



WHISTLER
COMMUNITY SERVICES
— SOCIETY —

MARCH 2021

SUPPORT US

Support For A Healthy Community



A Note From Our Executive Director

At Whistler Community Services Society, advocacy is a core value and has been central to our mission, vision and strategic planning. The past few months this value has been critical to WCSS and our teams response to the pandemic in our mountain town as we address the impact it has had on a social and economically vulnerable population. The programs which have been developed such as the food bank delivery system, temporary self-isolation sites, the electronic community assistance program and mini fridges installed in local schools to support food security initiatives have all been a response, but also acts of advocacy, to bring awareness to issues of poverty, hunger, challenges of high-density housing and food insecurity.

Although by the end of February, our organization and town started to see a decrease in COVID 19 cases and a reduction in some services specifically related to the pandemic, cases began to rise again by early March. Our staff were quickly back to multiple food deliveries a day, busy with in person food bank visits, an increase in calls for serious or in crisis mental health concerns, a rise in relationship violence and

challenges with landlord tenancy issues and high density housing scenarios. The challenges related to a lack of affordable housing have always been a concern in Whistler, but it has become incredibly clear the link to the impact this virus has on household and family systems when residents work in front line positions and live in high density housing.

It is also important to recognize the impact of this pandemic on our small mountain town, and the role WCSS has played this past year, has started to generate a need for action among our own staff to take care of each other in effort to continually care for our community. We are actively seeking ways to be sustainable with our current practices of care and support while still being innovative, creative and collaborative in what we can learn from this pandemic; while we continue our support in the future and for our towns recovery. We believe we can do this TOGETHER!



With Gratitude,
Jackie

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jackie', is displayed within a light gray rectangular box.

Thank You Volunteers!

Recently we had the privilege of sharing a (virtual) thank you dinner with our volunteer team - Thank you to the Fairmont Chateau Whistler for providing such a sumptuous meal!

As we move into the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded of how incredibly valuable our team of volunteers really is. Our volunteers work tirelessly at helping the community through many hours per month in our food security and outreach programs, social enterprises, and on our board of directors. We really could not do all the work we do as an organization without you.

We are eternally grateful for your dedication to giving back to our community. **THANK YOU!**



Concussion Support

Join us to learn more about community resources, education, and deliberate, targeted self-help strategies for persistent post-concussion symptoms. Our next session runs April 8 to May 13, 2021. Email dan@mywcsc.org to secure your spot.

[**More Information**](#)

Electronic Communication Assistance

WCSS Electronic Communication Assistance Program is designed to provide communication devices to Sea to Sky community members with identified barriers to accessing them. Cell phones and communication devices are designed to foster the opportunity for participants to access support from WCSS or other local service providers deemed beneficial to

maintain their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. Contact Outreach Services for more information.



[Contact Outreach](#)



Whistler Navigator

Get to know Whistler!

This digital handbook provides all the information one would ever need as a community member of Whistler.

[Download Whistler Navigator](#)

Whistler Community Services Society and Arts Whistler have partnered for ReachOut! Whistler – a campaign to raise awareness and funds for mental health and wellbeing programs, with the help of a beautiful locally designed enamel pin.

2020 was an exceptionally challenging year and Whistler Community Services' Outreach program has experienced a significant increase in individuals seeking assistance in the areas of mental health and emotional support. Similarly, throughout the pandemic, Arts Whistler saw an increased need for accessible and inclusive arts and culture activities that could help foster community spirit and belonging in a year of filled with uncertainty and stress



[**More on ReachOut! Whistler**](#)

2020 Stats At A Glance



40,000

servings of meals and snacks were distributed across **FIVE** local schools.



237
TONNES

of waste diverted at the **Re-Build-It Centre**

\$175,712

earned by the **Re-Build-It Centre** from bottle recycling



52,044 kg

of textiles recycled since reopening from COVID-19 in June.

1 tonne a day

of pre-loved goods collected at the **Re-Use-It Centre**. 89% stayed out of landfill.



5,792

Food Bank visits, of which **1,007** were for children.



5,062

Community member engagement through **WCSS Outreach staff**.

192

Tool Library Memberships



WCSS Statistics 2020



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Whistler Community Services Society provides inclusive support to build a resilient community. Following our values of *Trust, Respect, Inclusion, Advocacy, and Collaboration*; we aim to work with the community to deliver low barrier services for healthy living.

Considering leaving an estate gift to Whistler Community Services Society?

Learn more on how to do so [here](#).

Thank You



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Our mailing address is:

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