



**Squamish Helping Hands**



**2025**

**IMPACT REPORT**

# Executive Director & Leadership Team

Belonging allows people to stabilize, heal, and begin to imagine something different for themselves.

At Squamish Helping Hands, we are reminded every day that community is not defined by ease, but by how we show up for one another in complexity.

Community is built by people navigating hard realities while remaining committed to the collective good.

This past year, we have seen both the growing need and the growing strength of our community. In Squamish, more than 123 people are living outside, with seniors and Indigenous community members disproportionately impacted. More than 800 families and individuals accessed our food bank each month, and demand for food supports increased at a rate that outpaced national trends.

These numbers are not just data points. They reflect real people, real stories, and a shared responsibility. Our work continues to focus on meeting foundational human needs: food, shelter, health, and connection. Together, these services improve individual health and wellbeing while reducing strain on broader social systems.

But beyond services, what we are building is belonging. Belonging allows people to stabilize, to heal, and to begin imagining something different for themselves.

It is harm reduction rooted in dignity: a place where people are seen, where they are not alone, and where they are supported without judgment.

We also know that stigma remains one of the greatest barriers to care. When people feel judged or misunderstood, they are less likely to seek support.

As a community, each of us has a role to play by choosing language that puts people first, seeking to understand inequity, and recognizing our shared humanity.

This work is only possible because of collective action. This year, more than 120 volunteers, 65 staff, healthcare partners, schools, businesses, Squamish Nation, the District of Squamish, and community members came together in meaningful ways. Events like Coldest Night of the Year are powerful not only for the funds they raise, but for the solidarity they represent: a shared commitment to lifting one another up.

The Squamish Nation teaching **Chéñchenstway** reminds us of this responsibility: to lift each other so that everyone has the opportunity for a good life.

This is the work.

This is the hope.

Hope that we continue building a community where people are seen and supported.

Hope that we lead with compassion and integrity, even when the path forward is not simple.

Hope that fewer people feel alone because we chose to show up.

Thank you for being part of this work, and for believing in a community where everyone belongs.



**Lori Pyne**  
Executive Director

## Leadership Team

**Karen Berrisford**, Director of Operations  
**Venita Fung**, Director of Community Food  
**Jesse Miller**, Housing Manager

**Amber Cowie**, Director of Fundraising & Partnership  
**Jennifer Gagnon**, Finance Lead  
**Sachini (Sam) Guruge**, People and Inclusion Coordinator

# Board Chair

Each year, the impact report offers an opportunity to pause and reflect, not only on what has been accomplished, but on the collective effort required to support the well-being of our community.

Our work is rooted in a simple but powerful belief: everyone deserves dignity, stability, and access to the support they need to move forward. We aim to create hope and independence through our housing programs, food security initiatives, health supports, and community services, meeting people where they are and walking alongside them on their journey toward greater stability.

This is a shared responsibility. It reflects the dedication of our amazing staff team, the generosity of volunteers and donors, the partnership of local organizations and governments, and the resilience of the people we serve. Together, these efforts create a network of support that strengthens our entire community.

Over the past year, the Board has remained focused on ensuring the organization is well positioned for the future. As community needs

evolve and demand for services grows, strong governance, thoughtful planning, and responsible stewardship of resources are essential. Our role as a Board is to support the leadership team in delivering impact today while building the capacity required to serve the community in the years ahead.

Looking forward, we are encouraged by the opportunities ahead, including the continued development of supportive housing and the expansion of services that help people stabilize and rebuild their lives. These initiatives represent not only growth, but a deepening of our commitment to the community we serve.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to everyone who contributes to this work. Your support makes meaningful change possible.



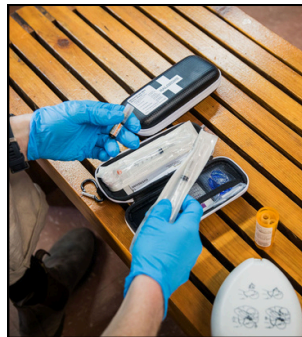
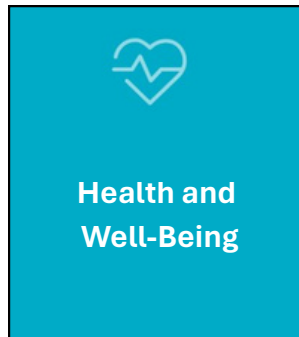
**Greg Tooke**  
Board Chair

## Equity & Reconciliation

We acknowledge with gratitude that we live, work, and heal on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation. For generations, the Squamish people have gathered at the sacred confluence of the Squamish, Stawamus, and Mamquam Rivers. We honour their enduring presence, wisdom, and connection to the land, and commit to listening, learning, and integrating Indigenous knowledge into our work. As an inclusive organization, we welcome everyone with respect and dignity while aiming to build capacity and enable change.

