

# Hope and Transformation

The impact of temporary housing and the Housing First model in Cowichan as reported by the residents of the current sites

# We Have Gone from the Streets.... to Tents ..... to Wooden Sleeping Cabins.....



Photo Cowichan Valley Citizen



Photo of CMHA Outreach Workers by David Minkow The Discourse Cowichan



# A Safe Dry Place Opens Doors To a New Future



# The Voice of the Residents of the Sites

“Being in the sites has made a huge difference over the past year. To be able to be warm, have food, and have people to talk to has meant a lot for me. And now I have been able to give back. I have been a part of a peer group and done outreach. Now I go and clean up garbage. Sometimes I give things away because I can. We need this, our community needs this.” - anonymous



When we are safe, dry and well, our lives change and we can think about living versus survival

“Since last year, things have changed quite a bit. Having a steady place, a secure place, a safe place to come to every night has enabled me to turn my attention to other things like changing my life to keep things like booze and drugs out. There have been positive changes, like I am more involved with my kids now. On the street it was very hard for them to connect with me but now I have been seeing them on a regular basis and we have a good relationship. Some people from here have even moved out into their own place, they were able to move on to their new home!”

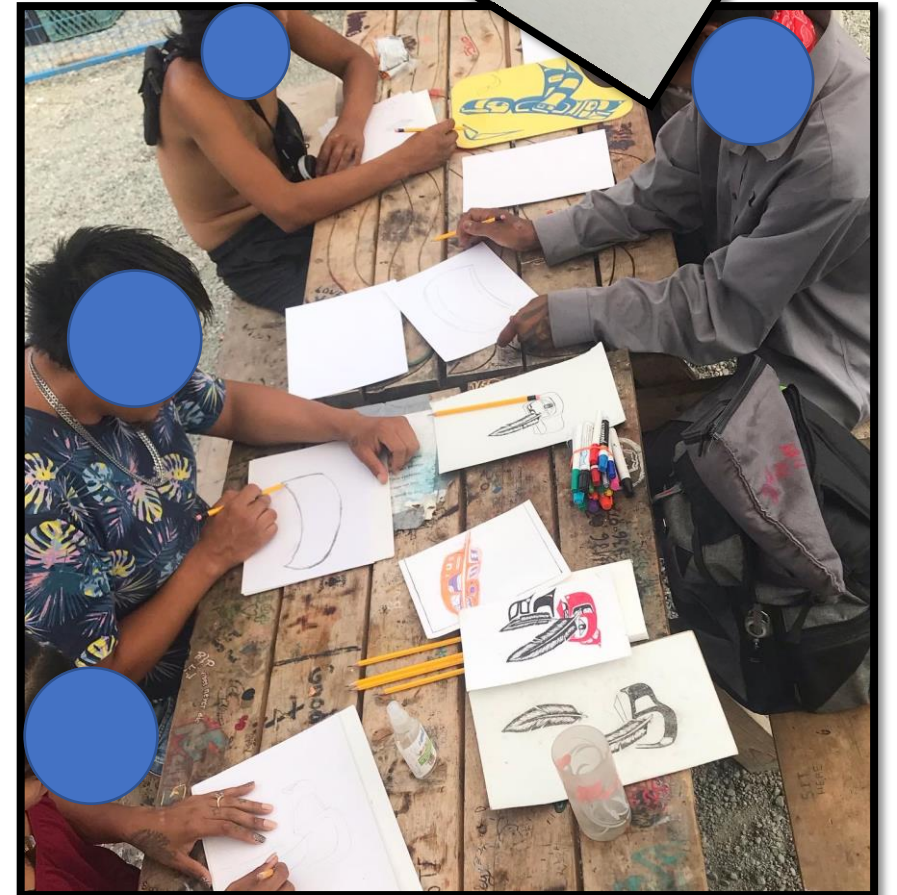
# We give back by educating the public about Narcan that can saves lives



“Since moving into the site I've managed to maintain full time employment, I've put on weight, I've come a long ways. My family looks at me in a completely different light now.” – Chris



We are  
thankful and  
have found  
peace







# Basic Human Needs

"Last year I was camping in a tent. This year I have a room with heat and a locking door. Simple things that people take for granted. Simple but important. My health, my whole life has improved. The tiny village would give more people the opportunity to have this." -D.

