

News & Stories

March 2026 Edition

F E B R U A R Y F U N

Youth felt the love at Sanctuary this February as we celebrated together in a special way. Thanks to the generosity of our community partners, every young person who came through our doors—guys and gals alike—received a rose donated by Eurosa Farms in Brentwood Bay and delicious macarons donated by Bon Macaron in downtown Victoria.



The celebration included a fun game of “Match the Famous Couples Throughout History,” where youth competed for gift card prizes while sharing plenty of laughs. To make the day even sweeter, everyone also enjoyed beautifully decorated Valentine’s cookies made by one of our incredible volunteer bakers who faithfully donates treats each month.



The fun didn’t stop there. Thanks to the City of Victoria, eight youth had the opportunity to go skating at the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre, complete with free passes and skate rentals. For many, it was a chance to try something new, spend time with friends, and enjoy a memorable winter activity together.

Moments like these remind us how powerful simple acts of kindness and community support can be in creating joyful experiences for the youth we serve.



“It was Pearson’s first time ever skating, and he did really well—he didn’t fall once!”

UPCOMING FUNDRAISER EVENT

SANCTUARY PRESENTS
MURDER MYSTERY
 DESSERT NIGHT

Step Back to the Roaring '20s & '30s!
Friday, May 22nd
7:00 PM
 Lambrick Park Church
\$50 Per Ticket
 Solve the Mystery • Enjoy Decadent Desserts • Vintage Attire Encouraged!

Save the Date!

Murder Mystery Dessert Night Fundraiser

Step back in time for an evening of mystery, desserts, and fun with a 1920s–1930s themed Murder Mystery Night.

Guests will work together to solve a thrilling mystery while enjoying delicious desserts and great company. Feel free to embrace the spirit of the era with vintage-inspired attire as we gather to support the youth at Sanctuary. More details coming soon!



WORK EXPERIENCE “ROCK STAR”

For the past year, Logan Guest has been completing a Work Experience class through SJ Burnside, and during that time he has become a familiar and valued part of the Sanctuary community.

Logan has gone above and beyond in helping keep the centre running smoothly. Whether organizing donations, sorting and storing food, folding clothes, or helping clean both the centre and the surrounding grounds, Logan has consistently shown a willingness to jump in wherever help is needed to keep Sanctuary safe and welcoming for youth, staff, and volunteers.



Some days have required some serious muscle too! Darin estimates that during one project he and Logan moved a literal ton of rocks together. Despite the hard work, Logan is known for always having a smile on his face and bringing a positive attitude to every task.

When Logan was deciding what type of work he wanted to pursue, he kept coming back to a memorable experience building a cart with Darin. It became clear that the kind of hands-on work and teamwork he experienced at Sanctuary was exactly what he was hoping to find. In many ways, though, it wasn't just the work itself—it was the people and the sense of community that made Sanctuary the place he wanted to be.

As Logan prepares to complete his Work Experience class, he reflects on a year he has truly enjoyed. The Sanctuary staff are incredibly grateful for all the help he has given over the past year and are hopeful that Logan will find a way to remain connected as part of the Sanctuary team in the future.

BUILDING SKILLS TO SUPPORT YOUTH

Sanctuary is often filled with laughter, games, and new experiences for the youth who walk through our doors. But behind those moments of fun is a deeper reality: many of the young people we serve are navigating significant challenges, including homelessness, addiction, and mental health struggles.

Because of this, it is essential that our staff and volunteers feel equipped to respond with care, wisdom, and compassion.

We are grateful to Kenda Reimer (yes—Darin's sister-in-law!) for helping provide valuable in-person training for our team. Originally from Saskatchewan, Kenda has pastored in several churches and holds a Master of Divinity with a focus on counselling. She now works as a spiritual director, helping people discover a deeper sense of God's love and grow in their faith regardless of the challenges they face.

Last November, Kenda led a meaningful training session for our team on Healthy Boundaries and Compassion, equipping staff and volunteers with practical tools for caring for youth while maintaining healthy personal limits.

This month, we are excited to welcome her back to lead another session titled "Conversations Around Anxiety and Depression."

KENDA'S STORY CONTINUES...



Kenda Reimer

We are deeply thankful for the time, insight, and wisdom Kenda shares with our team as we continue learning how to better support the youth who rely on Sanctuary as a safe and welcoming place.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SANCTUARY

Everything that happens at Sanctuary—from fun celebrations and meaningful training to opportunities like Logan's work experience, is made possible because of the generosity and support of our community.

Your encouragement, prayers, volunteering, and financial support allow us to continue creating a safe place where youth can belong, grow, and find hope.

Thank you for being part of the Sanctuary story.

sanctuary youth centre

IMAGINING A FUTURE WHERE ALL YOUTH LEAD HEALTHY AND FULFILLING LIVES