



OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES  
ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

# A Community of Helping Hands

*A Year in Review*

**Collaboration,  
Connection, & Data  
Collection**

**Financial Trends  
and Reports**

**Mentorship, Growth,  
and Development**



*It is with the utmost gratitude that Oak Bay Volunteer Services operates on the unceded lands cared for by the WSÁNEĆ (Saanich), lə́kʷəŋən (Songhees), and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) peoples of the Coast Salish Nation.*

# Supporter *Shout-out*

PROUD SUPPORTER SINCE 1977

OAK BAY HAS BEEN A STRONG ADVOCATE FOR OBVS SINCE THE BEGINNING. IN ADDITION TO THEIR SUPPORT THROUGH VOLUNTEERING AND YEARLY COMMUNITY GRANTS, THEY GENEROUSLY OFFER OFFICE SPACE AS AN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION.

DISTRICT OF

OAK  BAY

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR TIRELESS  
SUPPORT!**

# Oak Bay Volunteer Services

## Mission

Reducing isolation, increasing community connections, and bolstering the capacity to live independently for all who seek it through the provision of programs and services centered around the development of strong relationships and lasting human connections.

## Vision

Empowering individuals to thrive in a connected community where everyone has the opportunity to experience the freedom of independence, enriched by meaningful relationships and robust support networks that foster belonging, resilience, and collective growth.

## Values

- Inclusive and approachable
- Respectful and compassionate
- Proactive and responsive
- Collaborative and cooperative
- Dependable and accountable

## About Our Staff

### Executive Director

Kara Udell

### Outreach and Services Coordinator

Anna Mackay

### Community Connector Program Director

Emma Goulding

### Volunteer Coordinator

Ruth Platts

### Administrative Coordinator

Jaimie Sumner

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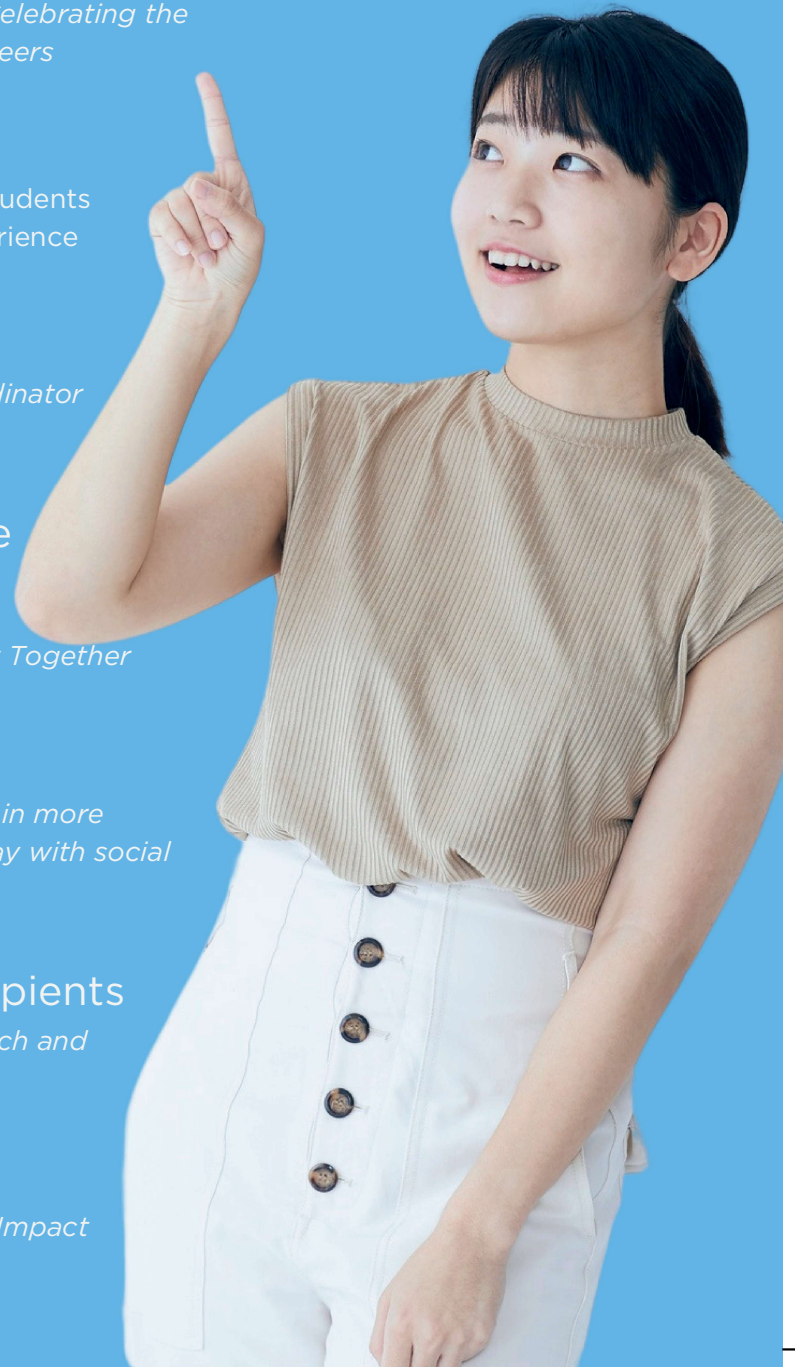
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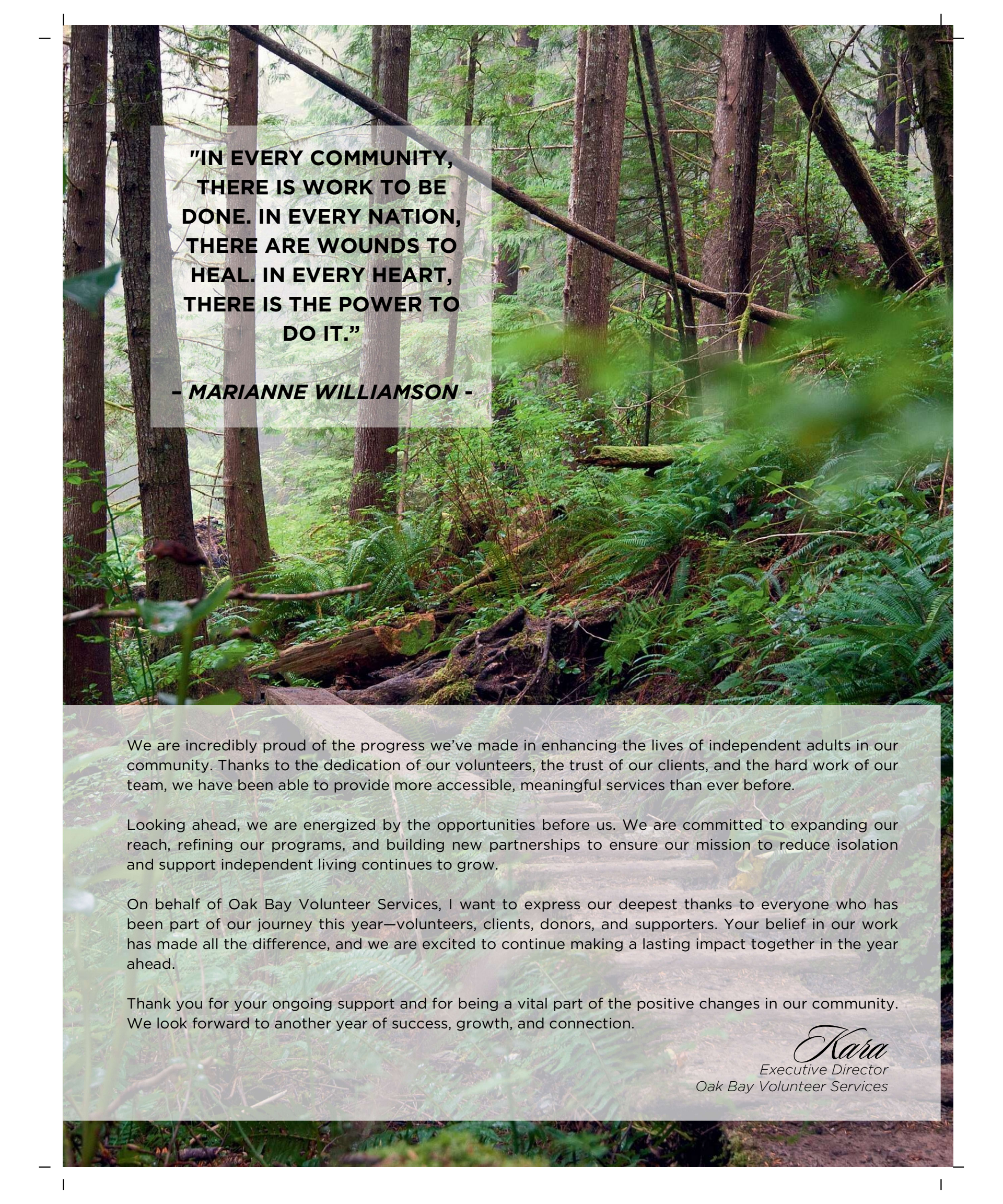


