

2026

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT





ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Annual Impact Report reflects the work and impact of The Mustard Seed during Fiscal Year 2026, from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026.

A full-page background image showing a sunset over a beach. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the upper center of the frame, casting a long, shimmering reflection across the water and sand. The sky is a deep orange, and the ocean has gentle waves. On the left, a dark, silhouetted cliff with some trees rises from the beach. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mustard Seed Street Church acknowledges with gratitude that we provide our services and programming on the unceded ancestral lands originally cared for and inhabited by the Lkwungen people, known as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, as well as the Hul'q'umi'num people of the Quw'utsun (Cowichan) Tribes.

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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

Every day at The Mustard Seed, we are reminded that behind every number is a person, a family, and a story.

This year, we saw both the growing need in our community and the incredible difference we can make when we come together. Rising costs continue to put pressure on households across Greater Victoria. For many people, simply putting enough food on the table has become a daily challenge. And yet, we also saw something equally powerful: a community that continues to respond with generosity, compassion, and action.

Through our Food Security programs, we helped provide access to nutritious food for thousands of people in our community. Through our Food Rescue Program alone, we rescued 3.5 million pounds of good food, keeping it out of landfills and putting it where it was needed most. Our network of 84 local agencies allows us to have 744,400 service interactions, extending the impact of this work far beyond our own doors.

We also know that food is only part of the story. Children deserve the opportunity to begin the school year feeling prepared and confident. Families deserve to experience Christmas with dignity and joy. People deserve to feel welcomed, valued, and connected to their community.

This year, 600 children received Fair Start Kits, helping provide the school supplies and essentials they needed for a successful start to the school year. At Christmas, 900 meals were served, creating a place where people could share a meal and experience connection during a season that can be particularly difficult for those facing hardship.

None of this happens because of one organization alone. It happens because people choose to care.

Our donors, volunteers, food rescue partners, community partners, businesses, churches, and agencies all play an essential role. Every financial gift, every hour volunteered, every food donation, every partnership, and every act of kindness contribute to a stronger community.

As we look ahead, we know the need will continue to evolve. Our responsibility is to listen, learn, measure our impact, and continue finding meaningful ways to respond. We are committed not simply to doing more, but to doing what makes the greatest difference for the people we serve.

Thank you for believing that everyone deserves access to food, dignity, belonging, and hope. Thank you for standing with our community and making this work possible.

With gratitude,




Treska Watson
Executive Director

OUR IDENTITY & VISION

Who we are

The Mustard Seed Street Church is a Christian organization that helps the Victoria, B.C. community experiencing poverty live better, healthier, and more stable lives.

What we do

With over 50 years of experience, The Mustard Seed works alongside the local community, supporters, and partners to help ensure our neighbours have what they need to live with dignity. We provide meals, food, school supplies, Christmas gifts, and spiritual care. We provide support and resources that help people build stability, overcome challenges, and create the future they want for themselves and their families.

Why we do it

We are guided and inspired by our Christian faith in everything we do. We support and walk alongside those experiencing poverty and hardship as a reflection of God's unconditional love. Every person has worth and dignity, and it is a privilege to see lives changed and transformed.





OUR VALUES

At The Mustard Seed everyone is welcome, without any form of discrimination.

Christianity | Integrity
Safety | Collaboration
Empowerment

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.

Matthew 25:35

2026

IMPACT & APPROACH

- Snapshot report
- Why our work matters
- How we work
- Our objectives
- Our work & the UN sustainable development goals
- How we evaluate our work
- Lessons learned in 2026



A volunteer prepares fruit for freeze-drying before it is distributed to the community.

SNAPSHOT REPORT

2026 by the numbers

Food Security

Ensuring individuals and families have reliable access to nutritional food.

744,400

services provided reached with
\$1,961,226 invested

3,520,984

Pounds of food rescued

84

Partner agencies

24,400

food bank visits

Belonging & Community

Creating spaces where people feel welcomed, connected, and valued.

49,975

service interactions provided with
\$875,609 invested

48,048

Hospitality visits

52,902

Community meals

74,858

Cups of coffee

Care & Support

Responding to times of increased vulnerability.

3,340

People reached with \$196,630
invested

600

Back-to-school supplies

1,200

Christmas hampers

900

Holiday meals

THE NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY



The Mustard Seed Food Bank usage

2,037

visits to The Mustard Seed Food Bank in a single month

29%

of food bank clients were first time users in 2026

23.7%

of food bank households rely primarily on employment income

In B.C., 23.2% of the population experiences food insecurity.



The rise of cost of living

\$27.40/hr

living wage in Greater Victoria (2025)

1 in 3

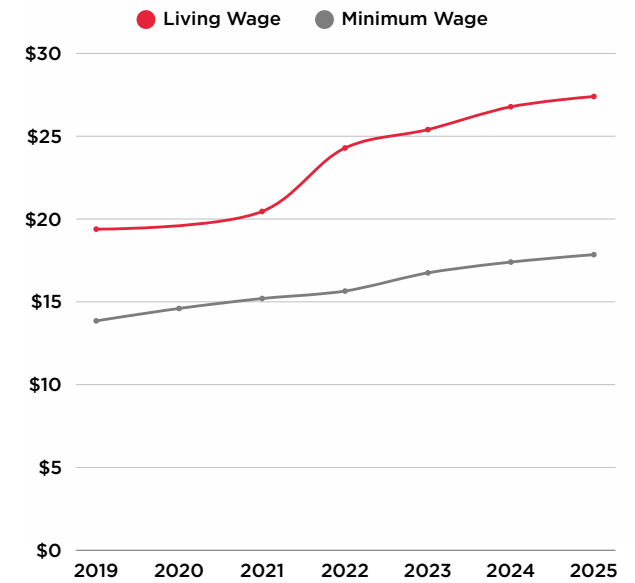
B.C. workers do not earn a living wage

68,000

People in Greater Victoria earn below a living wage

The living wage has risen from \$19.39/hour in 2019 to \$27.40/hour in 2025, a 41% increase in six years. Meanwhile, B.C.'s \$18.25/hour minimum wage remains more than \$9/hour below Greater Victoria's living wage. Women represent 55% of those earning less than a living wage.

