

News & Stories

October 2026 Edition

Celebrating Florence



Florence

At 86 years old, Florence Davis has been a special part of Sanctuary for many years, and we are so grateful for the impact she has had on our youth.

Florence grew up right here in Victoria and has fond memories of riding her horse around Mount Douglas Park as a young girl. She has a lively and loving family and enjoys spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Florence's upbeat personality, big smile, and amazing cooking have brought so much warmth to Sanctuary. She believes there is something special about a home-cooked meal, especially for youth who may not always have that experience. Her meatloaf, chicken, oh-so-soft buns, and delicious apple crisp gave us a reason to gather around the table, enjoy a good meal, and most importantly, enjoy great conversation and connection.

Florence has also made countless blankets for young moms and their babies. She believes that "actions speak louder than words," and she has certainly lived that out through the many ways she has cared for others.

Florence has decided to retire from her role as a meal provider at Sanctuary, and while we are very sad to see her step away, we are incredibly thankful for the years she has given us. **Florence, thank you for every meal, every blanket, every smile, and every moment around the table. You have made a difference in the lives of so many young people, and you will always be a special part of the Sanctuary family.**

Outings in the Sanctuary Van

The Sanctuary van has been busy! We've had some fun getting youth out of the centre and enjoying some of the great spots around Victoria.

Eight youth, staff, and volunteers headed to Goldstream Park for an evening of hotdogs and s'mores around the campfire. Construction and delays caused by an accident involving other vehicles made for a longer-than-expected drive. Thankfully, our van wasn't involved! We had some good tunes to keep us entertained. Bohemian Rhapsody was a highlight, complete with some pretty serious headbanging! (Thankfully, not from the driver!)

We also braved a very windy day at the Breakwater. The wind and cold eventually won, so we didn't make it too far, but we gave it our best shot. We finished the outing with ice cream and treats at Beacon Drive-In, which made the cold walk worth it!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The Centre is looking for individuals who want to make a difference by volunteering on Sundays and possibly other days as well. If you are interested in getting involved and giving back, please contact:
darine@sanctuaryyouth.org

SAFETY AT THE RAW CARROT

"Safety can mean many things. In our supportive-employment Raw Carrot kitchen, it means choosing our words with care, working together, laughing often, offering gentle feedback, and staying flexible in our roles. We knew we were getting it right when one employee said, "I feel safe here."

We are so proud of Ash, who took the lead on our first batch of Potato Bacon Chowder—carefully frying the bacon, sweating the vegetables, and making a roux for the first time in his life. While delicious soup is the product, we are joyfully discovering the real outcome is dignity and confidence." Andrea Draijer



Ride for Refuge

This year's Ride for Refuge at Highway Christian Fellowship was a huge success! We had wonderful weather, making the day even more enjoyable.

Together, we raised an incredible \$38,817, with 9 teams, 77 participants, 298 donors, 11 sponsors, and 37 volunteers! And we're not finished yet! Donations will continue to be accepted until October 30.



Riders getting ready to start

Furthermore, we had a bit of a reunion of sorts. While it was Tracy's last day with us as an organization we had a number of returning staff and volunteers help us with the day. Including but not limited to Rowena Brown, Rebecca Chu, Lauren Pederson, and Yoghini Kandasamy.

To add we also served three types of Raw Carrot soups. A mean "Flying Noodle Soup", Beef Barley and a signature Carrot Soup.

We are so thankful to all who participated and all those who behind the scenes donated to our cause. Together we will be able to continue to address the many needs among youth in our region.

A big shout out to our corporate sponsors who include Kia Victoria, Outlook Project Management, Kinetic Construction, Alley Kat Signs, Simply Pure Water, Country Grocer, Portofino Bakery, Level Ground Coffee Roasters, Bullet Security, Destined Home Realty, and CS Chan Wonton and Dumplings.



An example of the Raw Carrot Soup we served



Three generations of Rheems Family



Thank you to our volunteers!

NEW HOURS AT SANCTUARY!

We've changed our hours! Sanctuary Youth Centre is now open from **4:00 PM to 8:00 PM instead of 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM**. Same welcoming space, same great community, just a little later in the day. Help us spread the word!

HELP US KEEP YOUTH WARM THIS SEASON!

We're especially looking for:

- Warm jackets and sweaters
- Mittens and gloves
- Toques and warm hats
- Warm socks
- Hand warmers

For many of the youth who visit Sanctuary, having access to warm, dry clothing can make a real difference during the colder months. Something as simple as a fresh pair of socks or a warm jacket can bring comfort and show someone that their community cares.

If you have clean, gently used warm clothing or new winter essentials you'd like to share, we would be grateful for your support.

Let's work together to make sure our youth feel warm, cared for, and supported this fall and winter!

Thank you for continuing to be part of the Sanctuary family. Your generosity helps make our Centre a place of hope, connection, and belonging.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SANCTUARY

Everything that happens at Sanctuary—from fun celebrations and meaningful training to opportunities like supportive employment by the Raw Carrot at Sanctuary is made possible because of the generosity and support of our community.

sanctuary youth centre

IMAGINING A FUTURE WHERE ALL YOUTH LEAD HEALTHY AND FULFILLING LIVES