
CELEBRATING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

APRIL 27–MAY 3



Volunteers gather at the 2025
Appreciation Event

Thank you to our vital volunteers!

Duet bike riders, card players, flower arrangers, one-to-one visitors, music helpers, craft assistants, spiritual care supporters, bowlers, exercise participants, musicians, manicurists, walkers, bus helpers, pet therapy and the list goes on. You are all amazing. 20 years or 3 months—it's not the number of the years—it's that the volunteers are here. How lucky are we!

There are many worthy charities to support—and the volunteers chose us. How lucky are we!

It has been 5 years since hosting an in-person Volunteer Appreciation event. Knowing our volunteers were with us then and are still with us today makes everyday something to look forward to. How lucky are we!

FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Quick Christmas Recap

While the planning for Christmas 2025 is already in the works, we would like to take a moment and thank you for making 2024 an extra special event. At the event, themed as: ‘A Recipe for Christmas’, families and friends donated over \$50,000 to help support therapeutic programs. Love and giving were at the forefront! The month-long holiday celebration, organized by the Recreation Elves, was filled with visiting choirs, presents from Santa Claus, decorations galore and mince tarts. Below is a snapshot of the festivities. Extra special thanks to our volunteers—who helped with ... well everything! We also acknowledge the community spirit of Cossette, a local media company, that continues to hand-make personalized cards at Christmas for every resident.



Clockwise from top right:
The Recreation Team makes it happen
Santa greets his waiting crowd
127 gifts were handed out
Cards by Cossette

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Dressew Supply

We’d like to shine a spotlight on a special friend who not only supports the Yaletown House Foundation but is also a cornerstone of the local community for sewers, knitters, crafters, and creative makers. Dressew is the go-to destination for everyone’s big holiday needs—whether it’s Christmas, Easter, or Halloween. The store is packed with every notion imaginable (and a few you’d never think of), and it’s always bustling with shoppers on the hunt for that perfect magician’s wand, Santa suit, or Easter basket. The rolls of fabric, the aisles of buttons, ribbons, and zippers from top to bottom are endless. Also, endless are the helpful staff who know their stuff and are always skilled in helping you find what you need to create that perfect piece.

Yaletown House has been a beneficiary of Dressew’s generosity for over 30 years. Starting with Roger McKie, the store founder, and continuing with his son David at the helm after Roger retired. Along with Roger and David, we acknowledge and thank Joyce Wilson and Jessica Bowie who play a big role in the store’s success. Sadly, Roger passed away several years ago, but the Dressew team continues to be a valued friend to us.

Yaletown House calls Dressew Supply its Secret Santa—and while it is not exactly a secret anymore, it is time to remind our community, near and far, that Roger and David have provided funds to purchase individual Christmas gifts for Yaletown House residents for over 30 years—that’s about three thousand eight hundred and ten presents. A jolly total.

But Dressew Supply isn’t just our Santa Claus, they have been our Easter Bunny and our Funny Valentine—as well as our delivery person arriving with chocolates or gifts to mark special occasions. They have donated funds for resident programs and helped us purchase our wheelchair bus. They have encouraged other businesses to match and give donations. They have given us craft supplies like yarn and needles for the residents to learn to knit, and countless big and small decorations so events could be just a bit more special. But most importantly they have given us their friendship—and that is the greatest gift of all.

We thank David and Jessica for everything they give to us, the community and the hordes of crafty folks that rely on this Vancouver institution. A remarkable business operated by a remarkable family for 63 years and going strong today!



Dressew storefront on West Hastings Street in Vancouver in 2023.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Duet Bike

In the Spring of 2009, Yaletown House started a campaign to raise funds for a new mode of transportation—called the Duet Bike. We announced the donations received to-date and hoped to purchase our first bike within a year.