Living wage vs minimum wage, BC 2019-2025



Children are disproportionately impacted

27.3%

of two-parent households with children under 18 experience food insecurity

2.4M

children in Canada live in food-insecure households (2025)

711,770

food bank visits in Canada were made by children in March 2025

Food insecurity during childhood is associated with poorer mental health, delays in physical and cognitive development, a higher risk of diabetes, and food insecurity later in life.

1,749

people experienced homelessness in Greater Victoria in 2025

Sources: The Mustard Seed Food Bank data (FY2026); Living Wage Report 2025 (BC); HungerCount 2025; Point-in-Time Count 2025; other source as applicable.

WHY OUR WORK MATTERS

Our response to the needs



A community member enjoys a meal at our hospitality centre.

Our community is changing, and so are the challenges our neighbours face. Rising costs, housing pressures, and increased uncertainty have made it more difficult for many individuals and families to meet their basic needs. Behind every statistic is a person navigating a difficult season and looking for support, dignity, and hope.

The need we see extends beyond access to food. While providing nutritious food remains a critical part of our work, we know that lasting change happens when people are also surrounded by connection, compassion, and a community that recognizes their worth.

For more than 50 years, The Mustard Seed has responded to the needs of our neighbours by creating spaces where people are welcomed, supported, and valued. We meet people where they are, listen to their stories, and walk alongside them through both challenges and opportunities.

Everyone deserves more than help getting through today. They deserve to know they belong and have a community walking with them toward a stronger tomorrow.

HOW WE WORK

It starts with food.

A shared meal, the dignity of choosing food that meets a family's needs, or receiving support through a trusted community partner where people already feel known and welcome. Food is often the first step toward connection. It creates opportunities to build relationships, establish trust, and understand the unique experiences of each person we serve.

We believe support begins with knowing people by name, listening to their stories, showing up consistently, and walking alongside them through life's challenges. We care for the whole person, offering practical support, encouragement, prayer, and a community where people are seen and valued.



Volunteers prepare take-home meals for community members who couldn't join us for the celebration.



A community member enjoys coffee and pastries at our hospitality centre.

Welcoming everyone

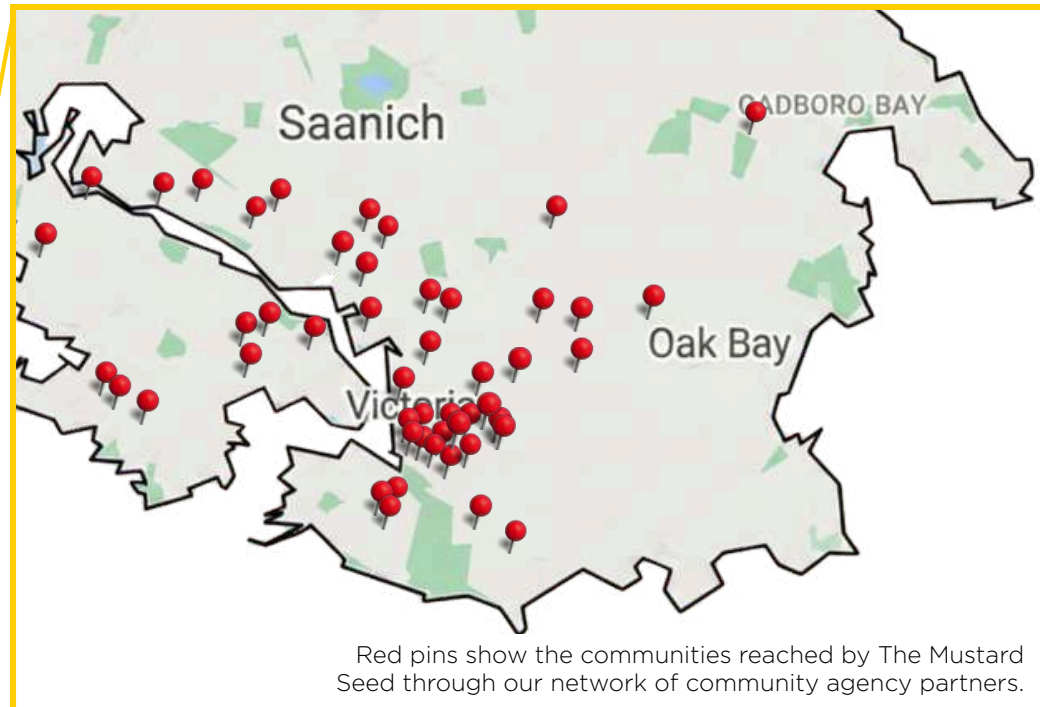
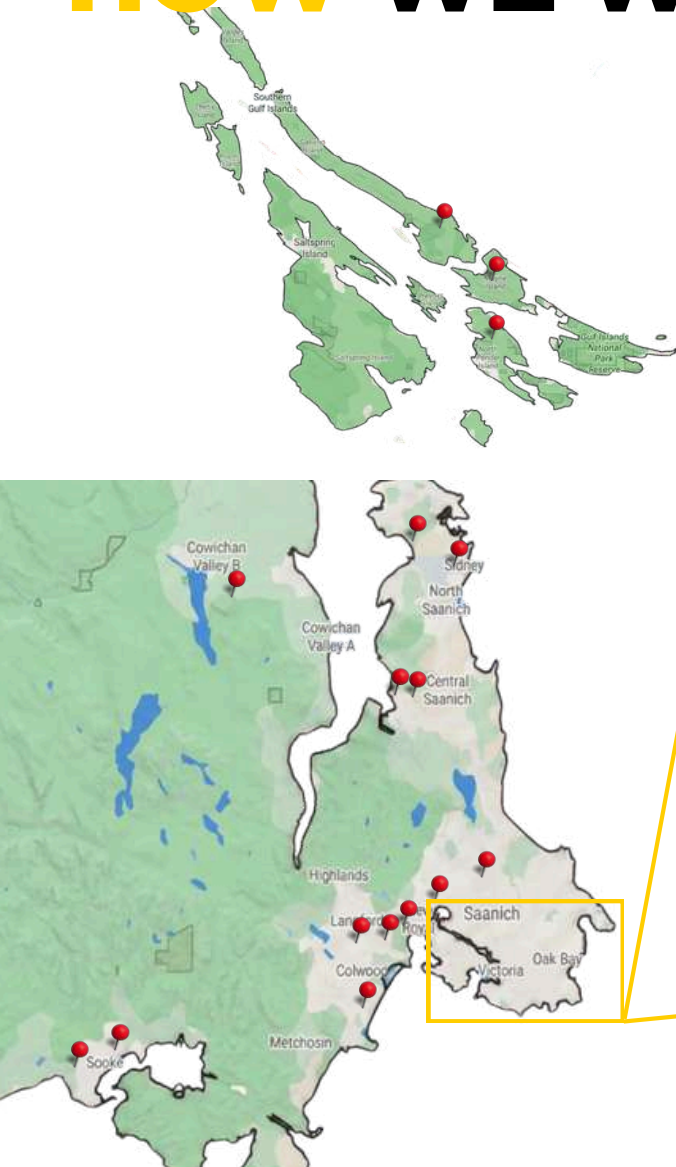
We believe support should be accessible wherever people are on their journey. Through partnerships with local agencies, we work to bring food closer to where people live and reduce barriers to access. In downtown Victoria, our Hospitality Centre, Food Bank, and Church remain open spaces where anyone can find not only food, but also connection and spiritual care.