# A LETTER FROM OUR *Executive Director*

As we begin this new year, I am filled with pride and excitement for what lies ahead. Reflecting on the past year, I am grateful for the incredible growth, opportunity, and meaningful connections we have experienced. It has been a privilege to continue leading Oak Bay Volunteer Services, and I deeply appreciate the trust and support you have shown us.

Your belief in our mission has been the driving force behind all that we've accomplished. Without your unwavering commitment, none of our achievements would have been possible. I am truly humbled by the impact of your contributions, which allow us to continue making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

This past year has been one of positive change, connection, and growth. From welcoming many new clients to the success of our robotic companion pet program, it has been a year of deepening relationships and expanding our reach. Our companionship services have flourished, and the partnerships we've built have further enabled us to extend our impact across Oak Bay.



**"IN EVERY COMMUNITY,  
THERE IS WORK TO BE  
DONE. IN EVERY NATION,  
THERE ARE WOUNDS TO  
HEAL. IN EVERY HEART,  
THERE IS THE POWER TO  
DO IT."**

**- MARIANNE WILLIAMSON -**

We are incredibly proud of the progress we've made in enhancing the lives of independent adults in our community. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, the trust of our clients, and the hard work of our team, we have been able to provide more accessible, meaningful services than ever before.

Looking ahead, we are energized by the opportunities before us. We are committed to expanding our reach, refining our programs, and building new partnerships to ensure our mission to reduce isolation and support independent living continues to grow.

On behalf of Oak Bay Volunteer Services, I want to express our deepest thanks to everyone who has been part of our journey this year—volunteers, clients, donors, and supporters. Your belief in our work has made all the difference, and we are excited to continue making a lasting impact together in the year ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for being a vital part of the positive changes in our community. We look forward to another year of success, growth, and connection.

*Kara*  
Executive Director  
Oak Bay Volunteer Services

# Community *Engagement*



Thanks to the generous support of United Way Southern Vancouver Island and The Victoria Foundation, we were able to launch a Silent Disco program! By offering an inclusive space where attendees can enjoy personalized music through wireless headphones, we've fostered deeper social connections while minimizing sensory overload. Research shows that synchronized movement, like dancing, not only strengthens social bonds but also boosts mental well-being by releasing endorphins. Silent discos have become a joyful, healthy outlet for physical exercise, promoting heart health and overall fitness. The positive impact on participants has been profound, enhancing both emotional and physical well-being.