# Our Purpose

Squamish Helping Hands Society has a vision of a safe and healthy community for all. Our mission and mandate are to support adults in Squamish who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, mental health challenges, substance use disorder, health issues, and poverty.







Squamish Helping Hands Society (SHHS) operates out of Under One Roof (UOR), a community hub offering 39 units of transitional housing, 16 emergency shelter beds, 15 additional beds during periods of extreme weather, outreach services, a primary care clinic, a commercial kitchen, and a food bank. We have 69 staff and more than 100 volunteers.

We rely on a housing-first approach to achieve the goals of our participants as they move towards stability. Our team provides supported, wrap-around care, which includes the provision of basic life necessities, medical treatment, twice-daily meals made from nutritious food rescued from local businesses to reduce waste, and connections to community partners through referrals and transportation.

# Our Impact in 2025

The root causes of homelessness are complex and systemic. Our services are multifaceted, focused on vulnerable, marginalized, and equity-deserving populations, and available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

**From January 1 to December 31, 2025, we were able to provide:**

	20,347 nights in transitional housing and emergency shelter beds	Safe, warm, sleep for people experiencing and at risk of homelessness
	23,305 free showers 10,950 loads of laundry	Clean clothes, improved health, and physical dignity for people in shelter and encampments
	927 appointments 350 unique patients at our primary care clinic 152 toxic drug poisoning reversals	Supported health care with better patient outcomes and less pressure on Squamish General Hospital and local primary care network 152 lives saved
	10,754 unique visits (individuals & families) to food bank 896 unique visitors/month	Food and basic necessities in the homes of nearly 900 families and individuals every month to help battle the rising cost of living

Moving from homelessness to independence is a steep climb for many people and Squamish Helping Hands works hard to support individuals along the way. Community solutions and partnerships are required to ensure our region is safe and healthy for all as economic disparities continue to rise.

Squamish is growing fast, and finding a place to rent is very difficult. The rapid expansion of our community has resulted in a very small supply of rental housing and an increasing number of individuals who are facing the risk of homelessness or plunging into the reality of being unhoused. Many people in Squamish can't afford to rent here anymore, including seniors, families, people with disabilities, and the workers that our community depend on, which affects the diversity and strength of our community.

**53%**  
of people lost housing due to cost of living

**125**  
unhoused people in Squamish

**135**  
turn-aways from shelter

**10%**  
increase in food bank visits

# Our Next Steps



The increasing cost and scarcity of housing has resulted in an accelerated demand within our housing programs and prompted the development of a new housing project in our community through a partnership with BC Housing, the Squamish Community Housing Society, and the District of Squamish.

In 2026, we will break ground on 65 new supportive housing units at 39900 Government Road and Centennial Way. Supportive housing provides a greater level of independence than the existing transitional housing available at Under One Roof. It is a much-needed next step for many people in our community as they achieve stability in their own lives.

In Squamish, the creation of 65 new supportive housing units will literally open doors for individuals living in the transitional housing units at Under One Roof who are unable to move due to the high rents in the private market, thus freeing up beds for our waitlist and reducing the number of turn aways from our emergency shelter. Ensuring people are housed will contribute to a positive impact on the growing number of encampments in our region.

Supportive housing is a critical part of the housing continuum (see graphic below) as people move from homelessness to stability. Providing multiple forms of housing from emergency beds to affordable homes allows individuals a strong foundation where lives can be repaired and built anew. Our community is safer, healthier, and more resilient when people are housed and it's vital to ensure this project and many other forms of housing are created in our region.

