

# SANCTUARY YOUTH CENTRE NEWS & STORIES



AUGUST 2025

## Go-Karting, Girls' Night, and Beach Days—Oh My!

It's been a fun-filled summer at Sanctuary! From high-speed laps in Parksville to quiet moments of creativity, our youth have been soaking up every opportunity.

The girls enjoyed a relaxed and meaningful evening making appetizers, painting rocks, and just hanging out together. Another group spent the day at Banfield Park on the Gorge—swimming, canoeing, and paddleboarding in the sunshine. And of course, we had an unforgettable day of Go-Karting up island—full of laughter, speed, and friendly competition!



## Ride for Refuge: Join the Movement for Youth

This fall, Sanctuary Youth Centre is riding to raise \$55,000 for youth facing hurt, hunger, and homelessness—and we need your help! Join us on Saturday, October 4th for the Ride for Refuge—a fun, family-friendly event supporting Sanctuary Youth Centre, a place where youth are seen, heard, and valued during some of the most difficult seasons of their lives. You don't have to be a walker or cyclist! You can volunteer on the day of the event, ride, walk, donate, or rally a team with your friends or coworkers. Every dollar raised helps keep Sanctuary's doors open and the lights on for young people who need it most.

**Sign up, donate, or learn more at:**

**Ride for Refuge**

**Let's ride for youth who need to know  
they're not alone.**



**walk/ride + fundraiser**  
**october 4, 2025**  
**ride for refuge**

# Volunteer of the Month - Andrew Blanchard

An amazing cook with a gift for bringing youth together through food and baseball, Andrew is making a lasting impact. Every week, he asks different youth what they'd like him to make next, and he's filled many happy bellies with lasagna, burritos, shepherd's pie, kabobs, Greek food, African dishes, and even escargot!

Beyond the kitchen, Andrew has introduced several youth to a sober baseball league that plays on Sundays. "Baseball gave me an opportunity to try something different and another productive activity to do," says Ash.

Andrew's heart, sense of humor, and kindness shine through in everything he does—whether he's on the field or behind the stove.

After working full time for 42 years as stamp and coin dealer, Andrew has finally found the time to reconnect with his passion to volunteer. Andrew spent over a decade volunteering at Our Place and as a mentor for individuals in the Federal Corrections system.

**Thanks Andrew for the time and effort you give to our Sanctuary youth!**



**Fun fact:**  
July 2025  
attendance is  
up 44%  
compared to  
last July.

**Thank you**  
to the St Patrick's  
Women's League  
for their generous  
donation this  
month!

## Help Us Explore a Social Enterprise Opportunity!

Sanctuary Youth Centre has been prayerfully exploring the idea of launching a social enterprise to create meaningful employment for individuals facing marginalization—whether due to health challenges or developmental disabilities. In May, an exciting opportunity came to our Board: partnering with The Raw Carrot ([www.therawcarrot.com](http://www.therawcarrot.com)), a faith-based organization that employs marginalized individuals to cook, package, and sell gourmet soup. We're now conducting a feasibility study to see how this initiative could align with Sanctuary's mission.

### We'd love your input to help guide this next step:

- Would you be interested in volunteering to support this initiative?
- Would you consider purchasing soup from Sanctuary?
- If yes, how often might you buy it?

The study runs through summer 2025. Please send responses to Andrea DraijerStadt [adraijerstadt@gmail.com](mailto:adraijerstadt@gmail.com), or fill out the short survey here:

[Raw Carrot Survey](#)



**Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful impact with us!**