**From improved well-being to stronger connections, our programs empower clients, providing meaningful support that enhances independence, health, and a sense of community.**



Our robotic companion pet program, generously funded by the Eldercare Foundation, continues to thrive, offering life-like cats and dogs to older adults throughout Oak Bay. These remarkable pets respond to touch and move similarly to real animals, providing comfort and companionship without the challenges of traditional pet ownership, such as cleanup, pet-friendly spaces, and the cost of care. The program has made a significant impact on our community, with several participants and their robotic pets even being featured in an upcoming documentary by Milena Salazar. We are thrilled to see this story come to life in 2026, showcasing the power of innovation and companionship in enhancing the lives of older adults.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONTINUED



OAK BAY TEA PARTY PARADE

We had a blast participating in the Oak Bay Tea Party Parade this year! Our team showed up in full force, sporting bold red and blue shirts, and many of us leaning into the creative, dressing as the services we provide. Yuka toted a cardboard car, while Kara and Luis donned Mad Hatter outfits, ready for a fun tea visit. It was a vibrant and lively way to showcase our community spirit and connect with neighbors in a joyful, festive atmosphere!



HARBOURCATS 50/50

Last summer, OBVS proudly manned the 50/50 booth at a HarbourCats game, supporting the HarbourCats Foundation while having fun at the ballpark! Our volunteers went above and beyond, with each receiving free access to the game as a thank-you for their help. Thanks to their efforts, OBVS received a generous \$1,159.41 from the 50/50 pot, which will directly support our community programs. It was a win-win for everyone involved!



OAK BAY NIGHT MARKETS

We continued a beloved tradition at the Oak Bay Night Markets last summer, joining the vibrant atmosphere on the second Wednesday of each month. Our staff and volunteer team held down the fort at our booth, engaging with residents about our services and how they can get involved. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community, share what OBVS does, and invite more people to be part of our mission!

A portrait of Ruth Platts, the Volunteer Coordinator, is positioned on the left side of the page. She is a woman with short reddish-brown hair, wearing blue-rimmed glasses and a black top with a bright orange collar. She is smiling warmly at the camera. The background behind her is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

# 2024-2025 *Volunteer Update*

By Ruth Platts | Volunteer Coordinator

As I look back on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the warmth and dedication of our volunteers. Whether driving a client to a much-needed medical appointment, walking with someone to pick up groceries, or helping with small household tasks like changing a lightbulb, our volunteers provide a wide range of essential services. Beyond the tasks themselves, it is the simple act of connecting with another human being that can make such a difference. These moments help reduce feelings of loneliness and brighten a person's day.

I was reminded of this recently when we received a phone call from one of our clients. She wanted to make sure that 'the powers-that-be' knew just how much her volunteer driver helped. The client shared that her driver was incredibly patient, waiting for her long after her appointment had gone overtime. Even when the client offered to take a taxi home, our volunteer gently insisted on staying to ensure she got home safely.

To all our wonderful volunteers, thank you! Your kindness and generosity are the heart of our organization, and we are truly grateful for everything you do.

Best Wishes,

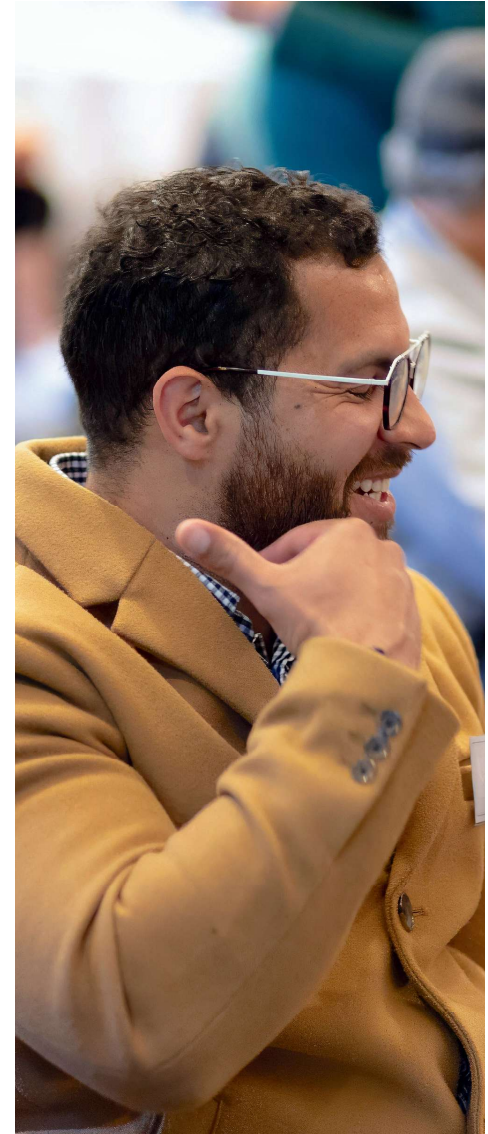
*Ruth*

# Volunteer Events



Our volunteers are the heart of everything we do, and celebrating them is one of our most cherished traditions. This year, we had the privilege of honoring their incredible contributions in several meaningful ways. Volunteer Appreciation Week in April was a time to show our gratitude and shine a spotlight on the dedication of our volunteers. During our Annual Volunteer Recognition event at the AGM in June, we celebrated milestone achievements ranging from 5 to 25 years of service, recognizing their longstanding commitment and impact. These milestone awards highlight the extraordinary dedication that our volunteers bring to OBVS. Their unwavering support not only enhances our programs but also strengthens the sense of community we foster every day.

Our Annual Volunteer Holiday Party in December was the perfect way to wrap up the year and celebrate the joy, camaraderie, and generosity of our volunteers. These celebrations go beyond just saying “thank you”—they are an opportunity to recognize the vital role our volunteers play in strengthening our community. We are deeply grateful for their unwavering support and the positive difference they make every day.



To add a bit of fun to the day, we captured memorable moments with a silly gift pyramid photo, where volunteers were invited to pose with their heads in a joyfully wrapped box, creating a lighthearted and festive atmosphere.