“I would love to live in the new supportive housing project and be surrounded by trees. Squamish Helping Hands has opened my eyes to see what I can do,”

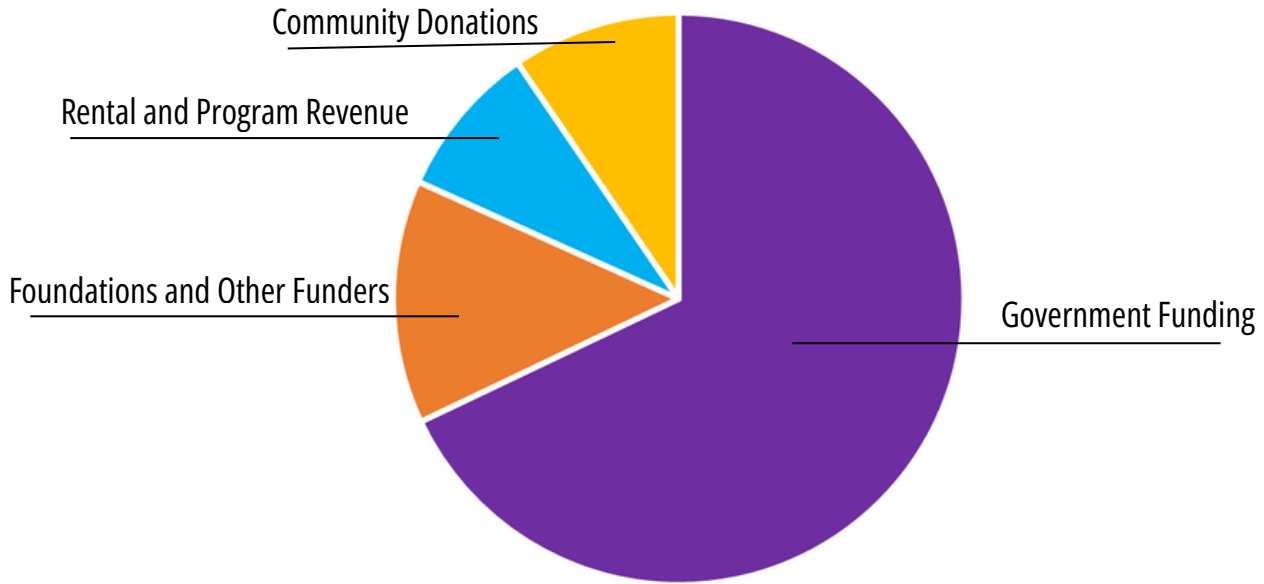
Transitional Housing Resident



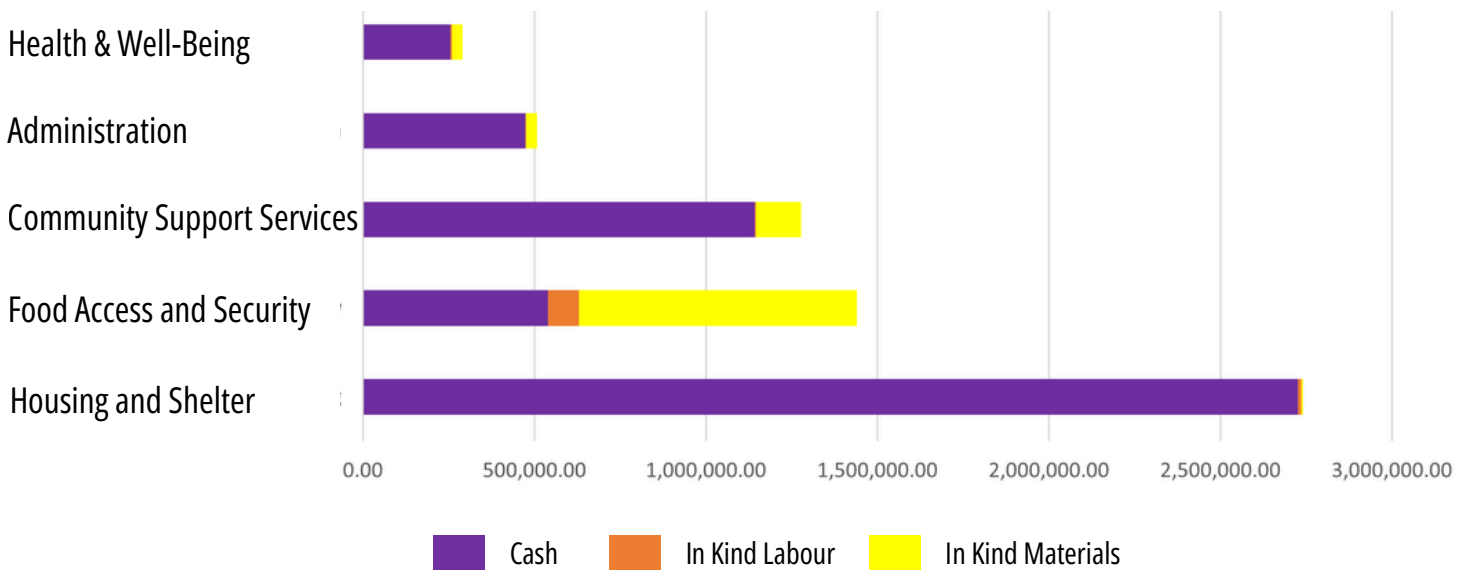
# Our Financial Responsibility

As a registered charity, funding for Squamish Helping Hands Society comes from a combination of public, private, and community donations to continue operating our five program areas: shelter & transitional housing, outreach & harm reduction, health & well-being, food security, and administration.

## TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES \$4,582,133.48



## EXPENSES BY PROGRAM AREA



# Our 2025 Supporters

In 2025, we received hundreds of donations from our community members and every dollar matters. We are so grateful for every one of our donors at each level of contribution.

For the purposes of our annual report, we are recognizing individuals, foundations, organizations, and companies that have donated at the level of \$5,000 and above unless they have requested to remain anonymous.

Thank you for being part of making our community safe and healthy for all.

Agency Relief Fund	Health Canada
Andrew Sheret Ltd.	Hedberg and Associates
Breakfast Club of Canada	Houssain Foundation
Brew Creek Center	Infrastructure Canada
BC Gaming	McKeen Family
BC Housing	Chris Pettingill
Breakfast Club of Canada	Reay and Linda MacKay Foundation
Jennifer Campbell	School District 48
Canada Summer Jobs	Surerus Murphy Joint Venture (SMJV)
Carbon Engineering, in memory of Brian Stern	Squamish Community Foundation
Community Action Initiatives	Vancouver Coastal Health
Diamondhead Development	Whistler Blackcomb Foundation
District of Squamish	Whistler Health Care Foundation
Food Banks BC	Woodfibre LNG
Food Banks Canada	Wray Family Foundation
Fortis BC	

# Our Volunteers



<b>Laundromat</b>	448
<b>Food Hub</b>	2,575
<b>Kitchen</b>	1286
<b>MOW</b>	410
<b>Street Reach</b>	190
<b>Programs</b>	130
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>5039</b>
<b>TOTAL IN-KIND VALUE AT \$20/HOUR</b>	<b>\$100,780</b>