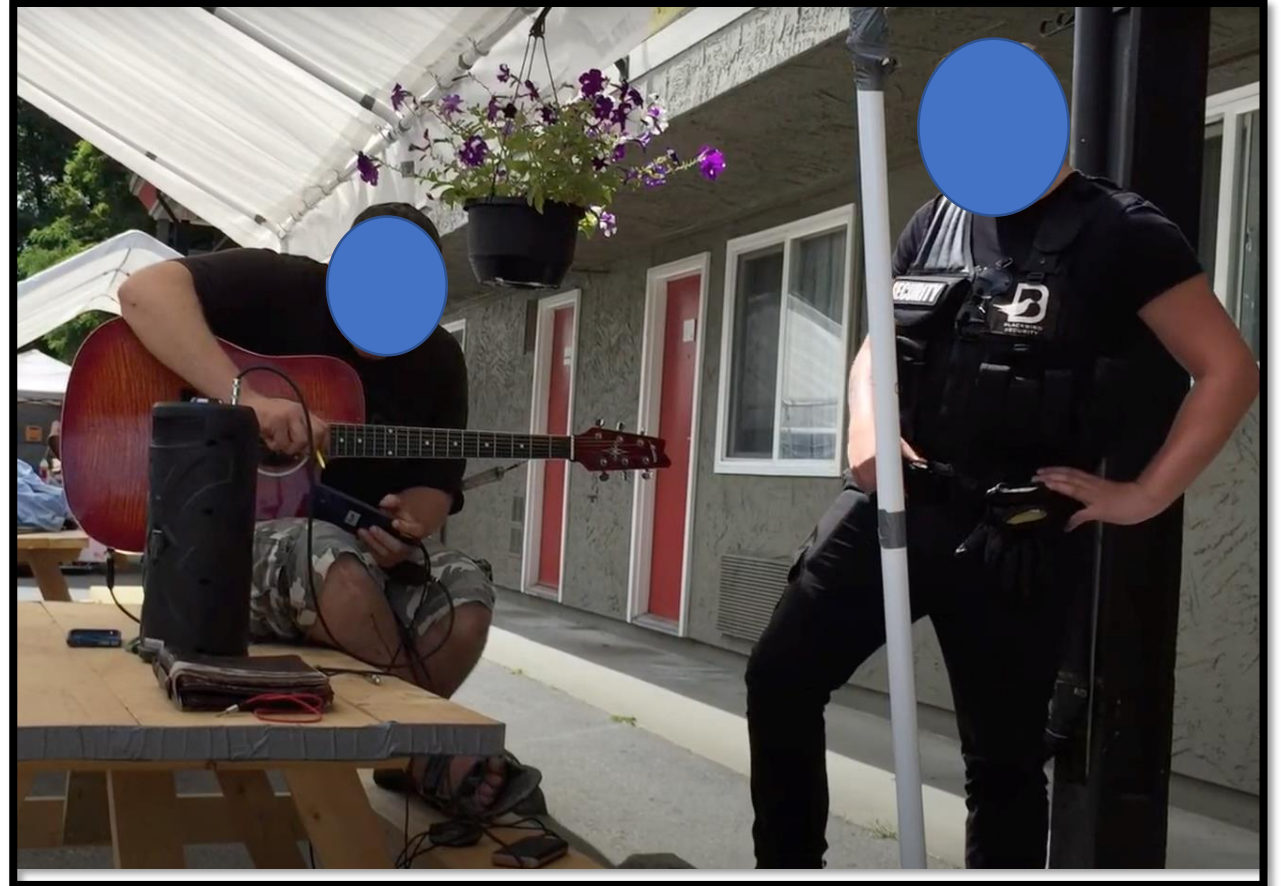
"Having shelter told me that people *do* care when I was at the lowest point in my life. It gave me hope to continue working towards a better future for myself and my family." S.

