

UNDER ONE ROOF / Squamish Helping Hands Society

Health & Housing

The District of Squamish and Squamish Helping Hands Society are working in partnership with BC Housing to create a new “Under One Roof” facility that will offer the Squamish community improved and centralized access to food, shelter and support services. The facility will invite community partners such as the Squamish Food Bank, Cutting Barriers, Vancouver Coastal Health etc. to share the space and the vision for collaborative solutions.

This new facility shall provide a broad array of services and opportunities where people can experience connection and personal growth leading to healthier individual and community outcomes. The space will significantly increase housing options for the Squamish community. By incorporating core needs and affordable housing attached to individualized supports - in keeping with the Housing First Model - it will essentially provide social housing solutions in our community for decades to come.

Food Recovery & Delivery

On the first floor of the building we envision a community space: a full service food hub including grocery store style food bank along with dining areas to offer hot meal service to individuals, children and families; food storage to increase our food rescue capacity; a commercial kitchen for a variety of internal and community food activities including supported education and employment; a drop-in centre with outreach and triage services; continued emergency shelter service; multi-purpose meeting spaces, as well as the possibility of storefront café, laundromat to build capacity, create sustainability and community connection.

The upper 3 floors will consist of a range housing options which can accommodate varying levels of support needs up to and including independent living. While core needs housing, for those with significant barriers and where supervision and care are essential, will be the mainstay, we will also hope to include affordable independent living units as well. This mix of housing is part of the overall plan for this facility where we reduce stigma and encourage a sense of community - give back built in.

Wellness and Work

Recognizing that people may indeed need our help to make the changes necessary to regain independence and purpose, we are committed to providing what is needed without damaging self-respect, self-esteem or self-confidence. To that end we will provide supported wellness, training and employment opportunities and encourage all participants to contribute to the community while we work with them to have their needs met quickly and responsibly, avoiding long waits for needed resources and inconvenient service models.

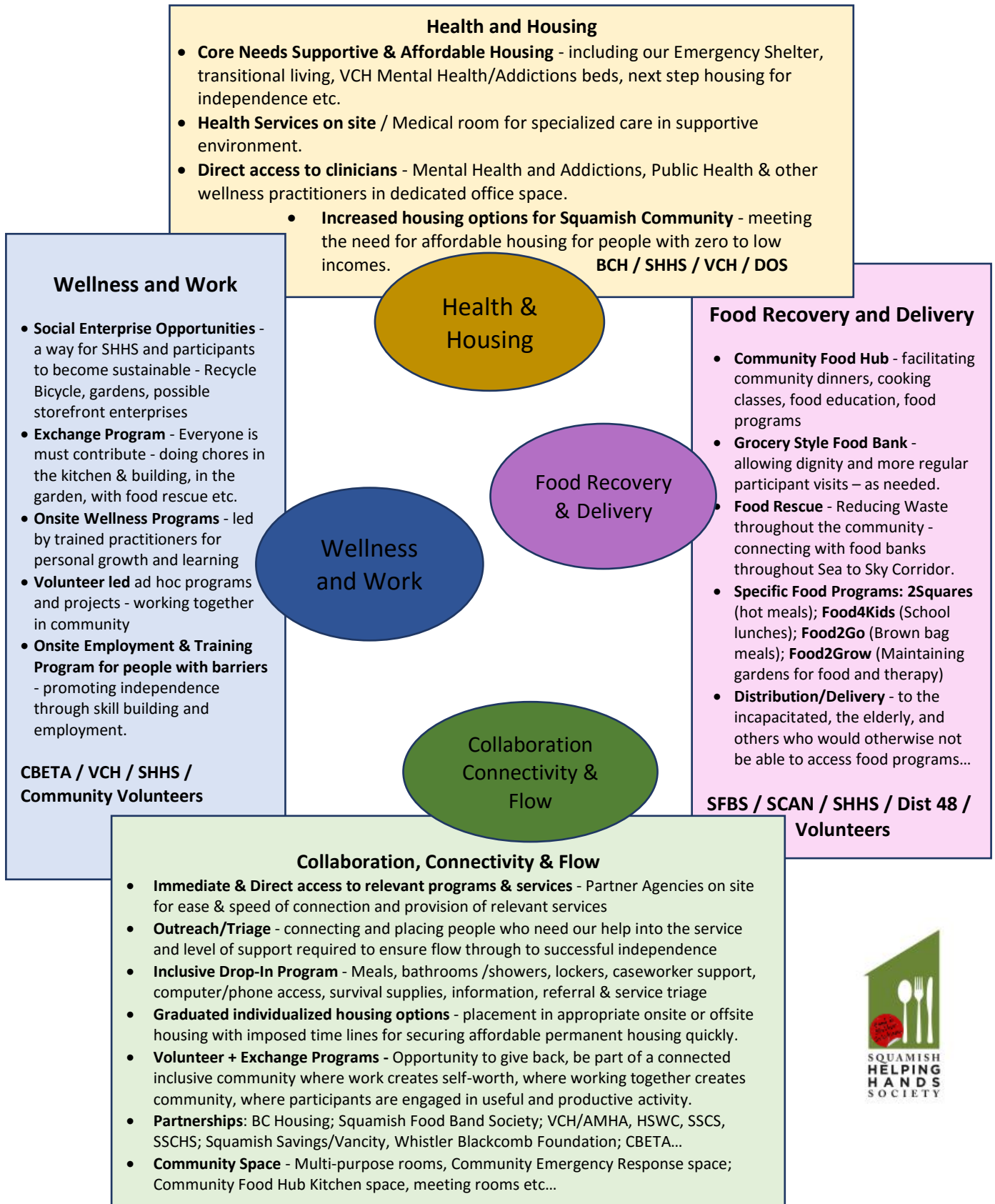
At the core will be partners working together in a grass roots, people centred environment. Through collaboration we will be able to better serve and respond to our participants by creating easy flow and access to services, programs, workers, mentors and housing that are inclusive and supported.

