

NO: **R207**

COUNCIL DATE: **November 7, 2011**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **November 7, 2011**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development**

FILE: **4815-01**

SUBJECT: **Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society - Grants Awarded to Date**

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

BACKGROUND

The City of Surrey established the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society (the "Society") in 2007. The City involved a broad cross section of community members from multiple sectors, along with provincial and federal government partners, in developing the society and its governance structure. The creation of the Society and associated Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund represents a bold and innovative approach for maximizing the impact of the community's resources toward addressing homelessness in Surrey.

History of the Establishment of the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society

In early 2006, the Mayor appointed a Task Force focused on establishing a Housing and Homelessness Fund or other mechanism to raise and distribute funds to projects and programs to address homelessness in Surrey.

In July 2006, Council received a report from the Mayor's Task Force and approved, in principle, its recommendations to establish a Homelessness and Housing Fund within an existing Foundation and to use the money in the City's Affordable Housing Reserve to establish the new Fund (Corporate Report No. R176).

In September 2006, Council approved the appointment of an Interim Advisory Committee to work with City staff to undertake the necessary steps to set up the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund (Corporate Report No. R187). The major tasks for this Advisory Committee were to recommend a Foundation within which the Fund would be housed and an appropriate governance model for the society.

In June 2007, Council received a report from the Advisory Committee (Corporate Report No. R131) and approved:

- the establishment of the Society and of the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund;
- housing the Fund within the Vancity Community Foundation and the Society; and

- transferring the City of Surrey's Affordable Housing Reserve Fund, which amounted to approximately \$9 million to the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund.

The governance structure for the new Society, as outlined in its constitution, includes a board of directors to provide direction and guidance on all matters related to the administration, marketing, promotion and growth of the Fund, as well as provide direction to the Vancity Foundation on the disbursement of grants from the Fund. The Advisory Committee recommended that the board include:

- City Council (2 members);
- business and development interests (2 members);
- faith organizations (1 member);
- labour (1 member);
- non-profit or community service organizations (1 member); and
- interested, at-large members (between 4 and 6 members).

The report to Council stated that the Society would address homelessness and housing-related issues in Surrey by:

- raising monies and investing them wisely;
- providing a mechanism for private donors to make charitable donations;
- using existing funds to leverage private and senior government monies;
- facilitating collaborative partnerships; and
- distributing funds to projects and programs that assist or enable individuals to exit or avoid homelessness and to have stable housing.

DISCUSSION

The Society's vision is a Surrey in which "everyone has a home". The Society has established strategic goals to guide their activities and help them reach their vision. These are:

- Grant – reduce homelessness in Surrey by making strategic financial investments in programs, projects, and initiatives;
- Grow – increase the funds available for investing in community programs, projects and initiatives; and
- Lead - provide leadership and resources for programs, projects and initiatives addressing the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Surrey.

This report provides an update on the grants that have been awarded by the Society. Information on the Society's progress on its other two goals (grow and lead) is available at www.surreyhomelessnessandhousing.org.

Surrey Homeless and Housing Society Grants

Since the establishment of the Society in 2007, the Society has invested approximately \$1.7 million in projects and initiatives that support and strengthen projects and initiatives for addressing homelessness in Surrey.

Inaugural Grant – Maxine Wright Centre

To launch the Society's granting process in 2008, an inaugural, one-time grant of \$1 million was awarded to the Atira Women's Resource Society for their Maxine Wright Centre – a centre for high-risk pregnant women and women with new babies. This \$1 million grant represented the final funds needed by Atira to complete their \$17 million project.

Annual Grants Program

In 2009, the Society initiated their Annual Grants Program. The Program is taking a sustainable approach by awarding grants from the interest earnings on the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund (i.e., the Fund is treated as an endowment). The objective is to distribute approximately \$200,000 annually to projects that best demonstrate the potential to reduce homelessness and increase access to safe and affordable housing for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Surrey. The Society seeks to achieve a balance in its strategic investments between supporting well-established organizations and supporting emerging programs and innovation.

