



About Coast Mental Health Society

Coast Mental Health is a non-profit organization established in 1974 and accredited with the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation. Coast improves the lives of people with a mental illness by providing practical and pragmatic help such as housing, jobs, rehabilitative social and recreational opportunities, food, clothing and basic life skills training.

Coast provides housing and support to people with mental illnesses and other challenges. Currently, Coast provides a broad array of services for over 3,000 people per year of which 700 people live in over 30 Coast-managed housing sites, 5 of which are on the West side of Vancouver. Coast has learned a great deal from its clients and neighbours and through its decades of service.

Coast is BC's largest provider of housing, employment, community and emotional support for people with mental illness, by providing:

- Services to over 1,000 people with mental illness each day
- Housing for approximately 700 people
- Employment preparation and assistance with finding jobs
- Financial trust programs for 350 clients

Coast currently provides 600 units of supported housing, 110 beds in 24-hour residential programs and 41 beds in two cottages.

About St. George's Place Society

St. George's Place Society was established in 1994 as a partnership between the Parish of St. George and the B.C. Rehabilitation Foundation. The Society was formed to build affordable housing for people with disabilities and families on land owned by the church and seeks opportunities, in partnership with community organizations, to provide affordable and accessible housing.

St. George's Place opened in 1999 providing 19 units of affordable family housing, including wheelchair accessible housing for individuals with disabilities. The building, located at 14th and Laurel, also provides a place of worship for the congregation of St. George's Anglican Church. Two of the units are designated as transition units for patients being discharged from rehabilitation and are managed in partnership with the Health and Home Care Society of B.C.

About Yaffa Housing Society

Yaffa Housing Society was established in 2001 to provide a centre for mental health education, recreation and support within the Jewish community and also provide supportive housing opportunities that would maximize an individual resident's potential, growth, personal fulfilment and independence.

Since 2001 Yaffa has been successfully operating Yaffa House, in partnership with Coast Mental Health Society. Yaffa House is a kosher resident group home in South Vancouver for five adult males with psychological and developmental disabilities.

Program and Support Services for 3212 Dunbar Street

Coast Mental Health Society will provide a combination of housing and support services at 3212 Dunbar Street. Tenants will be selected through a referral system set up by BC Housing, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and Coast. Priority will be given to low-income people, people with disabilities and individuals with mental health issues, who currently reside in the Dunbar, West Point Grey and Kitsilano areas, or whose origins were these communities.

Coast will manage the 51-unit apartment building in a manner that will exemplify its mission and values and enhance the neighborhood. The building is designed as a “green building” to LEED Gold standards.¹ There will be two operating partners on this project, St. Georges Place Society and Yaffa Housing Society. Features of the proposed development include:

- Approximately 4,000 sq. ft. of leaseable ground floor retail space owned by the City of Vancouver
- 47 small self-contained studio residential units, approximately 350+/- sq.ft.
- 4 wheelchair accessible units of approximately 510 sq. ft.
- Various common amenities including a kitchen, dining room, a lounge, meeting rooms, offices and other spaces designed to serve the tenants’ program and leisure needs
- Underground parking and storage facilities

Coast will operate within a framework of psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery, which is congruent with best practices in housing services delivery. The programming will include:

- Meal program
- Group and life skill programs
- Community based and community building programs
- Assistance with medication
- Peer support and volunteer programs
- Employment preparation and support
- Staff on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Manager and property on call system

For more information, contact:

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¹ *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)*
<http://www.cagbc.org/leed/initiative/index.htm>