# Students

**Mentorship is key to building stronger communities. By guiding and training the next generation of leaders, we empower them to create meaningful change. We are proud to play a role in shaping future advocates, fostering independence, and reducing isolation through hands-on, relationship-centered learning experiences.**

At Oak Bay Volunteer Services (OBVS), we believe that mentorship is a powerful tool in reducing isolation, fostering connections, and empowering individuals to live independently. This year, we were thrilled to partner with Camosun College to host two practicum students, Kendra and Valeria, from the Community, Family, and Child program.

Their time with us offered a unique opportunity to introduce them to the nonprofit sector and our relationship-centered approach to social justice. As they worked alongside our dedicated team, Kendra and Valeria embraced OBVS's commitment to making a positive community impact. They contributed to various projects, including researching and writing a comprehensive feasibility study for a new Intergenerational Home Share program—an initiative that connects students with older adults in need of affordable housing, fostering intergenerational bonds.

Kendra and Valeria's contributions were invaluable, and their passion for social change was evident in everything they did. Having them as part of the OBVS team not only helped advance our mission but also reinforced our belief that nurturing the next generation of social advocates is an essential part of building a thriving, connected community.



# Work Study



**OBVS is proud to provide work-study students with valuable skills and experience in a supportive, professional environment. Through hands-on learning, students like Kaleb and Tasha contribute to our team while gaining hire-able skills and a deeper understanding of nonprofit work, enriching both their futures and our community.**



We are also dedicated to providing a welcoming and accessible space where work-study students can develop valuable, hire-able skills and gain hands-on experience in a professional work environment. This year, we were thrilled to host Kaleb in both the spring and fall, as well as Tasha in the fall, through Camosun College's work-study program.



Throughout their time with us, Kaleb and Tasha were integral members of our team. They brought fresh perspectives and energy, contributing meaningfully to our projects while learning about nonprofit operations. Their work allowed them to refine key skills, such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving, all in the context of social service delivery.

Beyond their hard work, Kaleb and Tasha's presence in the office added a bit of fun and camaraderie to our daily routine. They became more than just students—they became part of the OBVS family.

We are proud to have been part of their professional journey, and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow and succeed in their future careers. At OBVS, mentorship is a two-way street, and hosting students like Kaleb and Tasha is a privilege we are grateful for.



At OBVS, my role touches many areas, from writing newsletters and analyzing data to welcoming visitors, doing logistics, and supporting our Helpline. Each day brings something new, and what makes the work truly meaningful is connecting with amazing colleagues, community members, and volunteers who come together to do great things!

A major focus this year was strengthening our communications and technology. I'm proud of the progress we've made — improving communication practices, creating new ways to engage, and laying the groundwork for a new technology interface.

I also enjoyed contributing to exciting events and programs this year. Partnering with the Victoria Symphony, we tripled the number of concert tickets available through our Cultural Companions program. Our mobility training event was another success, equipping volunteers with skills to assist clients who use canes, walkers, and wheelchairs. Other memorable events included our first Silent Disco dances, a festive holiday party, and a whimsical Tea Party Parade.

Through it all, working with our incredible Helpline team has been a consistent highlight for me. These volunteers assist in our office and play a vital role in connecting our community. I am continually inspired by their compassion, skill, and adaptability, and it is a privilege to support them. I also want to recognize the volunteers who support our work behind the scenes through brochure distribution, event support, and additional services — these contributions are also invaluable!

It's been a year of collaboration, meaningful gathering, and positive change. I feel honoured to be part of such a dedicated and inspiring team and look forward to what's next!



# ADMIN HIGHLIGHTS

BY JAIMIE SUMNER | ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

# Volunteer Development



**We remain committed to investing in our volunteers by offering meaningful celebrations of their dedication and providing ongoing training opportunities to foster their personal and professional development**



## **MOBILITY SUPPORT**

This year, we were fortunate to have Occupational Therapist Katie Ryan from Island Health lead an insightful Mobility Support training for our volunteers. The session provided practical guidance on how to best assist individuals using mobility devices while providing services in the community. Volunteers learned about the various types of mobility aids, the most effective techniques for providing support, and how to ensure safety and comfort for those they assist. The training was extremely well received, with volunteers expressing appreciation for the valuable skills gained. We are excited to offer this important training again this year, continuing our commitment to enhancing volunteer capabilities and supporting individuals with diverse mobility needs.



## **HELPLINE AND TAX REFRESHERS**

In addition to the Mobility Support training, we also hosted our annual Income Tax Program refresher and Helpline training sessions. These updates provided essential guidance to ensure volunteers are equipped with the latest information and best practices. By checking in on current processes and addressing any questions, we empower our volunteers in these specialized roles to continue thriving and providing exceptional support to the community. These training opportunities ensure that our volunteers are always prepared and confident in their important work.



# OUTREACH AND SERVICES

## *Reflections*

By Anna Mackay  
Outreach and Services Coordinator

As I reflect on this past year at OBVS, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the work we've accomplished together. We've had the privilege of welcoming many new clients into our programs, each one contributing to the rich fabric of our community. Through our companionship services, we've seen new connections blossom, helping to combat loneliness and foster a sense of belonging.

One of the highlights has been our robotic pet initiative. With the support of the Eldercare Foundation, we've been able to bring these innovative companions into the homes of local seniors, helping to alleviate feelings of isolation and bring joy into their lives. It's heartwarming to witness the smiles on their faces as these robotic pets offer comfort and companionship.

Additionally, our Cultural Companion Program, which allows clients and volunteers to enjoy cultural outings together, has been a huge success. Thanks to the generosity of the Victoria Symphony and a private family foundation, we were able to send several participants to enjoy the symphony, creating shared experiences and deepening connections within our community.

These are just a few examples of the meaningful work we've done this year. I am truly grateful for the incredible support of our volunteers, clients, and staff. Together, we've made a lasting impact in Oak Bay, and I'm excited for what the future holds.