In 2025, we worked with 100 volunteers to deliver and operate programs. These incredible individuals are a core element of the work we do and help build our community in positive and meaningful ways. In return, our volunteers experience the power of fostering community, supporting others, and creating profound and diverse moments of help and healing. Volunteer helps reduce isolation, anxiety, and feelings of futility.

From folding laundry to cleaning up the downtown streets to delivering meals to homebound seniors, volunteers are the shining strands that tie our programs together, connect our participants to partners, allies, and friendly faces, and enhance quality of life for themselves and others.



# Our Peers

Peers are people in our community with lived experience of poverty, addiction, and mental health challenges. Their insightful and paid contribution to programs at Squamish Helping Hands are central to shaping our work and overall outcomes.

Participating in paid roles is a core element of achieving personal goals for many of our peers. Being a valued contributor to the functioning of Squamish Helping Hands is a foundational step towards achieving stability, building confidence, and moving towards a positive future.

Integrating wisdom, empathy, and knowledge from peers into day to day operations is critical to running successful programs that open doors to new opportunities.



<b>Community Action Team (street reach, community clean-ups, and breakfast club)</b>	1196
<b>Overdose Prevention Site</b>	3711
<b>Squamish Pain Program</b>	56
<b>Street Degree</b>	1517
<b>Point In Time Homeless Count</b>	26
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	6,506
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT IN PEERS EXPERIENCE AT \$17.40 to \$20/HOUR</b>	134,352

# "Everyone is somebody's someone,"

Marnie Scow, Indigenous Consultant & Facilitator, Len Pierre Consulting



THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE SOLUTION

Office: 604-390-3000 | General email: [info@shhs.ca](mailto:info@shhs.ca) | [www.squamishhelpinghands.ca](http://www.squamishhelpinghands.ca)

For more information on our services, operations, fundraising or partnership, please contact [acowie@shhs.ca](mailto:acowie@shhs.ca).