Community Connectivity & Flow

The idea behind this new collaborative space is simple: A) Health and Housing achieved through partnerships with key stakeholders and service providers for the provision of community and lifeline services; and B) a community gathering place, connecting and integrating all members of the community offering both prescribed and ad hoc opportunities, inspiring a community spirit of give and take, ensuring flow **Under One Roof**.

Under One Roof

Multi-Purpose Community Space



About Squamish Helping Hands

In partnership with others the Squamish Helping Hands Society provides food, shelter and community to individuals and families in the Sea to Sky Region who are vulnerable and who may be living with or threatened by homelessness. We have been providing these services successfully since 2006 in an old firehouse donated by the District of Squamish and through funding from BC Housing. From these humble roots - men and women sleeping 365 days year on mats on the floor - we have learned much about community, about caring for people with barriers and providing lifeline services. We will continue to work with BC Housing and the District of Squamish and other partners such as the Squamish Food Bank, Cutting Barriers and Vancouver Coastal Health to provide these basic services and more with dignity and respect for all who seek our assistance.

In 2015, SHHS provided over 3,000 shelter stays, 35,000 meals, 14,000 school lunches and a friendly, experienced hand up to those in need - all this from our FireHouse Shelter/Drop-In in downtown Squamish located at Third & Main - just behind the library. In 2015 Squamish saw 12 deaths from our vulnerable community. In 2015 through our homeless count we learned that there were at least 11 children affected by homelessness.

Besides food and shelter it is important that we also provide a caring environment where all people, regardless of race, religion, colour or gender, feel safe and welcome. Through individualized support from our network of clinicians, mental health professionals and case workers we assist participants in their transition from at risk to safe, from homeless to housed, from poor health to wellness and work.

At Helping Hands capacity building is first and foremost impacting the success of each participant and therefore we expect each person to contribute what they can to the community so that we are all held accountable for making it a safe and welcoming space for people to live and grow; that we all have the opportunity to socialize and belong to a vibrant and inclusive community.

Hand in hand with the District of Squamish, Helping Hands' vision is an end to hunger and homelessness in the Sea to Sky Corridor. We believe this benefits the whole community. We believe that it creates an opportunity for everyone to be enriched, an opportunity for many to re-imagine the future – living in a community where everyone matters, where everyone has enough food to eat and each a safe place to call home.

ABOUT COLLABORATION:

African proverb: If you want to go fast go alone. If you want to go far go together.