More than places to receive a meal or access resources, these spaces are places of welcome and belonging. They create opportunities for meaningful relationships, where people are known by name, supported through difficult seasons, and connected to the resources and community needed to create lasting change.

HOW WE WORK

Partnering with our community

We believe food should be accessible to everyone in the most dignified way possible, without shame or stigma. We believe food can also be a way to build relationships, strengthen community, and create a sense of belonging.



That's why, in 2026, we partnered with 84 social agencies through our Food Rescue program. Our partners collect rescued food from us and bring it directly into their communities, making it possible for people to access fresh and nutritious food through places where they already feel connected, such as community centres, neighbourhood houses, senior centres, and churches.

A full list of our community partners can be found on page 44.

OUR OBJECTIVES

At The Mustard Seed, we believe everyone deserves access to nutritious food, a sense of dignity, and the opportunity to thrive. Every day, we work alongside our neighbours experiencing hardship, providing not only food but also the support, connections, and opportunities they need to navigate difficult times and build a brighter future.

Our work contributes to broader social and environmental outcomes. By rescuing surplus food, strengthening community partnerships, and supporting individuals and families with compassion and respect, we are helping advance several of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



A happy child shows the school supplies and new shoes he received through our Fair Start Program.

OUR WORK & THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Our work directly supports the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

2
ZERO
HUNGER



Zero Hunger

By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant, and lactating women and older persons.

11
SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



Sustainable Cities and Communities

By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.

12
RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



Responsible Consumption and Production

By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

17
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Partnerships for the Goals

Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

1
NO
POVERTY



No Poverty

By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

3
GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



Good Health and Well-Being

Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

HOW WE EVALUATE OUR WORK

Listening, measuring and improving

At The Mustard Seed, evaluating our work begins with listening. We believe the people we serve are the best source of insight into what our community needs, and their voices help shape how our programs evolve.

Every day, our staff and volunteers are in close contact with clients, creating opportunities to hear their experiences, understand emerging needs, and identify ways to improve our services.

We also monitor trends in food insecurity through research and data from Food Banks Canada, Food Banks BC, and local sources. This helps us understand the broader challenges facing our community and ensures our programs respond to changing circumstances.

To measure our impact, we track key indicators such as the number of individuals and families served, the volume of food distributed, participation in our programs, and client satisfaction. We also seek feedback from the community agencies we partner with, whose perspectives help us strengthen our programs and better support the wider food security network.

Rather than viewing evaluation as a one-time exercise, we see it as an ongoing process of learning and improvement. By combining data with the lived experiences of our clients and partners, we continuously adapt our services to ensure they remain accessible, relevant, and responsive to our community's needs.

As our organization grows, we are committed to strengthening our evaluation practices, enabling us to better measure outcomes, demonstrate our impact, and continue providing the highest level of service to our community.



A volunteer provides compassionate foot care to a community member.

Responding to a changing community

The needs of our community continue to evolve, reminding us that our work must evolve as well. While our mission remains unchanged, we are committed to adapting our programs and services to meet emerging needs while building on the strong foundation established over the past 50 years.

Growing with intention

This year reinforced the value of thoughtful growth. By strengthening existing programs, investing in our people, and developing leaders from within before pursuing new opportunities, we have built a stronger and more sustainable organization.

Strengthening partnerships

Meaningful partnerships are the foundation of an effective food security network. Through ongoing communication, trust, and collaboration with our 84 agency partners, food rescue partners, volunteers, and supporters, we have improved coordination and increased our collective impact across Greater Victoria.

Stewarding every gift

We recognize that every donation represents the trust and generosity of our community. This year reaffirmed our commitment to making thoughtful, accountable decisions that maximize the impact of every dollar entrusted to us.

LESSONS LEARNED IN 2026



A volunteer helps a community member select food items at the food bank.



2026 IMPACT AREAS

- Food Security
- Belonging & Community
- Care & Support

FOOD SECURITY

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



WHY FOOD SECURITY MATTERS

Access to nutritious food is a basic need, yet for many individuals and families in Greater Victoria, the rising cost of living has made it increasingly difficult to afford the essentials.

In 2025, the living wage in Greater Victoria reached **\$27.40 per hour**. That's the amount a person needs to earn to cover basic expenses such as food, housing, transportation, and child care without experiencing ongoing financial stress. This represents a significant increase from \$19.39 per hour in 2019, reflecting the growing pressure many households are facing. At the same time, minimum wage remains more than \$9 per hour below the living wage, leaving many workers struggling to make ends meet.

Food insecurity is not limited to people without employment or housing. Across Canada, **1 in 4 people live in food-insecure households**, and nearly 2.2 million visits to food banks were recorded in a single month in March 2025. Increasingly, people who are working, seniors, and families with children are seeking support because their income is not keeping pace with the cost of living.

The impact of food insecurity extends far beyond an empty pantry. For children, consistent access to nutritious food is essential for healthy development, learning, and overall well-being. For adults and seniors, food insecurity is linked to increased stress, poorer health outcomes, and greater barriers to stability. Ensuring access to food is not only about meeting an immediate need, it is about creating the foundation people need to thrive.

At The Mustard Seed, we believe everyone deserves access to nutritious food, dignity, and the opportunity to participate fully in their community. Through our Food Bank, Food Rescue Program, and network of community partners, we work to make food more accessible while building connections and support systems that help our neighbours move forward.



