

Co:Here Housing Community

**A new approach
to addressing
homelessness in
Vancouver.**

26 units of affordable
and transformative
housing located at
East 1st Avenue &
Victoria Drive in the
Commercial Drive
neighbourhood.



coherehousing.com

CO:HERE
home for good



Building a home for good

An innovative 26 unit affordable housing project in East Vancouver, Co:Here offers intentional community living and ongoing support to people from widely varied backgrounds, opportunity, and the potential for belonging, friendship, trust and love through the community life of the building.

Capital Cost: \$11.5 million
Raised to Date: \$10 million
Fundraising Goal \$1.5 million

Homelessness, Loneliness & Isolation

Affordable housing is one of the biggest challenges facing the homeless and those at-risk-of- homelessness in Vancouver today. However, significant issues that are often overlooked are the feelings of loneliness and isolation that go hand-in-hand with homelessness and poverty. Isolation has been called the hallmark of North American urban poverty and is a problem that cannot be solved by simply putting a roof over someone's head. That's where Co:Here comes in.

Co:Here's Approach

Co:Here is founded on the conviction that people are made for community. Our vision comes from our experience in creating intentional communities and the relationships we have with vulnerable people in our neighbourhood. We are building affordable housing that will bring together people from different economic backgrounds in an authentic, supportive community that will allow vulnerable people to flourish.

Financially Sustainable

Co:Here is built on a financial model in which the building's rental revenue sustains a balanced budget that includes building maintenance, a support worker and replacement reserves.

Creating a Model for Other Groups

Co:Here is sparking the imagination of other not-for-profit organizations by encouraging them to explore the possibility of using their properties to create affordable housing to support the most vulnerable in their own neighbourhoods. Co:Here aspires to be a prototype that can be replicated by others.

The Numbers

In 2014, **2,800** homeless people were counted in the Metro Vancouver region

Vancouver had the largest concentration (approx. **1,800** people)

Service providers report that these numbers underestimate the true extent of homelessness in the Metro Vancouver region

Recent studies indicate that the yearly cost of having **1 person** on the street is approximately **\$55,000**, or an annual total of **\$644.3 million** in health, corrections and social services

Designed for Transformation

Located at the corner of East 1st Avenue and Victoria Drive in the Commercial Drive neighbourhood, plans have been approved for a 4-storey, wood-frame building with 1 level of underground parking.

The building is comprised of 26 self-contained units on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors consisting of 18 studio apartments, 4 one-bedroom apartments, and 4 two-bedroom apartments. The units will be configured in pod-like groups on each floor with each pod sharing a small common living area, balcony, and laundry. The main floor of the building will be a community space, which will have a large kitchen, dining room, living room and meditation room.

The building will occupy the northerly two-thirds of the site. The southerly portion of the site will function as a courtyard and urban agriculture area for Residents and Co-Residents to grow their own fresh food. As part of our vision to care for the environment, the building and its sustainable ongoing operations will be certified LEED Gold.

Co:Here's experienced team of social housing and construction professionals include Innovative Housing Consultants (ihci.ca), NSDA Architects (nsda.bc.ca) and Yellowridge Construction (yellowridge.ca). Construction is scheduled to begin in Spring 2016 with anticipated completion and occupancy in the Fall of 2017. Fundraising will continue during construction to reach our campaign goal of \$11.5 million.

Co:Here has been thoughtfully designed with layouts that invite gatherings and engagement.



**26
self-contained
units**

**Large community
space on the
main floor**

**Urban agriculture
to grow their
own food**

We invite you to join our partners in supporting Co:Here and this vision of innovative and transformative housing.

Co:Here's Organizational Partners

Grandview Calvary Baptist Church
("GCBC") gcbchurch.ca

Salsbury Community Society
("Salsbury") salsburys.ca

For the past 20 years, GCBC and Salsbury have been actively serving the needs of the people in the Commercial Drive neighbourhood. They represent a movement of individuals who care for the least of those among us. GCBC has donated the church parking lot land to enable the creation of Co:Here.

Some of the programs that have grown from GCBC and Salsbury include: Crossroads Community Meal, Kinbrace Community Society, JustWork, JustPotters, JustCatering, JustRenos, The Potter's House Studio, Open Door for Single Moms, CLEAN Break laundry program and REED (Resist Exploitation Embrace Dignity).

This history and depth of experience is enriched by the long-term commitment of funders such as the Hawthorne Charitable Foundation and an anonymous private donor, who have partnered with Co:Here since its inception.

Supporters

BC Housing
Canadian Baptists of Western Canada
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CMHC
Face the World Foundation
Grandview Calvary Baptist Church
Hawthorne Charitable Foundation
Dragon Fire Charitable Foundation
Metro Vancouver
Seacliff Foundation
Streetohome Foundation
Vancity Community Foundation
Many Generous Individuals

Information & Donations

For more information or to make a donation, please contact:

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Donations can also be made online at www.coherehousing.com

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Co:Here Foundation is a registered charitable organization. Charitable number 830879532RR0001