Thank you for being part of our journey in making Oak Bay a place where everyone feels supported, safe, and connected.

Best,

*Anna*



# Collaboration, Connection, & Data Collection



Thanks to special funding from United Way BC's Community Collaboratives event stream, we had the opportunity to host an engaging and informative event focused on social prescribing and the Community Connector program. This gathering brought together senior-serving leaders from Local Health Authority 411 (LHA 411) to explore how the program can better support seniors in our community. The event provided a platform to learn from experts, share valuable insights, and foster collaboration to enhance services for older adults in our region.

The day kicked off with a presentation from United Way BC's Cheryl Baldwin, who shared the vision behind the Community Connector program and its importance in connecting seniors with non-medical services that enhance their independence and well-being. We then heard from Cora Leschert of the Nanaimo Family Life Association, who provided valuable insights into how their version of the program has been successfully implemented in their community. Her presentation highlighted the significant impact of the program, including the collaborative approach they use to support seniors and connect them to essential resources.

Arguably the most impactful portion of the event was the facilitated discussions with senior-serving leaders from LHA 411. These discussions allowed participants to share their ideas, concerns, and insights regarding the program's potential in our region.

Topics included challenges like transportation barriers, the need for more accessible healthcare, and how to effectively engage seniors from diverse backgrounds. The conversation also focused on practical considerations such as the importance of relationship-building, efficient referral processes, and the need for more sustainable funding for senior-specific programs.

This event sparked inspiring conversations that will continue to shape the future of social prescribing programs and support for older adults in our community. The networking and dialogue that took place will undoubtedly lead to further collaboration and development of tailored services for seniors. We are excited to see how these connections and ideas will help drive the success of the Community Connector program and make a meaningful difference for seniors in LHA 411.

# *Social Prescribing* **A NEW APPROACH TO SENIOR WELLBEING**



As British Columbia continues to prioritize healthy aging, a growing movement is gaining momentum in the senior-serving sector—social prescribing. This innovative approach recognizes that health is influenced not only by medical factors but also by social, emotional, and community connections.

Social prescribing is an approach to offering non-medical support that enables folks to identify, set and achieve personal health and wellness goals. These may include art or music classes, walking groups, volunteer opportunities, social clubs, or access to community resources such as food security programs or housing support. The goal is to address the broader determinants of health—such as loneliness, isolation, or financial stress—that often affect seniors.

In BC, social prescribing is being integrated into community care settings, with Community Connectors playing a key role. These professionals work alongside clients to co-create personalized plans and link them with meaningful supports and services.

Early results show promise: participants report improved mood, reduced loneliness, and a greater sense of purpose. For us at OBVS, social prescribing presents an opportunity to work collaboratively with other agencies and health care professionals, highlighting the value of community-based supports in promoting holistic health.

We are beyond excited to introduce Emma as our new Community Connector Program Director! Emma comes to us with an incredible passion for fostering strong, connected, and supportive communities, and we are truly fortunate to have her join our team. Her innate ability to connect with others, inspire them, and uplift those around her is nothing short of remarkable. She has a gift for bringing people together and motivating them to engage in meaningful ways, which will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the individuals and communities we serve.

Emma holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from the University of Ottawa, and her career has been driven by a deep commitment to supporting older adults. With a wealth of experience in both volunteer and professional roles, Emma understands the critical importance of helping individuals age with dignity, independence, and purpose. She is passionate about empowering those around her to build connections, and she is eager to continue this important work at OBVS.

Beyond her professional expertise, Emma is a proud mother of two young men who have been a constant source of inspiration in her life. Her commitment to family and community is evident in everything she does, and she looks forward to sharing her passion for building a thriving, supportive environment with her new colleagues. Emma is also excited to introduce her beloved dog, Kali, to the office—bringing a touch of warmth and joy to the workplace as we continue to create a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere.

Emma's deep care for food security and the power of community action will be invaluable as we continue to grow and expand our programs. Her enthusiasm for making a difference is contagious, and we are confident that her leadership will play a vital role in helping us achieve our mission of connecting and supporting individuals across Oak Bay.

Please join us in welcoming Emma to the OBVS team! We look forward to the many great things we will accomplish together, and we're excited to see how she will continue to inspire, engage, and build lasting connections within our community.




EMMA GOULDING

Community Connector  
Program Director

# AMBASSADORS

PRESERVING WISDOM AND LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

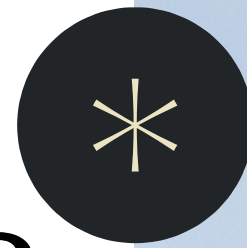


The Ambassadors of Oak Bay Volunteer Services (OBVS) represent the enduring spirit of our community, offering invaluable knowledge and guidance that has shaped the organization over the years. These long-standing volunteers have made significant contributions, and their legacy continues to inspire and inform OBVS's growth.

As Knowledge Keepers, Ambassadors remain connected to the organization, attending events, sharing their insights, and helping to preserve the mission and values of OBVS. Their continued involvement serves as a bridge between the past and the future, ensuring that the core principles of service, community care, and dedication remain at the heart of our work.

We are deeply grateful for their ongoing engagement and the lasting impact they have had on both OBVS and the Oak Bay community. Their contributions have been instrumental in the organization's success, and we honor their dedication and commitment.