# Basic Human Needs

“It’s a simple concept, but having a toilet with toilet paper! You’re not having to rush because the business that you’re borrowing the bathroom from has a hissy fit that you’re a homeless person in their washroom. [...] and then with Covid, there were less and less places to find washrooms” T.P.

# Building Positive Relationships

“My relationship with Bylaw or the police is not as antagonistic as before. When I would come into contact with them, it was because I was trespassing on Somenos Marsh. And I don't blame them that they want me to shuffle me along, but there's nowhere else to go. But now Blackbird and the Bylaw people, I actually have a human conversation with them now. It is not as antagonistic.”



"Having housing... I got a job! [...] The housing has been really good." -D.

Some Wonder...What's behind the walls?

Gardens!



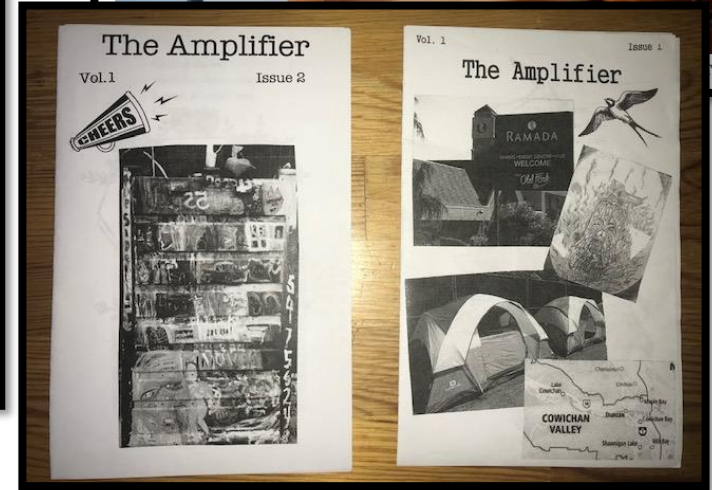
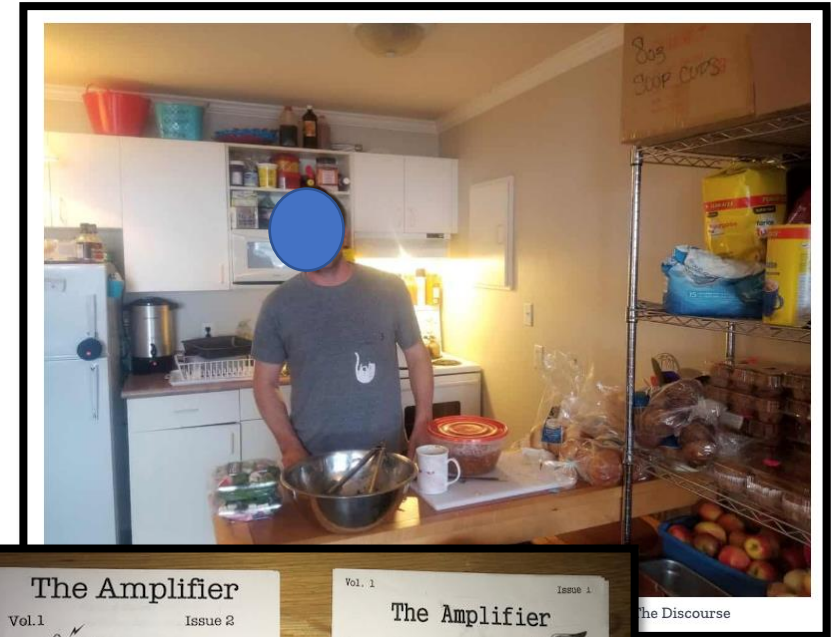
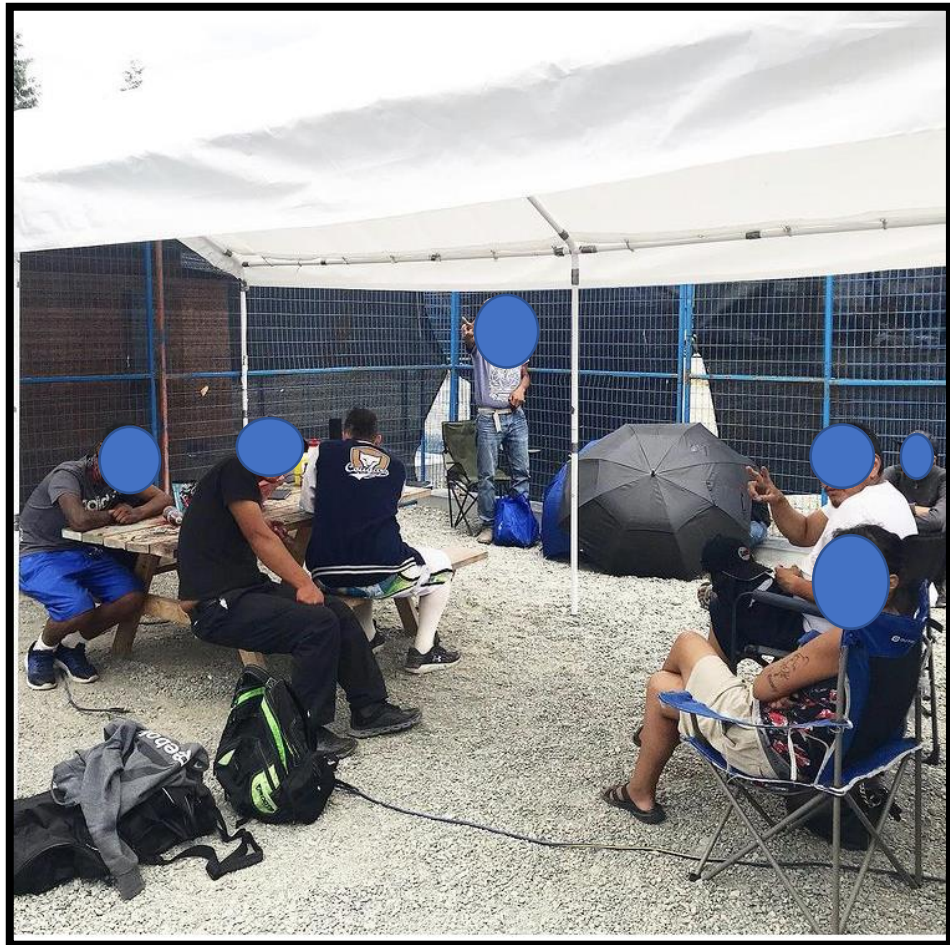
# And Art



