



Charity Testimonials and Profiles

This document was created to help PECSF campaign volunteers such as communication teams, lead coordinators, canvassers and event planners to share the impact of BC Public Service employees' donations have on charities in their communities.

The PECSF HQ team encourages you to use the charity testimonials and profiles below in your communications (ministry/organization's website, eNews, emails, presentations, messages from executives, etc.).

If you are looking for inspiration on how to use the information below, we encourage you to check out our blog section on our [PECSF Community Connect](#).

Testimonials

These have been provided by charity volunteers and participants on their experiences with the organizations.

"Coming to the Rainbow Kitchen means that I will be warmly greeted and treated with dignity. I appreciate all of the donations from the community, and it is so nice to have a meal and maybe take a few groceries too. I love the friendly smiles and I am very grateful for all that you do. You Rock Rainbow Kitchen!" ~ [Rainbow Kitchen](#) (Capital Region)

"As a parent of an autistic son I really appreciate any events that are put on through Autism BC as it helps my son feel less alone with his different abilities. We really hope there will be more events especially with Christmas coming up that someone of his age (10) may attend physically to maybe connect with other autistic kiddos." ~ [Autism BC](#) (Cariboo Region)

"I love to use the Downtown Community Centre. It helps me keep my goals of sobriety and structure each day. Going to Every Step Counts program keeps my mind relaxed, brings me peace and gives me the ability to stay organized and punctual in my daily life. I also connected to other people trying to find housing and it makes me feel less alone in that process." ~ program participant of [Cool Aid](#) (Capital Region)

"Having a mentor and someone to just rely on that's outside your family is really important," says Radhika. She felt that it was an experience that truly supported her journey throughout high school and the challenges she had to face. ~ [Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland](#)



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“Living in Victoria has become unaffordable for many low-income seniors who are having to decide between paying for basic necessities or investing in personal safety. The SAFE Lifeline program has been extremely valuable in supporting local seniors who find themselves in this circumstance.” Kelly, Case Manager, Island Health about [Eldercare Foundation](#) (Capital Region)

“You give me community, and a sense of belonging. Connection is so vitally important to everyone, especially people with disabilities. These on-line groups and in-person events give us a sense of community, belonging and mutual support that are hard to quantify or measure. The shared information on issues of daily management of disability issues is incredibly informative.” ~ [Spinal Cord Injury BC](#) (Cariboo Region)

“The JA program was my way of finding out what exactly I wanted to do. It helped me step outside my comfort zone to share and communicate ideas with others, learn how to prioritize and be more organized, and create and run a business as I’ve always dreamed of doing.” ~ student of [Junior Achievement of British Columbia](#) (Fraser Valley)

“Looking Glass has been a huge asset to my recovery. It is so great to get support from people who have experience with EDs, genuinely care and have no connection to my 'real' life. The almost anonymous aspect of it allows me to truly open up to them! forever grateful for this forum.” [Looking Glass Foundation](#) (Capital Region)

“I enjoyed hearing the stories that the guests had to say because they made me actually think that mental health is real and not just something we talk about.” ~ student of [Stigma-Free Society](#) (Capital Region)

“I was really clueless about many things, and it was empowering to learn computer skills. Learning better computer skills was a great help to me. While I know basic things, many other fairly simple things evaded me. My tutor was patient and willing to let me practice. I was very happy with what I learned.” ~ learner (age 72) of [Victoria Literacy Connection Society](#) (Capital Region)



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Profiles

These examples contain information about a charity's mission, programs, and ways to address community issues.

The [Farmland Trust Society](#) is a recognized model for sustainable farming and food re-distribution in the Greater Victoria region, utilizing national award-winning certified pollinator-friendly and green gardening practices at the historic Newman Farm. Specifically, the FLT Society's agricultural stewardship work at Newman Farm is certified by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership for completing an environmental farm plan assessment, is a certified bee-friendly farm via Pollinator Partnership and is a certified wildlife-friendly habitat via the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

Helen Keller once wrote: "Blindness separates us from things, but deafness separates us from people". Through the generosity of BC Public Employees and the PECSF campaigns [Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre](#) helped hundreds of vulnerable low-income seniors access free hearing aids so they could be connected to those around them; to reduce their isolation; and to improve the quality of their lives. This year that generosity provided 184 individuals with 286 refurbished hearing aids, batteries and accessories, as low-income seniors in our region received access to free hearing health services resulting in individuals being safer in their homes and communities.

[Mustard Seed's](#) expansion of food rescue efficiency and efficacy. The Food Security Distribution Centre (FSDC) now diverts over 10,000 lbs of fresh, perishable food from the waste stream every day, redirecting it to individuals in need across the CRD. In partnership with 65+ agencies of the Food Share Network, this food positively impacts over 45,000 people per month. Over the past year, we have increased our capacity to rescue food by approximately 1,000 lbs. Through 2022 we rescued 2.6 million lbs of food, an increase of approximately 500,000 lbs from 2021. Based on Food Banks Canada's valuation of \$3.20/lb, this equates to a total of \$8.3 million in food rescued and redistributed throughout 2022. In 2022, we added 7 additional stores to our list of food rescue grocery partners.

[Saanich Volunteer Services Society](#) ~ Neighbours Helping Neighbours ~Wanda (anonymized)
Sometimes life just doesn't seem fair. Wanda was born with cerebral palsy, but this did not stop her from living a full life. She worked for the government, married, became a mom and then a grandmother. Her husband died in about 7 years ago and this sad event was followed by numerous health issues, including cancer treatments and various hospitalizations. Wanda has been a client since 2017. Since then, we have assisted her with over 50 medical drives, housekeeping, yard work and a Friendship Caller.

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Wanda describes our services as a 'life saver' for her. She says that she does not have enough words to describe what the program has done for her. She says because of the program she can do more. She would not be able to afford to take taxis to her appointments and because of her treatments, immunity, and physical pain she is not able to take the bus. Wanda describes her cleaner as 'amazing' and never wants to lose her. She has had two friendly callers and the one she has now she had really connected with. She says they have the 'best talks' and that her caller is hilarious and totally gets her dry sense of humour. This relationship has progressed to mutually beneficial as her friendly caller isn't able to get out much either, so they speak twice a week and have a good laugh about life. Wanda says it 'keeps her mental state in good order' as she is immune compromised and not able to get out and about as much as her social nature would like. Wanda calls the volunteer drivers 'angels' and appreciates the overall 'superb' attitude of the organization from the contact with the volunteer receptionist to every volunteer and house cleaner she encounters.

[Crisis Centre of British Columbia's](#) great new program [MindFlip](#) is an Innovative Mental Health Program for Youth. Skills and knowledge are the superpowers we need to help us tackle any of life's challenges. The Crisis Centre of BC is helping to ensure all youth have access to the mental health knowledge and tools necessary for them to be well and stay well by launching MindFlip: Brain Science Tools for Everyday Living. This free, online program provides youth with information and tools to learn how to manage difficult emotions by developing our ability to respond mindfully in challenging situations. MindFlip is a self-paced, youth-friendly online program with four core modules. Geared towards youth in late elementary and secondary school, topics include brain science and skills for mental fitness, emotional regulation and awareness of our thoughts and emotions, self-awareness and self-compassion, and mindful tools to deal with stress and life challenges. [MindFlip Intro Video](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the team at PECSF HQ at PECSF@gov.bc.ca. We would be happy to help you!