# MILESTONE *CELEBRATIONS*



JOIN US IN TAKING A MOMENT TO CELEBRATE  
AND HONOR THE INCREDIBLE MILESTONES OF  
OUR VOLUNTEERS, RECOGNIZING THEIR YEARS  
OF DEDICATION, HARD WORK, AND  
UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO OUR  
COMMUNITY

## **20 YEARS**

### **SERVING OAK BAY SINCE 2005**

Helen Arnott, Gordon Alexander, David Mills, and David Cattrall

## **15 YEARS**

### **A DECADE AND A HALF OF SERVICE**

Bill Darling

## **10 YEARS**

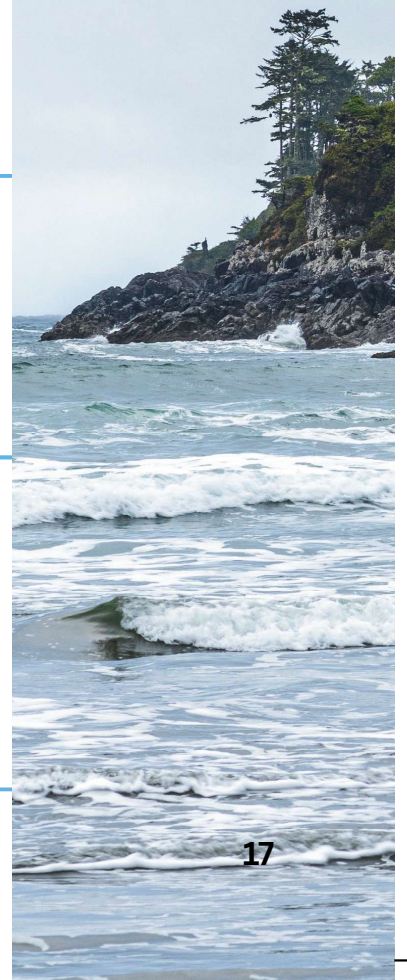
### **DEDICATION BY THE DECADE**

Pouran Vahedi, John Linton, Susi Merchant, Deb Williams, Barb Folliott and William Darling

## **5 YEARS**

### **NOT SLOWING DOWN ANYTIME SOON**

Dennis Sugar, Sharon Kinahan, Yuka Sugar, Angelika Ehlers, Jenny Tuppen, Sara Coburn



# Team Development

## Team Retreat

Our annual team retreat was a valuable opportunity for growth, reflection, and collaboration. We closed the office for two days, allowing our entire team to engage in essential training, review and revise policies, and strengthen our bond through team-building activities. A key highlight was the team's work on a SWOT analysis and visioning session to inform the development of our upcoming strategic plan. Thanks to the incredible generosity of Chateau Victoria, this year's retreat took place in one of their penthouse suites, offering a cozy yet elevated experience for our hard-working team.



## South Island Prosperity Project: 2025 Rising Economy Conference

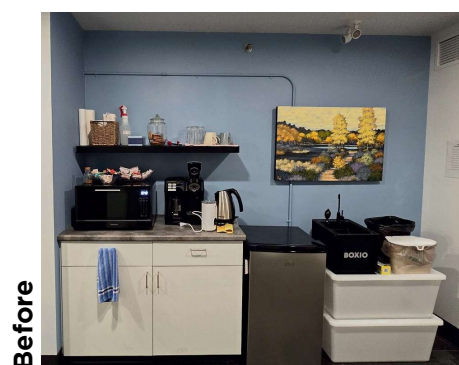
Attending the Rising Economy Conference was a transformative experience for those of our staff and practicum students who were able to attend. Engaging with economic leaders from across southern Vancouver Island and beyond, we showcased our initiatives and gained valuable insights. The event offered our team opportunities to learn about emerging economic trends and cutting-edge tools from national experts, enhancing our strategic approach.



# Behind the Scenes

We are fortunate to have generous community support that helps create a welcoming space for our staff and volunteers. West Wind Hardwood kindly donated a stunning maple live-edge slab, adding a natural touch to our office. Additionally, Tim Udell generously donated his time and resources to craft a beautiful coffee and snack station, providing a cozy corner for team members to relax and connect. These thoughtful contributions enhance our workplace and reflect the collaborative spirit of our community.

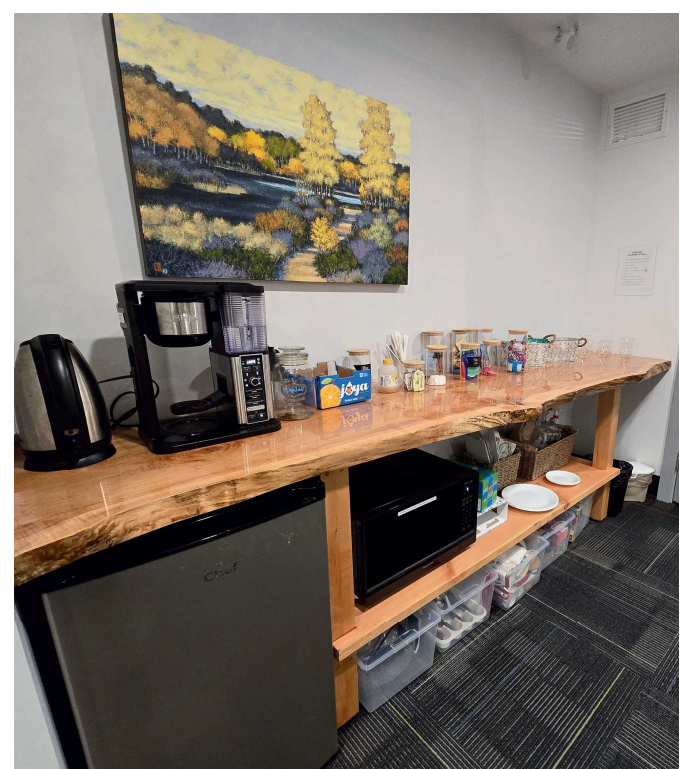
Another beautiful example of community at work behind the scenes was our collaboration with the Victoria Symphony. Thanks to them, over 100 members of our OBVS community were able to enjoy free access to their performances. This partnership allowed our clients and volunteers to experience the arts together, fostering a sense of connection and shared cultural engagement. The collaboration with the Victoria Symphony exemplifies the power of community support, enriching the lives of those we serve and strengthening the bonds within Oak Bay



Before



Tim Udell working away



After

# SPECIAL RECOGNITION *Bronwyn*

**FOR HER YEARS OF  
DEDICATED LEADERSHIP**

As we reflect on another remarkable year at Oak Bay Volunteer Services, join us in recognizing the incredible contributions of our Board Chair, Bronwyn Taylor, who is wrapping up her service on our Board of Directors after serving the maximum of three two-year terms—twice over, thanks to a special exemption to have her return. Bronwyn's leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our mission have been instrumental in shaping the direction of OBVS over the years.