Responsive Grants Program

The Society has also established a Responsive Grants Program. These are special grants that can be made by the Board on an extemporaneous basis outside of the regular granting cycle. In general, these grants are awarded in an emergency, such as where the health and safety of Surrey residents is in jeopardy, there is a compelling opportunity that may be missed, or there is a significant opportunity to leverage other monies and the opportunity was not known in time for the regular annual granting cycle.

Grant Recipients in each of the Years from 2008 through 2011

Appendix I provides a list of the grants that have been awarded by the Society in each year since it was established; these years being 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. In this four-year period, the Society has awarded **23 grants totalling over \$1.7 million** to a variety of not for profit organizations for a wide range of projects and initiatives (i.e., registered charities). Grants have ranged from \$5,000 to \$1 million. In addition to the grants received from the Society, many of these projects and initiatives also received funding from the provincial and/or federal governments, businesses, and/or foundations.

The grants awarded by the Society have made a positive difference in Surrey through:

- responding to the unique needs of diverse homeless and at-risk populations by funding projects that target specific groups, including youth, women, single parent families, Aboriginal people, people with mental health and addictions issues, and people living in poverty;
- creating new housing units by supporting the development of new purpose-built housing facilities, as well as the purchase of existing housing that can be converted to housing for the homeless;
- maintaining existing housing units for homeless and at-risk populations by funding much-needed repairs and upgrades;


- providing operational funding for homelessness prevention projects, including pilot projects that test innovative models of intervention (such as the Surrey Rent Bank); and
- building capacity and promoting the coordination of services related to housing and homelessness (e.g. providing grants to the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force, the Peninsula Homelessness and Housing Task Force, Homeless Connect events and the Homeless Count).

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The grants provided by the Society assist the City in achieving the objectives of the Surrey Sustainability Charter; more particularly action item SC9: Adequate, Appropriate and Affordable Housing. Additionally, the approach being taken by the Society to treat the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund as an endowment fund and only use the interest earned on the fund for its annual grants programs will allow the grant programs to be sustainable over time.

CONCLUSION

The establishment of the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society in 2007 had demonstrated the City of Surrey's strong commitment to addressing homelessness. The City transferred over \$9 million as a start to building the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund, which is housed in the Vancity Community Foundation and overseen by the Board of the Society. Since 2008, the Society has awarded approximately \$1.7 million in grants to worthy projects throughout Surrey that address homelessness and those at risk of homelessness.



Jean Lamontagne
General Manager,
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Attachment:
Appendix I Grant Recipients 2008 – 2011



2011 Grant Recipients

BC Synod ELIC: \$15,000, Surrey Urban Mission Site Redevelopment

Surrey Urban Mission, a ministry of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, B.C. Synod, provides programs and services for neighbourhood kids, single moms, elderly and disabled residents, people who are currently homeless and those who are vulnerably housed as well as those with challenges related to addiction and mental illness.

A \$50,000 grant was provided to support a site redevelopment project that will include a new building that will make the best use of the land in providing services and affordable housing for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver: \$50,000, Re-zoning and Capital Improvement

Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver provides support services to some of society's most vulnerable populations – women, girls and children at-risk of involvement, involved in or affected by the justice system.

A \$50,000 grant was awarded to the Society for the purpose of supporting the re-zoning and capital improvement of a transitional house, which will increase the capacity of the women's addiction treatment program by adding 18 more beds.

Launching Pad Addiction Rehabilitation Society: \$12,500, New Roof

The Launching Pad Addiction Rehabilitation Society works to rehabilitate adult victims of substance abuse for re-entry into society as contributing citizens. To accomplish this, the Launching Pad manages and maintains an affordable residential facility for persons of low income to enable pursuit of a 12-step program of recovery and promote living skills.

A \$12,500 grant was awarded to repair a leaking roof on the above-referenced facility. The repair will prevent the loss of ten client beds over which the roof leaks and will provide enhanced shelter for the oncoming winter season.