Little did we know that one of our valuable volunteers, Glen Paul, would read the story and immediately make a gift to us that enabled the purchase of a Duet Bike by that same summer. The gift was generous, kind and full of enthusiasm. Glen was our lead volunteer rider and trainer for many years. We purchased a second bike years later and in 2020, an Orion Bike was added that allows the rider to participate in cycling. While the Duet Bike has been well maintained thanks to our Recreation Team and volunteer riders, we are approaching the need to replace the 2009 bike. After 16 years of exciting rides, we are exploring purchasing a 2026 model Duet Bike.

One of our most popular programs, the Duet Bike allows our seniors to get out into the community, safely with a little extra fun. With the volunteer pedalling and the resident passenger in the front basket seat, the pair ride along the seawall, stop for a coffee or meet a 4-legged friend in the local dog park. To support this near year round activity, we hope to raise \$20,000 for the new modern Duet Bike by the end of the year so that spring 2026 is off to the right start.

Go to www.yaletown.org/donate to make a gift and propel our next ride.



Newsletter #43
Summer 2009



Another Duet Bike ride about to start.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Music Therapy: Welcome & Reintroduction

Rhyan Caven recently joined our team. She is a 2023 graduate from Victoria Conservatory at Capilano University. Rhyan works on Wednesdays and Thursdays offering music programs in afternoons & early evenings.

Mayumi Holbrook has been working here since 2011. She offers music programs four days a week on Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Both Rhyan and Mayumi are accredited Music Therapists.

If you'd like to support Music Therapy, we are seeking funding for professional piano tuning and for the purchase and refurbishment of musical instruments. To contribute, please visit www.yaletown.org/donate.



"With a song in their heart, Rhyan and Mayumi sing the praises of music therapy and look forward to connecting with residents, families and volunteers."

—Carol, Executive Director

Due to a significant reduction in BC Gaming Grants, which funds Horticulture Therapy and Spiritual Care, we continue to promote the value of these activities and work to maintain funding.

Horticulture Therapy

Horticulture is a popular program that helps residents discover a love of gardening or reconnect with a past favourite activity. From nurturing seeds to plants, growing vegetables, or arranging cut flowers, activities are designed to enrich each resident with a rewarding experience.



"Nothing makes me happier than waking up to a vase of flowers on my bedside table in the morning."

—Dhyani, resident

Spiritual Care

Spiritual Care is vital to the wellbeing of all residents, whether religious or not, our non-denominational programs focus on listening, caring and supporting each individual and their family during challenging times of health or personal crisis.

Donations in support of Horticulture Therapy and Spiritual Care services are always needed and welcomed. Go to www.yaletown.org/donate



"Church was a part of their generation, it is familiar. Music is spiritual, gives comfort. Singing makes us smile."

—Shelia, volunteer

FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Yaletown Lions Club

From their hallmark first event in 2008 to the upcoming June 2025 Dîner en blanc-themed gala, the Yaletown Lions have succeeded year after year to raise awareness and funds for Yaletown House and other local charities. Their signature galas have brought in over \$440,000 (not counting this year) for Yaletown House alone and funded countless worthy projects (see cloud) to improve the lives of our seniors.

From furniture to programs, gardens to technology, they deliver! They are our friends, our neighbours, our community. Thank you, Lions.



Memorial gifts

In lieu of sending flowers to the bereaved, families and friends may choose to make a memorial gift. An acknowledgment of the gift will be provided to the appropriate family member(s) and the donor will receive a tax receipt and thank you card.

The name of the resident is permanently placed on our Memorial Recognition Wall. Memorial Gifts help us support activities that directly benefit our residents. We would like to recognize the families and friends for their kind contribution in loving memory:

- Grant Harris

YES! COUNT ME IN

Ways to support Yaletown House

Donations can be made:

1. By cheque payable to Yaletown House Foundation
1099 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 5A8
2. Online at www.yaletown.org using CanadaHelps.
3. By phone 604 806-4210 using Visa/MC

All donations will receive a tax receipt for 100% of their gift and a thank you letter from the Executive Director. Thank you for contributing to the well-being of Yaletown House residents!

Charitable registration #89249 4444 RR0001.
All donations are tax deductible.

We respect your privacy and never disclose, trade, or share your personal information.

Please note, some photos were taken before the mask mandate, others after.