Her service has been marked by an exceptional ability to guide our board through key decisions and challenges, always with a focus on enhancing the services we provide to the Oak Bay community. Bronwyn's vision, coupled with her passion for creating a supportive, inclusive environment, has been a driving force behind many of OBVS's successes.

Beyond her work on the Board, Bronwyn has been a loyal volunteer with OBVS for over two decades. Her deep connection to the community and genuine care for others has enriched the lives of countless individuals. While she is stepping down from her leadership role, we are grateful that Bronwyn will continue her volunteer work with the Helpline, ensuring that her impact will remain a central part of OBVS's mission for years to come.

Bronwyn's service is a testament to the power of community and the lasting impact one person can have. We extend our deepest thanks to Bronwyn for her remarkable leadership and dedication, and we look forward to continuing to work with her as a valued volunteer.

*Thank You!*

# *Meet Our* **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

BEHIND EVERY STRATEGIC DECISION,  
POLICY, AND FINANCIAL REPORT IS OUR  
INCREDIBLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS—A  
DEDICATED TEAM THAT EMBODIES  
SERVICE, COMMUNITY CARE, AND  
UNWAVERING COMMITMENT.



**Yuka Sugar**  
Secretary



**Justin Blackman**  
Treasurer



**Michael Shannon**  
Vice-Chair



**Bronwyn Taylor**  
Chair



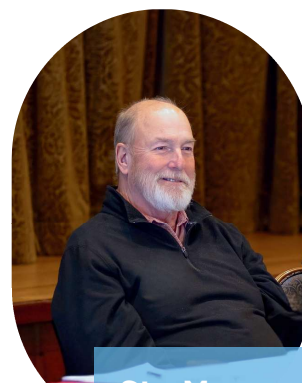
**Stephanie Uhlig**  
Board Director



**Barrie Hewstan**  
Board Director



**Diana Black**  
Board Director



**Stu Moore**  
Board Director



**Amber McMillan**  
Interim Board Director

# 2024-2025 FINANCIALS

## SUMMARY

Thanks to the unwavering support of our dedicated funders, OBVS celebrated a successful fiscal year in 2024-2025. We started the year with a budget of \$411,579 and a fund development goal of \$338,987, which included a planned deficit of \$67,592, based on our projected year-end bank balance. This marked a 6% increase in planned expenditures compared to last year.

At the end of the fiscal year, our total expenditure was approximately \$400,373, well below projections. Revenue for the year exceeded \$368,000, surpassing expectations by nearly \$30,000. These strategic cost-saving measures and successful income-generating efforts effectively reduced our projected deficit by half. The financial discipline demonstrated this year, alongside the diligent work of our finance committee in strengthening our financial practices, has positioned us for a more secure and sustainable future. This solid foundation will enable us to continue growing and thriving for years to come.

## KEY DRIVERS

In reviewing our spending trends, you will note investments in key areas, notably in equipment for our new Silent Disco program, which was made possible through special grant funding. Additionally, we experienced a rise in Information and Technology costs as we assessed and prepared to upgrade our systems to enhance operational efficiency and expand our reach.

Beyond minor increases driven by annual inflation, our Staff Development budget saw a meaningful increase. This adjustment reflects our commitment to empowering our team through professional development and health and wellness initiatives. By encouraging staff to fully utilize these benefits, we are ensuring they remain equipped for continuous learning, self-care, and maintaining a healthy work-life balance, which is crucial to their ongoing commitment to community impact.

Another increase of note is found under the "Other" category, which represents special costs associated with unique events and initiatives. These expenses were covered by one-time funding we received for specific projects, allowing us to execute impactful activities without disrupting our core operations.

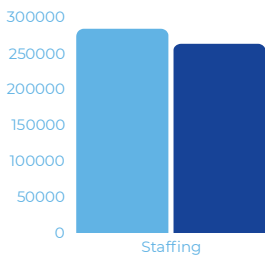
Finally, while not included in this report, the value of 6,800 volunteer hours contributed this year—amounting to \$121,380—represents an immeasurable asset to our work. We are deeply grateful for the time, resources, and unwavering dedication of every individual who has helped make this year a success.

