

News & Stories

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

Ministry community BBQ

Sanctuary Youth Centre participated in a community coalition BBQ that brought together numerous Christian street ministry organizations from across the community. Other participating ministries included Lions Pride, The Justice Van, Union Gospel Mission, The Mustard Seed, Threshold Ministries, and Youth for Christ.

Together, the ministries provided hot dogs, wraps, chips, and plenty of other treats to distribute to people experiencing homelessness and addiction. In addition to providing food, volunteers offered prayer and Bibles to those who were interested, creating opportunities for encouragement, connection, and conversation.



With sunshine, music, great food, and a shared desire to serve the community, the day was a wonderful expression of compassion, unity, and faith in action.

Paintball Adventure



Six Sanctuary youth, along with a few brave staff and volunteers, had an absolute blast playing paintball at TNT Paintball in Metchosin. The day was filled with fierce competition, plenty of strategy, and, let's be honest, a few moments of questioning why we had willingly signed up to get shot with paint!

Teams took cover behind old cars, hid out in empty shacks, and worked together to outsmart their opponents. There was plenty of running, ducking, hiding, and the occasional dramatic retreat when the paintballs started flying!

Beyond the fun, it was a great team-building experience and gave youth the opportunity to participate in an activity they might not otherwise have access to. It was a memorable day filled with laughter, competition, and a few colourful reminders that bravery sometimes comes with bruises!

Raw Carrot Update



Raw Carrot at Sanctuary is gaining momentum. This summer, we submitted our Island Health food service operating permit application, welcomed our first customer, and began purchasing essential kitchen supplies with early support from our online fundraising campaign.

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.



Jules - our International Practicum Student

Hi! My name is Jules Munz. I am a 24-year-old volunteer from Zug, Switzerland. Back home, I am entering my final year of studies to become a primary school teacher. I also volunteer on the board of a grief counseling organization, where we work to spread awareness about the importance of grief counseling for children. When I'm not studying or working, I play rugby for Rugby Club Zug.



Jules Teaching Boxing

While on holiday in Greece, I was lucky enough to meet my beautiful girlfriend, Clara, who happens to be from Victoria. Through Clara's grandmother, Betty, I learned about Sanctuary. As I write this, I have already been volunteering at the centre for three weeks and sadly have only one week left to help at such an important place. My favourite part about Sanctuary is the genuine encounters you have with the youth and the relationships that are built and maintained. I believe that a place like this is more valuable to struggling youth than almost any other form of help out there. With the amazing staff and volunteers at the centre, I can only see it growing and doing even more good.

One of my favourite memories of this trip has been getting to know Clara's family and friends. Beyond that, I have loved getting to know the community, and I've found helping out as much as I can to be incredibly enjoyable. I will miss Sanctuary, and to be honest, I don't really want to leave.

I will be back!

A New Chapter for Tracy



It is with mixed feelings we have to announce that our dear staff Tracy Lemke will be leaving her role at Sanctuary Youth Centre. Her final day with us will be October 4th or until we are able to find a suitable replacement. Would you please pray for us as we undergo a search for a new staff? Tracy's plans are to fill a much needed role at the Haven Pregnancy Support Clinic where she will be supporting expectant or young mothers in their pregnancy.

We will miss the passion and enthusiasm which she brings to her job every day. She certainly contributed not only to the lives of youth she worked with but the staff, volunteers and Cornerstone Youth Society at large.

Darin Reimer, Exec. Director

Volunteers Needed

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

Ride for Refuge is Back!



Get those bikes ready and lace up those walking shoes because Ride for Refuge is **coming back on Saturday, October 3, 2026!**

The RIDE is a fun, family-friendly fundraising ride and walk that brings communities together across Canada in support of local charities helping people find **hope, safety, and freedom.**

And once again, Sanctuary Youth Centre is excited to be part of it! Whether you're a serious cyclist, a casual walker, or simply looking for a great way to spend a Saturday with family and friends, there's a place for you on our team. Every kilometre travelled and every dollar raised helps Sanctuary continue creating a safe, welcoming place where youth can find connection, encouragement, and support.

So, who's coming along for the RIDE?

17 Saturday, October 3, 2026

Register, join our team, or support a rider today. Let's make this year's RIDE one to remember!

Website:

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



sanctuary youth centre

IMAGINING A FUTURE WHERE ALL YOUTH LEAD HEALTHY AND FULFILLING LIVES