OUR APPROACH

AT THE HOUSEHOLD LEVEL

Dignity through choice

At **The Mustard Seed Food Bank**, we welcome our neighbours into a market-style food bank where they can choose the foods that best meet their preferences, dietary needs, and family circumstances. Recognizing that every situation is different, we also offer a dedicated selection of ready-to-eat and easy-to-prepare foods for individuals without access to a kitchen. Whenever possible, we provide gluten-free, vegan, and culturally appropriate food, ensuring our neighbours can access food that respects their health, culture, and dignity.

AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

Bringing food closer to home

Food should be accessible within the communities where people already live and belong. Through partnerships with **84 local agencies**, including neighbourhood houses, schools, senior centres, and community organizations, we help ensure that nutritious food reaches people in familiar, trusted spaces.

Our team collects surplus food from grocery partners, sorts and prepares it, and tailors each delivery to the way our partners serve their communities. Whether supporting market-style distributions, pre-packed hampers, community meals, or other models of care, we work to make accessing food as welcoming, efficient, and barrier-free as possible.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Strengthening the local food system

Food security also depends on how we care for the resources already available in our community. Through our **Food Rescue Program**, we redirect surplus food that would otherwise end up in landfills, ensuring it reaches neighbours who need it most.

Each year, millions of pounds of nutritious food are recovered, reducing food waste, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthening a more sustainable regional food system. At the same time, increasing access to fresh, nutritious food supports better health, improves children's ability to learn, and helps individuals and families build greater stability and well-being.

OUR RESULTS

In 2026, our Food Security work continued to grow in response to increasing community needs, helping more neighbours access nutritious food while strengthening a more connected and sustainable local food system.

Through our Food Bank, Food Rescue Program, and partnerships across the region, we provided **3.28 million** pounds of food in **744,400** service interactions, ensuring that people facing food insecurity had access to fresh, nutritious options in ways that respected their dignity and circumstances.

Our market-style Food Bank welcomed **24,440** visits throughout the year, allowing neighbours to choose foods that best met their dietary needs and family preferences. Through our network of **84** community agency partners, we extended this impact beyond our own location, helping bring food closer to where people live, gather, and belong.

Our Food Rescue Program recovered **3.52 million** pounds of surplus food, valued at **\$13.06 million** an increase of **13.25%** compared to 2025. We redirected nutritious food to people who need it most while preventing it from going to waste. This work not only strengthens food security across our region. It also contributes to a more sustainable food system by reducing the environmental impact of food waste.

Our food rescue efforts helped divert **3.28 million** pounds of food from landfill, avoiding an estimated **10.6 million** pounds of greenhouse gas emissions and making better use of resources already available in our community.

Together, these efforts helped create a stronger food network, one where neighbours have access to nutritious food with dignity, community partners are equipped to respond to local needs, and surplus resources are transformed into meaningful support.

FOOD SECURITY

LOOKING AHEAD

In fiscal year 2027, we will continue to expand access to nutritious food in ways that protect dignity, reduce barriers, and meet our neighbours where they are. Through the launch of our mobile food bank, we will bring food support closer to the communities we serve, creating more accessible pathways to nutritious food and connection.



Volunteers sort fresh produce to be distributed throughout the community.

FINDING SUPPORT IN A NEW HOME

Meet Eliana's family

Eliana and Jair came to Canada with their family after threats and attacks in Colombia put their lives in danger. Their work as social activists had placed them at risk, and they made the difficult decision to leave their home and come to Canada to protect their family.

With two adults, two children, and a six-month-old baby to care for, the family needed help. A neighbour guided them to The Mustard Seed. On their first visit, the family received groceries, meals, baby formula, diapers, hygiene products, and household essentials. Their son, Christopher, also received school supplies and a pair of shoes.

The support gave the family something they urgently needed: breathing room.

“There was always this fear in our family of what we are going to eat, and the worry is there all the time. When we met The Mustard Seed I felt calm, that even if something unexpected happens or there is not even a cent to buy anything this month, there is so much support available to help us get by.

— Jair

Today, the family is building a new life in Victoria. Jair has started working, the family has found stable housing, Christopher is attending school, and they continue to learn English and look for opportunities to build their future.



Eliana's family pose for a photo with a staff member from The Mustard Seed.

BELONGING & COMMUNITY

May 13th 2026

Fee · Tea · Juice
ches - 1 per day
· PB & J
· Salmon Salad

Tomato Veg

@12



WHY BELONGING & COMMUNITY MATTERS

Belonging is a basic human need. We all need places where we feel welcomed, known, and valued. Yet for many people in Greater Victoria, experiences of poverty, homelessness, isolation, and other barriers can make it difficult to find meaningful connection and a sense of community.

The need for belonging is not separate from the practical challenges people face. When someone is struggling to find stable housing, meet their basic needs, or navigate difficult circumstances, isolation can make those challenges even harder. Having a safe place to gather, share a meal, build relationships, and be treated with dignity can provide an important sense of stability and connection.

Through our Hospitality Centre and Church, we create spaces where people can come as they are and be part of a community. In 2026, the Hospitality Centre welcomed thousands of visits, offering opportunities for people to connect with others, access practical support, and participate in a community where they are respected and valued. Our Church also provides a place for worship, friendship, and connection, welcoming people from all walks of life.

The impact of this work is about more than the number of visits or services provided. It is about creating relationships and strengthening the sense that no one has to face difficult circumstances alone. By creating spaces of welcome, we help build a community where people can experience dignity, connection, and belonging.

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4

OUR APPROACH

We believe belonging begins with welcome. Through our Hospitality Centre and Church, we create spaces where everyone is invited to participate, connect, and be seen.

A PLACE TO GATHER

Every day, our **Hospitality Centre** provides opportunities for neighbours to share meals, build relationships, and experience community. Through breakfast, snacks, hot lunches, dinners, and community gatherings, food becomes a doorway to connection and conversation.

Beyond meals, our programs create opportunities for people to participate, contribute, and build friendships through activities such as bingo, arts and crafts, bible study, movie nights, foot care, haircuts, church services and seasonal gatherings.

