up clinics, where we provided language aid and culturally-appropriate care.

We also offered phone/online tax clinics and personalized service and, where possible, made home visits and organized COVID-safe activities. NHCOP is committed to provide practical help as well as emotional and mental support to this forgotten community.



SUPPORT VCH VACCINATION CLINIC AT LIGHTS UP CHINATOWN FESTIVAL



A SUMMER NEIGHBOURHOOD MINI CONCERT AT EAST PENDER AND GORE

Christmas is coming: Please help!



Due to the pandemic, we will not be able to host any gathering in Christmas. Your donation will not only enable us to purchase small gifts for shut in seniors but also provide support for all our programs.

THANKS TO OUR 2021 FUNDING PARTNERS:

City of Vancouver, Vancouver Coastal Health, The Province of British Columbia, United Way of the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, Face the World Foundation, Central City Foundation, Wheeler Family Foundation, and you - our loyal individual supporters.