*Thank you!*

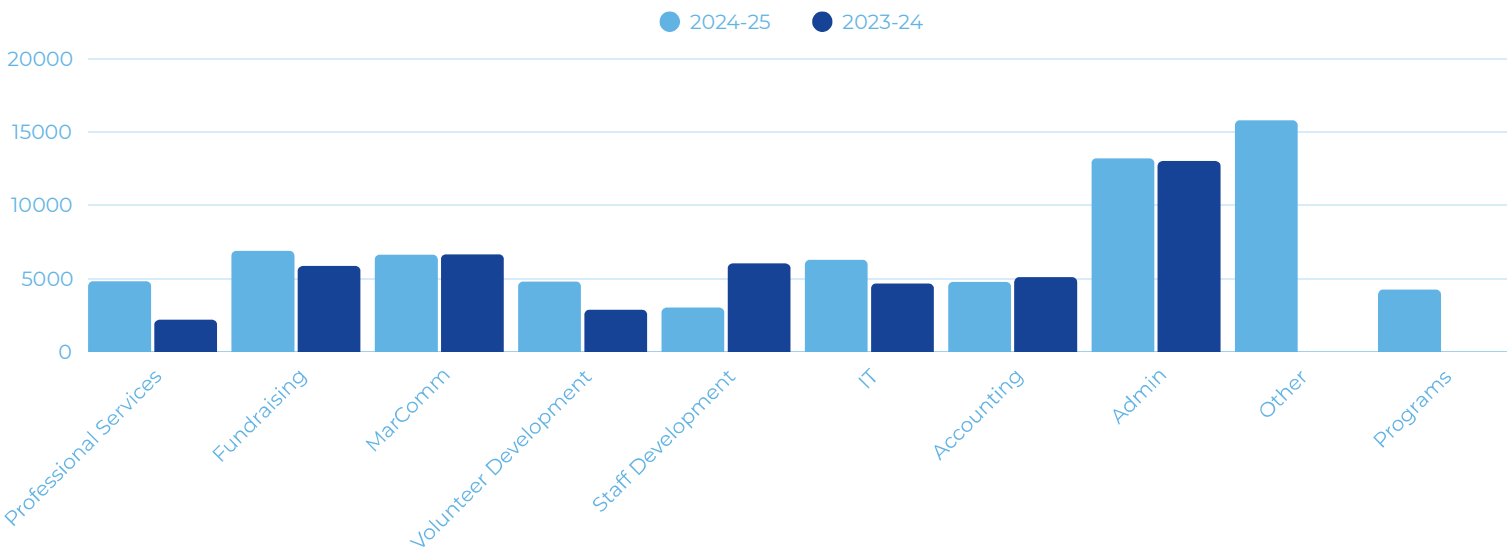
2024-2025

# ANNUAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Y/E Bank Balance	\$47,751
Y/E Contingency Fund Balance	\$28,055
Hosted Endowment Market Value	\$829,885

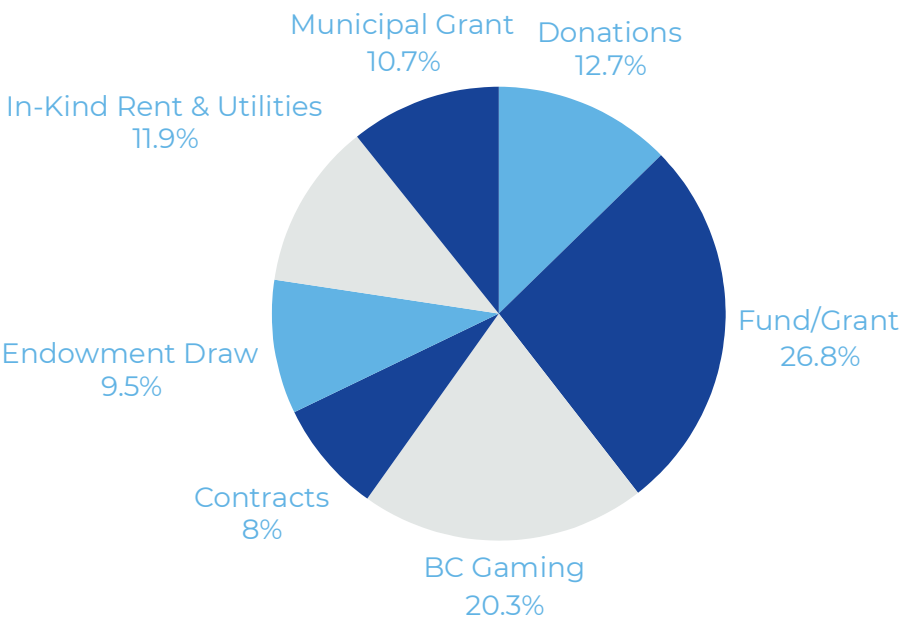


2024-2025 Spending vs. 2023-2024 Spending



2024-2025 Income Sources

Donations	\$46,809
Fundraising & Grants	\$98,740
BC Gaming	\$75,000
Municipal Grant	\$39,600
Contracts	\$29,588
Endowment	\$35,132
Interest	\$3,996
In-Kind Rent	\$43,729
In-Kind Other	\$2,200



NOTE: These metrics are to offer a general summary, for exact financials, please contact our office



# SUPPORTER *Spotlight*

**WE ARE FILLED WITH DEEP GRATITUDE AND PRIDE AS WE SHARE THAT OBVS HAS HAD ANOTHER YEAR OF MEANINGFUL GROWTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR INCREDIBLE SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR STEADFAST COMMITMENT, WHICH CONTINUES TO MAKE A LASTING IMPACT.**

As we close out another fiscal year, we are reminded of the incredible power of community support. The unwavering commitment of our funders, donors, and volunteers has been vital in sustaining and growing our organization. In a world where resources are often stretched thin, the legacy of support we've found within Oak Bay is nothing short of remarkable. The dedication of those who believe in our mission ensures that we continue to thrive and expand our services, making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. It's inspiring to know that Oak Bay stands firmly behind us, fostering a shared vision for a stronger, more connected community.

This unique and powerful network of supporters allows us to continue offering critical services and resources, knowing that we are not alone in this journey. Your generosity fuels our growth and enables us to face the future with confidence. Thanks to your continued investment in our mission, we are able to adapt, innovate, and remain a steadfast presence for the neighbours throughout Oak Bay who rely on us. We are deeply grateful for the trust and belief you've placed in us, and we look forward to what we will accomplish together in the years to come.

Most importantly, we are incredibly grateful for the 6,800 hours of volunteer time dedicated to OBVS. Your selfless contributions are the heartbeat of our organization, and they amplify the impact of our work. As we move forward into the new fiscal year, we remain deeply inspired by the ongoing support of you our donors, volunteers, and supporters. Together, we will continue reducing isolation, fostering meaningful connections, and supporting independent living for all members of our community. Thank you for your unwavering generosity—we look forward to another year of shared success.



**Gaming Grants**



**Tony and Mignon Fenton Trust**

Granting funds to qualified donees that provide home care and related social services to the elderly in the Greater Victoria Area.



OBVS  
**HELPING HEARTS**  
CLUB



**R. K. Grant Family Foundation**

Offering support to those providing health and educational support to children and the elderly.



**United Way**  
Healthy Aging



*Thank You!*

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