A PLACE TO BELONG

Belonging grows through consistent relationships. Our team and volunteers take time to know our community by name, listen to their stories, celebrate milestones, and walk alongside neighbours through difficult seasons. Our **Hospitality Centre** is more than a place where people receive support. It is a place where neighbours can contribute, develop skills, and become part of a caring community.

As a faith-based organization, we believe spiritual care is an important part of supporting the whole person. Through **church service**, Bible studies, morning devotions, men's and women's groups, and opportunities for prayer and reflection, we create spaces where people can explore faith, find encouragement, and experience hope. Beyond these gatherings, our pastors foster community through shared experiences such as nature walks, camps, picnics, community barbecues, and our baseball team, creating opportunities for people to build meaningful relationships and experience the joy of belonging.

Across the organization, we also welcome individuals completing community service placements and one-time work experiences through partnerships with community organizations. By creating meaningful opportunities for people to contribute their time and skills, we help build confidence, strengthen connections, and create pathways for greater participation in community life.

Our commitment to spiritual care also extends beyond our walls through partnerships with local churches, community presentations, and opportunities to connect people with faith communities across the region.

OUR RESULTS

In 2026, The Mustard Seed continued to be a place of welcome, connection, and care for our neighbours. Through meals, activities, community gatherings, and spiritual care, we created opportunities for people to experience belonging and build relationships.

Throughout the year, we provided **52,902** meals, welcoming neighbours into a space where they could gather, connect, and receive support. Beyond meeting immediate needs, each meal created an opportunity for conversation, friendship, and relationship-building.

Our hospitality and church programs had **49,975 interactions** through activities including church, bingo, arts and crafts, movie nights, foot care, haircuts, group activities, and special events. These gatherings helped reduce isolation and created opportunities for neighbours to share their gifts, develop friendships, and participate in community life.

Together, these moments of welcome created a community where people are known by name, supported through challenges, and reminded that they belong.



A volunteer prepares sandwiches to share with the community.

BELONGING & COMMUNITY

LOOKING AHEAD

In fiscal year 2027, we will continue strengthening our programs as places where everyone is welcomed, valued, and connected. We will continue creating opportunities for neighbours to build relationships, participate in community life, and access holistic support through hospitality and spiritual care.

As we walk alongside our neighbours, we will also continue to strengthen our advocacy efforts, bringing awareness to the challenges people experience, amplifying the voices of those with lived experience, and working with partners to address the barriers that impact people's ability to thrive.

As our community's needs continue to change, we remain committed to creating spaces where people experience not only support, but belonging, dignity, and hope.

A photograph of a man with short brown hair, wearing a light grey crewneck sweater, standing behind a wooden podium. He is smiling and looking slightly to his left. In front of him are two microphones on stands. To his left, a cymbal is visible. The background features a large wooden cross structure against a light-colored wall. The entire image is framed by a thick yellow border.

A church service at The Mustard Seed.

MORE THAN A MEAL: A PLACE TO BELONG

Meet Normand

Normand has been part of The Mustard Seed community for many years. Known affectionately as “Normand the Poet,” he uses poetry to express experiences and emotions that can sometimes be difficult to put into conversation.

He regularly visits our Hospitality Centre for a hot meal, but also for something just as important: connection. It is a welcoming place where he can spend time with others and feel part of the community.

“This is the place where I feel seen, not just as someone in need, but as someone with something to give.

— Normand

Through his poetry, Normand shares his voice, creativity and perspective with those around him. In his poem *Broken*, he writes:

***“Into crises of life, I feel like to be
A broken doll in which life has become
A challenge into my awkwardness into me.”***

— Normand



Normand enjoys a meal at our hospitality centre.

His words speak to hardship and resilience, but they also remind us of something fundamental: everyone deserves to be seen, heard and valued for who they are and what they have to offer.

CARE & SUPPORT

Ensuring every neighbour can experience life's important moments with dignity and hope.

1

NO POVERTY



2

ZERO HUNGER



3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



WHY CARE & SUPPORT MATTERS

The rising cost of living affects families throughout the year, but the financial pressure is often felt most deeply during significant milestones such as the beginning of the school year and the Christmas season. For many parents, these moments bring difficult choices between paying for essential needs and creating meaningful experiences for their children.

Children should begin the school year feeling confident and prepared to learn. Families and individuals should be able to celebrate holidays with dignity, maintaining traditions that reflect their culture, values, and hopes.

These moments contribute to one's sense of belonging, confidence, and well-being.

At The Mustard Seed, we believe support should extend beyond meeting immediate needs. By helping families and individuals navigate these important seasons, we reduce financial stress, preserve dignity, and create opportunities for joy, celebration, and connection.



A child shows his Fair Start kit.

OUR APPROACH

We believe care should respond not only to everyday needs, but also to the moments that matter most for our neighbours.

HELPING CHILDREN START STRONG

Our **Back to School Program** equips children with the resources they need to begin the school year with confidence. Every child receives school supplies selected specifically for their grade level, a new pair of quality runners, and healthy snacks to support their learning throughout the school day.

By providing high-quality essentials rather than simply meeting minimum requirements, we help children arrive at school prepared to learn alongside their peers.

CELEBRATING WITH DIGNITY

Christmas is a season of hope, generosity, and community. Through our **Christmas programs**, we seek to ensure that our neighbours can celebrate with dignity, create meaningful memories, and experience the joy and hope of the season together.

Through our **Christmas Hamper Program**, families choose gifts and stocking stuffers that reflect their children's interests, ensuring every child receives something meaningful. Adults also receive a gift, recognizing that everyone deserves to experience the joy of being remembered.

Families receive traditional Christmas food, along with grocery gift cards that allow them to purchase culturally appropriate foods and celebrate the season according to their own traditions and preferences.

CREATING MOMENTS OF JOY

Our annual **Christmas Luncheon** brings neighbours together to celebrate the season in community. Through a shared meal, live music, prayer, and fellowship, many experience the warmth and celebration of Christmas at a time when they might otherwise be alone.

OUR RESULTS

In 2026, our seasonal programs helped children, families, and individuals experience important moments with greater confidence, dignity, and hope.

Through our Back to School Program, **600** children received grade-appropriate school supplies, a new pair of quality runners, and nutritious snacks, helping them begin the school year ready to learn.