Recognizing that we are working with many of the same people and that together we can provide programs and services that better meet the needs of the people we serve, Under One Roof puts partnership and collaboration at its core. Bringing partners together benefits our participants but also our organizations. We gain a sense of community within the sector that reverberates out into the community and to the people who come to us for help. In partnership, we can address duplication or overlapping of services as well as gaps in service. In partnership, we become leaders for the community, for the sector. In partnership we can get down to the work - helping folks with health & recovery, food and shelter, providing space to re-imagine their lives - instead of wasting energy in silo thinking and competing for limited dollars and attention. In partnership, we can say if you give to one you give to all. We can cost share. We can keep our eye on the prize - the safety and wellness of people we came to serve.

FIVE TYPES OF CORE NEEDS HOUSING:

1. Emergency Shelter (16 beds 1st & 2nd Floor - 30 day stay max)
2. Low Barrier Housing (10-17 beds 2nd floor - needs dependent stay)
3. VCH Mental Health & Substance Use Transitional (5 beds 3rd Floor - 30 day stay)
4. SHHS Program 4 Independence (12 beds 3rd Floor - 18-24 mos stay)
5. Affordable Independent Living (15-21 beds 4th Floor - 2-3 years stay)

FOUR TYPES OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE:

1. Cutting Barriers Food Service, Catering and Café (Training and Employment)
2. Squamish Food Bank Grocery
3. SHHS Laundromat
4. Food Rescue and Distribution

THREE TYPES FOOD PROGRAM DELIVERY: (from the garden, donated, rescued, repurposed)

1. Hot meal and Brown Bag Food service for both adults and families
2. Corner Grocery Food Bank Service 5-7 days per week
3. Food Delivery & Distribution throughout the Sea to Sky corridor

TWO TYPES PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTION & EXCHANGE (BUILDING CAPACITY):

1. Employment & Training - Cutting Barriers, Keep'n it Clean Laundromat
2. Volunteering - cleaning, cooking, laundry, repair & maintenance, web site, Food Bank, Food Rescue & Distribution, special projects etc.

ONE ROOF:

Where everyone has a part to play, a job to do, goals to strive toward, a place to be at home...

SOME OF OUR COMMUNITY & ON SITE PARTNERS:

Squamish Food Bank Society (On site)
Cutting Barriers Employment and Training Association (On site)
Vancouver Coastal Health - AMHA (On site - also a source of funding)
Squamish Seniors Citizens Home Society (SIHSG agency, referrals, collaboration)
Sea to Sky Community Services (SIHSG agency, referrals, collaboration, Outreach/clinical space)
Howe Sound Women's Centre (SIHSG agency, referrals, collaboration, outreach/clinical space)
Whistler Community Services (Referring Agency, collaboration)
Division of Family Practice (local doctors, supporting body)
Squamish Medical Advisory Committee (Hospital, supporting body)
Squamish Savings / Vancity (Championed Partner, funding...)
Whistler Blackcomb Foundation (Food Programs, funder)
School District 48 (School Lunch Program, supporter)
Target Homes (Supported Employment, Donor)

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT & FUNDING PARTNERS:

Ministry of Social Housing and Social Innovation (Contract funding)
Assisted Living (Health) Registry (Program Support, licensing)
BC Housing (Capital funding, Ongoing Operational funding, Champion)
CMHC (Seed funding)

Together we seek funding from Squamish Savings/Vancity in the amount of \$350,000 to help us pay for ancillary costs once the capital budget has been expended. Some of the things we will need:

Specialized equipment - for Café, Laundromat, Commercial Kitchen, Food Bank
Kitting out Casework, Intake and Counselling spaces
Computers and other equipment for volunteers, participants, admin, visiting clinicians
Shelving & Storage systems - Food Bank, Food Hub/Processing, Food Storage
Furniture - Admin, visiting clinicians, housing, commons, food hub, Café, Laundromat, patio
Library / Learning - books, training manuals, games, computers, shelving
Food Bank Grocery store set up - refrigerators, freezers, computer
Kitchen - small appliances, pots & pans, cooking/eating utensils, dishes, aprons/uniforms
Laundromat - cash register, sorting bins, wheeled laundry carts, clothes wrapping system, uniform
Donation Bay - Shelving, sorting bins, labelling system
MPR amenities (Space for others to meet, give workshops, collaborate...)
Bike washing station
Garden beds,

