

News & Stories

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

A Day at the Races

Ten Sanctuary youth and four staff and volunteers headed up to Fast Times Go-Karting in Parksville for a day of racing, competition and a whole lot of fun! Nagore took home the win for the second year in a row, while everyone else battled it out for second, third, and honestly, just the glory of finishing without a major crash!

The fun started on the drive up, with the youth blasting tunes and the drive down was filled with discussions over who got the fastest lap and who beat who.



*Moment before the race begun at
Times Go-Karting in Parksville*

It was an awesome day of camaraderie, competition and making some great memories together!

BBQ, Baseball & Community

Sanctuary had a great day at the park with Andrew's Sober ball teams, providing a BBQ by donation during their baseball tournament. We raised over \$1,000 for Sanctuary while youth enjoyed the day, hanging out at the park and even playing their own Sanctuary game.

Andrew has done an amazing job of getting many of our youth involved with his team. A number of Sanctuary youth now play on the team throughout the week, giving them a chance to be part of something positive and to build relationships with a wider community.

What makes these teams so special is the number of players who have overcome addiction and are now giving back and encouraging others. It was a great opportunity for our youth to see people who have been through hard things, found a different path, and are now part of a team and a community. It was a fun day of baseball, food, laughter and connection and we're so grateful to Andrew and everyone who made it possible.



*Youth hanging out at the park
during the game*

The Raw Carrot Is Growing!

The Raw Carrot enterprise continues to make leaps forward! Andrea has secured our Island Health certification for use of the Pacific Christian elementary school kitchen, and we recently received a \$2,000 grant from Vancity that helped us purchase a much-needed freezer.

Youth are currently being onboarded, and we're so excited to see this project moving closer to becoming a reality. Our goal is not only to create a great product, but to create meaningful employment opportunities for youth in our community. We can't wait to see where this takes us!

Five Sanctuary youth clients have expressed interest in joining the project. Their enthusiasm reinforces our commitment to creating a supportive workplace where young people can build practical skills, confidence, and self-worth as they work toward leaving street life.

Your support is especially valuable during Raw Carrot's start-up phase as we establish our kitchen operations and prepare for regular sales. As a guide, \$30 covers the ingredients for one pot of soup, \$60 covers a day of kitchen rental, and \$65 covers one employee shift.

Thank you for helping us bring Raw Carrot to life, we look forward to sharing our progress as the project grows.

Someone to Talk To

We're really excited to share that Sanctuary now has a counsellor here every week. Kenda Reimer, who has led several of our staff training sessions, will now be at the centre every Wednesday as a certified counsellor, available to any youth who simply wants someone to talk to.



Kenda Reimer

Many of our youth have access to counselling and other supports, but sometimes the hardest part is actually getting there, making an appointment, finding transportation, or taking that first step. Having Kenda right here at Sanctuary means that when a youth is having a hard day or just needs someone to listen, support is close by.

Sometimes having a safe person who will simply listen can make a bigger difference than we realize. We're so grateful to Kenda for being willing to walk alongside our youth, and we're really looking forward to seeing the difference this will make in their lives.

Volunteer of the Month



Fiona

Hello, my name is Fiona. I'm 23 years old and currently working as a bank teller.

I was first introduced to the centre by Andy, who has been a longtime volunteer. I've been volunteering at the centre for almost a year now, and I'm so grateful to have met so many lovely people, many of whom have dedicated their time and lives to helping youth who are struggling. I enjoy playing UNO and Blokus with Sanctuary youth and my favourite memory with Sanctuary was definitely the Murder Mystery Gala. It was so great to see the community come together, all dressed up and having fun.

I look forward to making many more memories with Sanctuary!

Volunteers Needed

Sanctuary is looking for volunteers to make a difference on Sundays and other days, if you are interested, contact darinesanctuaryyouth.org to get involved.

Ride for Refuge — We Need You!



Sanctuary Youth Centre needs riders, walkers, volunteers, and supporters to join us for Ride for Refuge on **Saturday, October 3, 2026!**

Ride for Refuge is a fun, family-friendly fundraising event that brings communities together to support organizations helping people find hope, safety, and freedom. This year, we're inviting our Sanctuary community to get involved and help us make every kilometre count.

You don't need to be a serious cyclist or an experienced walker. Come with your family, bring a friend, volunteer, or simply support someone who is participating. There's a place for everyone!

Every rider, walker, volunteer, and donation helps Sanctuary continue providing youth in our community with a safe and welcoming place, meals, meaningful relationships, and the support they need.

Saturday, October 3, 2026

We need you! Join Team Sanctuary and help us RIDE for our youth.

Register for Ride for Refuge

<https://rideforrefuge.org/location/victoria>



sanctuary youth centre

IMAGINING A FUTURE WHERE ALL YOUTH LEAD HEALTHY AND FULFILLING LIVES