During the Christmas season, we distributed **1,200** Christmas hampers, ensuring families could celebrate with food, gifts, and the flexibility to purchase culturally appropriate holiday meals through grocery gift cards. Parents selected gifts their children would truly enjoy, while adults also received a small gift of their choice, recognizing that care and celebration should include every member of the family.

Our annual Christmas Luncheon welcomed neighbours from across the community, serving **900** Christmas meals in an atmosphere of hospitality, music, prayer, and celebration. For many, it was their only opportunity to celebrate Christmas surrounded by community.

Together, these programs helped reduce financial pressure, create joyful memories, and remind families and individuals that they are seen, valued, and supported during life's most meaningful seasons.



Children excitedly choose their new pairs of shoes at Fair Start.

CARE & SUPPORT

LOOKING AHEAD

In fiscal year 2027, we will continue strengthening our seasonal programs so that more children and families can experience life's important milestones with confidence and dignity. We will continue improving the quality and choice offered through both our Back to School and Christmas programs.

As our community grows and needs continue to evolve, we remain committed to ensuring that every family has the opportunity to celebrate, learn, and create lasting memories.



A volunteer happily serves Christmas meals at our Christmas celebration.

A LITTLE HELP AT THE RIGHT TIME

Meet Sasha's Family

Sasha first came to The Mustard Seed in 2019, when her two boys were just two and three years old. The teacher was working hard but still couldn't make ends meet. She began visiting our Food Bank for groceries that helped her get through difficult months.

As her circumstances changed, so did the support her family needed. Today, she no longer relies on regular food assistance, but The Mustard Seed continues to be there for her family through Fair Start and Christmas Programs. Fair Start helps her growing boys begin the school year with new shoes and school supplies, while Christmas support helps Sasha create a special holiday without taking on additional financial stress. Knowing her boys will have something waiting for them on Christmas morning gives Sasha tremendous peace of mind.

“

Christmas is so lovely because I have the comfort of knowing that they will have something under the Christmas tree.

— Sasha

”

That support means more than the items themselves. It gives Sasha room to be present with her children and enjoy these important moments together, whether they are getting ready for a new school year or celebrating Christmas.



Sasha and her children celebrate Christmas with support from The Mustard Seed.

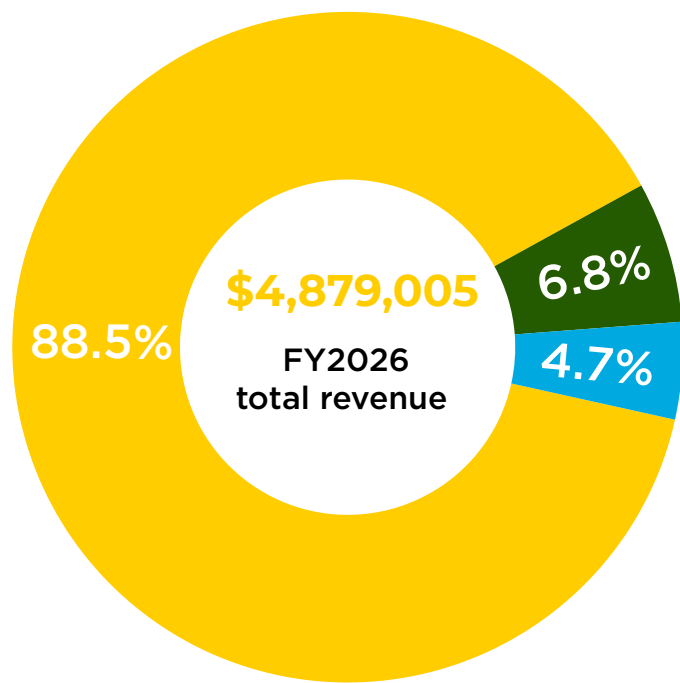
2026

ACCOUNTABILITY
& PARTNERSHIP



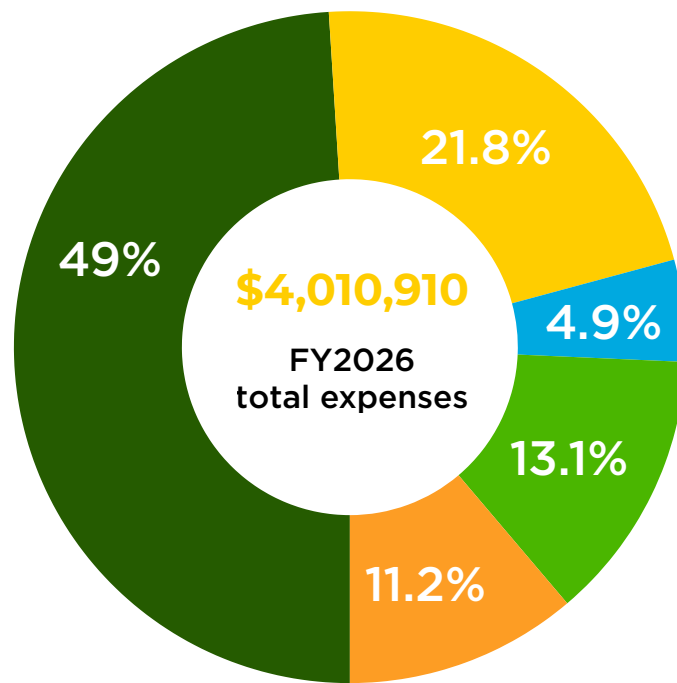
OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Every dollar entrusted to us is an opportunity to make a difference.



FY2026 total revenue

● **Donations** \$4,318,041 ● **Grants** \$333,563 ● **Other income** \$227,401



FY2026 total expenses

● **Food Security** \$1,961,226 ● **Belonging and Community** \$875,609
● **Care and Support** \$196,630 ● **Fundraising** \$526,696 ● **Administration** \$450,749

At The Mustard Seed, we believe financial stewardship is an essential part of our responsibility to our donors, partners, volunteers, and the people we serve. Throughout the 2025–26 fiscal year, we carefully managed the resources entrusted to us, balancing the need to respond to immediate needs with our commitment to sustainable, long-term impact.

Our financial resources support the people and programs at the heart of our mission, from rescuing and distributing food, to creating spaces of hospitality and belonging, to providing care and support for our neighbours. We are committed to transparency, accountability, and using every resource as effectively as possible.

Note: Our fiscal year runs from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Financial information is based on our fiscal-year financial statements. Audited financial statements are available at mustardseed.ca/reporting/.