And simple pleasures such as pumpkin carving

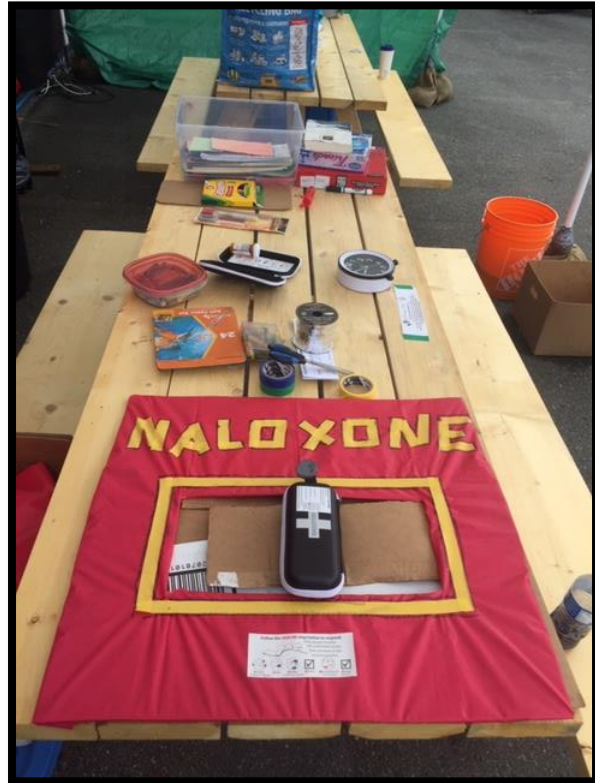


# And ...leadership training, life skills development and writing a newsletter





We want to take care of our community, too



"Homeless people get a bad reputation, but we are not out there 'causing trouble'. We have a place to be. I am in my cabin at night."