Lu'ma Native Housing Society/First Funds Society: \$10,000, Community Voice Mail Project

Lu'ma Native Housing Society was created to provide affordable housing to Aboriginal families and individuals with low income.

A \$10,000 grant was awarded for a community voice mail project through which homeless people are provided with a local phone number with a personalized phone greeting message and voice mail service. This allows people to confidently apply for housing, employment, and access to health care and be in contact with family without the detriment of the poverty stigma.

Options Community Services Society: \$50,000, Hyland House Cloverdale Enhancement

Options Community Services Society is committed to empowering individuals, supporting families and promoting community health. To this end, Hyland House Cloverdale shelters individuals who are homeless or deemed 'at risk' of becoming homeless.

A \$50,000 grant was awarded to this shelter situated on approximately 3 acres in South Cloverdale. The program came into operation with the understanding that it would transition into a pet friendly shelter service and a transitional and long term housing program that also operates as a therapeutic farm for individuals needing to work on personal challenges. The longer term objective is to build 15-20 shelter spaces and 20 self-contained housing units that can accommodate pets.

Sources Community Resources Society: \$22,500, Surrey Homelessness & Housing Task Force

Sources Community Resources Society, which recently merged with Newton Advocacy Group Society which coordinated the activities of Surrey Homelessness & Housing Task Force, has been a source of support to individuals and families coping with isolation, addiction, poverty, disability, and conflict.

A \$22,500 grant was awarded to the Surrey Homelessness & Housing Task Force, which collaborates in a number of ways to improve the coordination of services for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and to raise public awareness about and involvement in solutions to homelessness in Surrey.

Sources Community Resources Society: \$30,000, Surrey Rent Bank

Sources Community Resources Society, which recently merged with Newton Advocacy Group Society, which operated the Surrey Rent Bank, has been a source of support to individuals and families coping with isolation, addiction, poverty, disability, and conflict.

A \$30,000 grant was awarded to the Surrey Rent Bank which prevents and reduces homelessness for low-income individuals and families by providing loans for rent, security deposits and utilities arrears, and financial literacy workshops.

White Rock South Surrey Community Foundation: \$5,000, Peninsula Homeless to Housing Roundtable

White Rock South Surrey Community Foundation aims to help individuals and groups make an ongoing difference in the Semiahmoo Peninsula area.

A \$5,000 grant was awarded to the Peninsula Homeless to Housing Roundtable. The Roundtable develops leadership capacity through on-going communication and provides advocacy opportunities for affordable housing on the Peninsula, including Homelessness Action Week activities.

Sources Community Resources Society: \$4,500, Peace Arch Free Dental Clinic (PAFDC)

Sources Community Resources Society has been a source of support to individuals and families coping with isolation, addiction, poverty, disability, and conflict. A \$4,500 grant was awarded to the Peace Arch Free Dental Clinic so free dental care can be accessed on Mondays and Fridays.



2010 Grant Recipients

C'wenengitel Aboriginal Society: \$10,000, Capital Improvement

A \$10,000 grant was awarded for a capital improvement project to facilitate building a sweat lodge. C'wenengitel supports homeless Aboriginal men to find housing, break the cycle of substance abuse and reintegrate into community. A sweat lodge is an integral part of the healing process and critical to the success of the men who access the services of C'wenengitel.

Kla How Eya: \$20,000, Aboriginal Housing Project

A \$20,000 grant was awarded to Kla How Eya's Aboriginal Housing Project to develop a plan to increase the number of housing units available to Aboriginal people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. This plan was intended to increase Kla How Eya's capacity to develop the knowledge, partnerships and ability to build, lease or renovate housing appropriate to their clients' needs.

The Launching Pad: \$14,750, Transition from Street to Community Living

A grant of \$14,750 was awarded to this pilot project to provide 52 workshops a year to newly housed, chronically homeless clients who are dealing with alcohol addiction. The project removes barriers to assist them in moving from living on the streets to living and working with others in a group setting.

Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness: \$10,000, Metro Vancouver Homelessness Count

A \$10,000 grant was awarded to the "Metro Vancouver 2011 Homelessness Count." This project enumerates all persons who are homeless in every community across Metro Vancouver. It is designed to provide detailed information to help policy-makers and service providers target programs and services to meet the diverse needs of the homeless population.

Newton Advocacy Group Society: \$30,000, Surrey Rent Bank

This \$30,000 grant continued the Society's assistance of the successful pilot project that provides loans for rent, security deposits and utilities arrears. Working to prevent and reduce homelessness for low-income individuals and families, the Surrey Rent Bank also provides financial literacy workshops for individuals who need support with budget planning and referrals to other supporting agencies.

South Fraser Community Services: \$132,000, Purchase of a Duplex

South Fraser Community Services has been working to house Surrey's homeless population for almost two decades. This grant of \$132,000 helped them purchase a duplex to provide round-the-clock support to some of the hardest people to keep off the streets: those with mental illness and drug addiction.

Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force: \$8,000, Surrey Connect Day

As part of Homelessness Action Week 2010, this grant of \$8,000 supported Surrey Connect Day, which brought together a broad range of services to one location where people who were experiencing homelessness can conveniently and directly access services. All Surrey-based agencies were invited to participate and volunteers were engaged from business and faith communities.



2009 Grant Recipients

Kla How Eya: \$40,000, ANYS Youth Transition Worker

This \$40,000 grant was for a project that supported 65 high-risk, unemployed male youth with enhanced services. This targeted approach reduced the average youth stay in temporary shelter beds.

Newton Advocacy Group Society: \$60,000, Surrey Rent Bank

This grant of \$60,000 was for a pilot project that provides loans for rent, security deposits and utilities to individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. In 2010, the Surrey Rent Bank received 72 applications and approved 25 loans totalling \$21,478.

The Society's grant helped leverage additional support from the Vancouver Foundation, The Co-operators, Envision Credit Union, Coast Capital Credit Union, and others.

Pacific Community Resources Society: \$30,000, Surrey Annex House

The Society's grant of \$30,000 allowed PCRS to rent a house and support a program that has provides at-risk youths with transitional, supported, semi-independent living. In addition, PCRS staff has met with City of Surrey officials and landlords to improve relationships between youth and landlords.

Surrey Urban Mission: \$50,000, Building Bridges to LIFE (Living Independently For Ever!)

The pilot project for which a \$50,000 grant was awarded is for recently homeless people and is focused on creating 'intentional friendships' between 26 individuals and community mentors who are actively supporting them to remain housed, regain confidence and feel valued in their community. In addition to assisting individuals and families with housing challenges, the project also provides a tangible way for Surrey volunteers to help build a more inclusive community.

Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force: \$5,000, Surrey Homeless Connect Day - a part of the Metro-wide Homelessness Action Week.

This \$5,000 grant supported the Surrey Homeless Connect Day during which over 335 people accessed services including haircuts, housing information, health services, pet care, foot care and food service.

YWCA: \$60,000, Alder Gardens

A \$60,000 grant was awarded to the YWCA Alder Gardens project, which will provide 36 new units of affordable housing for single mothers and their children. Alder Gardens is being developed as a community, offering support services to residents to help them build their economic independence and prevent future homelessness.



2008 Inaugural Grant

Atira Women's Resource Society: \$1 million, Maxxine Wright Centre

The Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society awarded a one-time grant of \$1 million to the Atira Women's Resource Society. This \$1 million grant provided Atira with the final funds needed to complete its \$17 million project in North Surrey.

The Maxxine Wright Centre provides services for at-risk women and girls who struggle with substance abuse, mental-health problems and violence. The Centre provides 24 self-contained units of transitional housing and 12 short term stay units for pregnant women and women with new babies. The development also includes a health clinic and childcare centre. The 8,000 square foot building is expected to house 200 people a year, with the health clinic serving another 5,000 individuals.

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