YEAR OVER YEAR COMPARISON

A Look at Our Growth

We invested more in fundraising and staffing this year, increasing our expenditures by 8.69%. Our investment in fundraising contributed to a 20% increase in revenue, giving us more resources to sustain and grow our work in the community. At the same time, investing in our team increased our capacity to serve more people while maintaining the quality, care, and consistency of our programs and services.

Total revenue

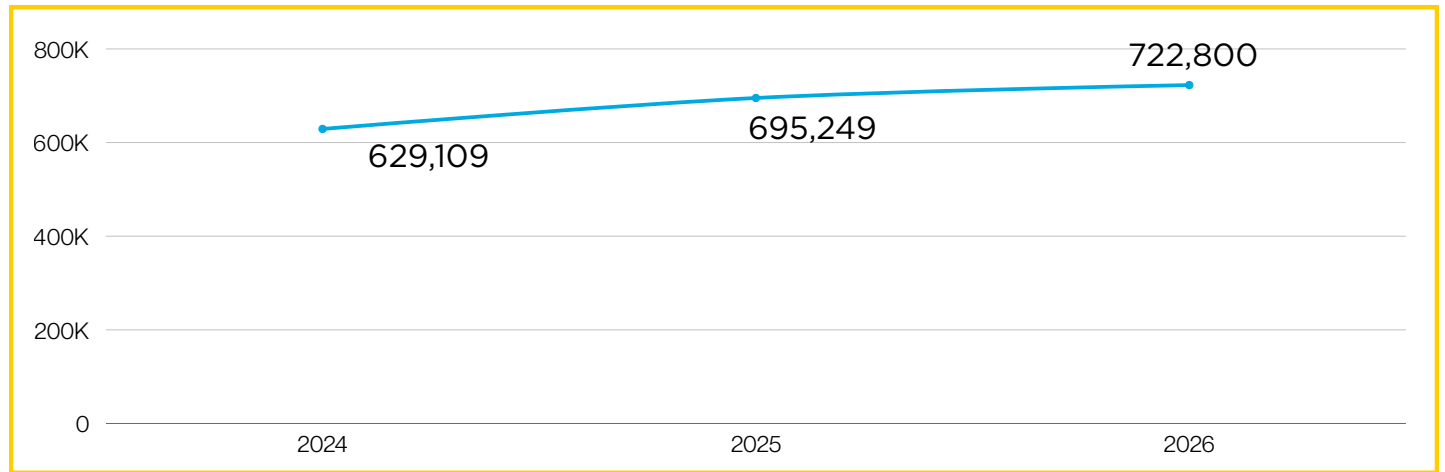


Total expenses



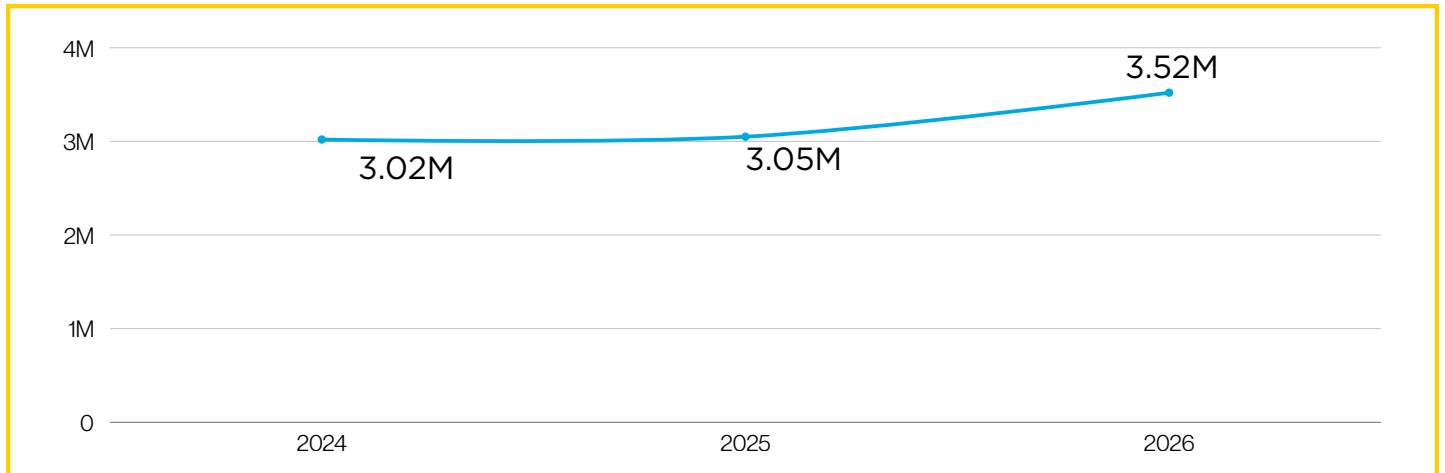
Food Security Service interactions

+14.9% since 2024



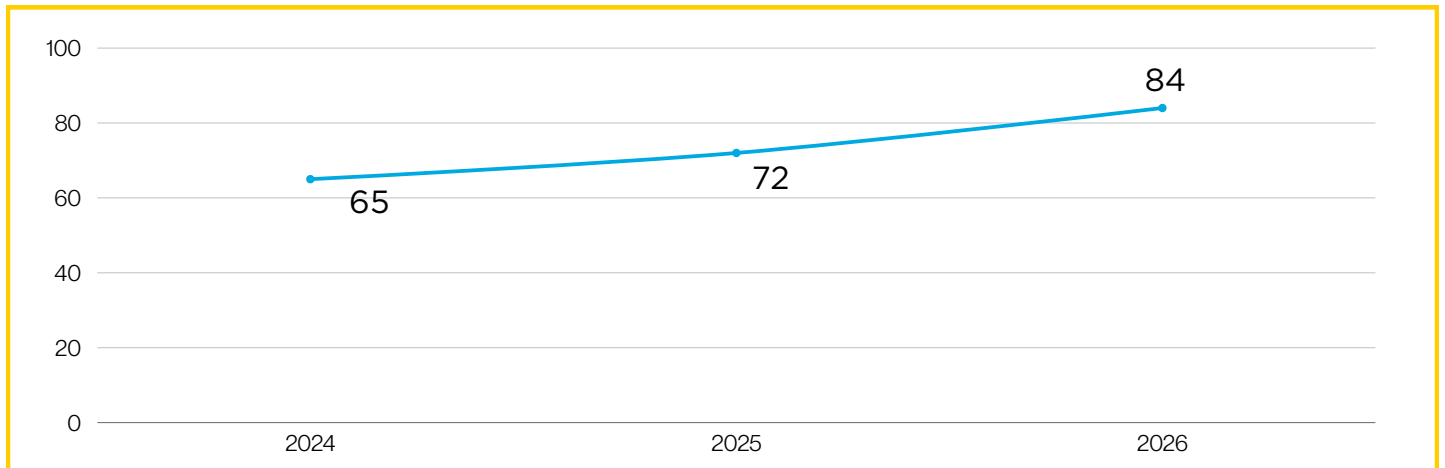
Food rescued (lbs)