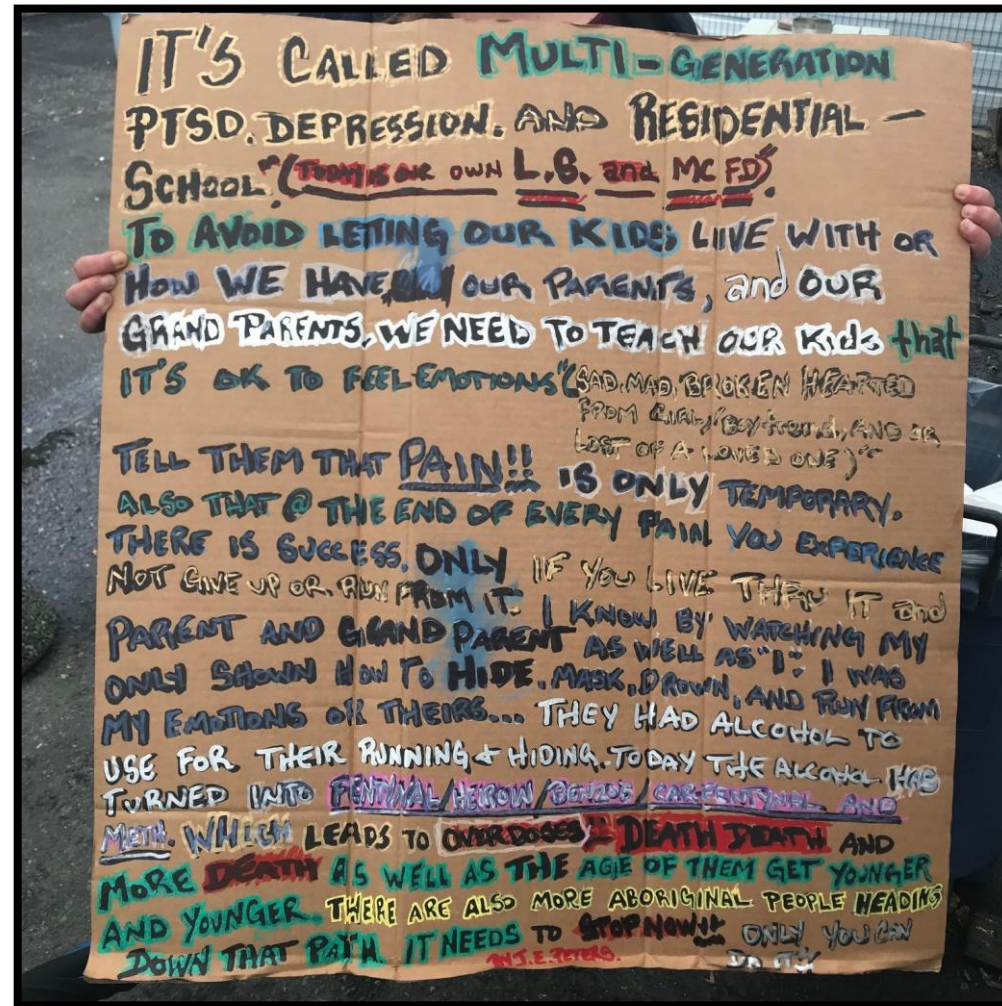


photo by Brandi  
'Peer Support'



photo by Barry  
'Tiger in my room'

There is still work to do to address mental health, addictions, racism, trauma and poverty in our region.....  
Nothing will change if we don't try





*Thank you for  
listening,*

*Jeremy*

*Eddie*

*Theresa*

*Chris*

*Scott*

*Todd*

*Lucas*

*Jay*

*Tara*

*Tracy*

*Barry*

*Justin*

*Jeffrey*

*S.*

*B.*

*T.*

*and many other  
residents.*