+16.6% since 2024



Partner agencies

+29.2% since 2024



OUR PARTNERS IN IMPACT

Creating lasting change takes a community. We are deeply grateful to the businesses, foundations, churches, community organizations, volunteers, and individual donors who made this work possible. Your generosity, partnership, and trust have helped bring hope, dignity, and practical support to thousands of neighbours across our region.

Strengthening our Food Bank network

We are grateful to Food Banks BC and Food Banks Canada for the support, resources, and collaboration they provide to food banks across the country. Their work helps strengthen our capacity to respond to food insecurity, access food and resources, share knowledge and best practices, and advocate for the people and communities we serve.



A family leaves the food bank with bags full of food.

To our food rescue partners

Your generosity helps ensure good food doesn't go to waste and instead reaches people and communities who need it. Thank you for helping us turn surplus into nourishment, strengthen food security, and make a meaningful difference in our community.



To our partner agencies

Your partnership helps us bring good food where it is needed most. By collecting food from The Mustard Seed and sharing it within your communities, you help make nutritious food more accessible in places where people already have relationships and a sense of belonging. Thank you for the care, commitment, and collaboration you bring to this work, and for helping us ensure that rescued food reaches our neighbours with dignity.

VICTORIA

- Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness
- Anawim House
- AVI Health & Community Services
- BC Housing
- BC Muslim Association
- Beacon Community Services
- Burnside Gorge Community Association
- Coastline Church
- Community Food Support
- Community Food Support Outreach
- Cook Street Village Activity Centre
- CoolAid
- Daily Dose Society
- The Cridge Centre for the Family
- Fairfield Gonzales Community Association
- Fernwood NRG
- Fateh Care
- Flourish School Food Society
- House of Mercy
- Inter-cultural Association
- ICMT
- Imagine Compassion
- James Bay Community Project
- James Bay New Horizons
- James Bay United Church
- John Howard Society (Manchester House)
- Le Relais

- Living Edge
- Northpark Neighbourhood Association
- Oaklands Community Association
- Oasis Society for Spiritual Health
- Olive Branch Revival Foundation
- Pacifica Housing
- Portland Housing Society
- Quadra Village Community Centre
- Red Cedar Cafe
- Sanctuary Youth Centre
- Silver Threads Service
- Songhees First Nations
- St. John the Divine
- St. Vincent De Paul
- Stellys Secondary School
- Threshold Housing Society
- Umbrella Outreach Society
- Victoria Youth Empowerment Society
- Victoria Women's Transitional Housing
- Whole Way House
- YMCA Young Moms/Pandora Youth Housing

COLWOOD

- Royal Bay Secondary School

SAANICH

- Camosun College Student Society
- Community Cabbage (UVic)
- Craigflower Elementary School
- Island Sexual Health
- Saanich Neighbourhood Place
- Saanich Volunteers
- Shelbourne Community Kitchen
- University of Victoria Multi-faith
- 1 Up Single Parents Resource Centre

ESQUIMALT

- Esquimalt First Nations
- Esquimalt High School
- Esquimalt Church of the Nazarene
- Esquimalt Neighbourhood House Society
- Esquimalt Mutual Aid
- Esquimalt Seniors Community Centre
- House of Shilo
- Rainbow Kitchen Society
- Salvation Army

LANGFORD

- Belmont Secondary School
- Goldstream Food Bank
- Pacific Centre for Family Services
- Soroptimists International of Victoria (Westshore)

SAANICH PENINSULA

- Pauquachin First Nation Wellness Centre
- Wsanec Leadership Council/Land Trust

SOOKE

- Edward Milne Community School
- Sooke Family Resource Centre

DUNCAN

- Our Eco Village

GULF ISLANDS

- Galiano Food Bank
- Mayne Island Food Bank
- Pender Island Food Bank

To our volunteers

Behind every meal shared, every neighbour welcomed, and every program delivered is the time, compassion, and dedication of our volunteers. Although we can measure the hours given, the true impact of your contribution is found in the relationships built and the moments of care created. You helped create a place where our neighbours feel valued and supported. Thank you for standing alongside us and helping make our community stronger!

To our donors

Every can of food, every gift, and every act of generosity helps us provide food, create welcoming spaces, and walk alongside our neighbours through challenging times. Thank you for believing in our work and for helping make our community a place where everyone can feel cared for, supported, and valued.

To our business and community partners

We are deeply grateful to the hundreds of businesses across Greater Victoria that supported The Mustard Seed throughout the year. Through financial contributions, food and in-kind donations, sponsorship, employee engagement, and other forms of partnership, local businesses helped us strengthen the programs and services we provide.

To our church and faith community partners

Your prayers, generosity, and commitment to serving our neighbours strengthen the work of The Mustard Seed every day. Through your partnership, encouragement, and willingness to walk alongside us, you help create spaces of compassion, hope, and belonging throughout our community. Thank you for standing with us in our mission and for being a faithful part of caring for our neighbours.

To the foundations and grant funders

We are grateful to the foundations, government funders, and community organizations whose grants help us strengthen and sustain our programs. Their support allows us to respond to emerging needs, invest in our services, and create lasting impact in our community.



United Way
British Columbia



**Victoria
Foundation**



Sovereign Order Of
ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM
Knights Hospitaller c1048
Victoria Commandery



TELUS



TELUS Friendly
Future Foundation

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Executive Director

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Claudia Rezende

Director of Development

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Director of Finance

Emily Palimaka

Director of People & Culture

Melina Abraham

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Report Credits

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