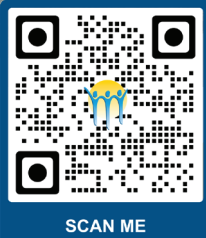




A PLACE TO CALL HOME



Watch the video

These homes could not have been built without the support of donors who gave to our Communitas50 Fund last year. Matt Dirks is Communitas' chief innovation officer. He explains that building new homes was a new experience for the organization, but with limited options that would truly meet the needs of the people we serve, this project became critical.

"The concept of home is deeply personal, and housing is a pressing issue across our province. Challenges like supply shortages, affordability, and policy debates dominate conversations, each with proposed solutions—smaller footprints, faster approvals, higher-density builds, or cost-cutting materials," Matt says. "While well-intended, these choices shape what gets built, often overlooking accessibility for people with disabilities."

By contributing to this project, donors helped Communitas create places that people will truly call home.

"We are incredibly grateful to the donors who gave towards the Communitas50 Fund last year and the inclusive housing initiatives," Matt says. "We are excited to continue exploring ways to move accessibility ahead on the housing agenda."



Last December, we shared the story of Kelly and her daughter, Jadacey and the importance of having a safe and loving home. As a single mom, Kelly found it very challenging to provide the 24/7 care that Jadacey required. When Jadacey was able to move into one of Communitas' homes, it was both a relief and bittersweet for Kelly.

"I wanted to be able to do everything for my daughter but it just isn't possible for one person to do it all," Kelly reflects. "Knowing that my daughter is in a safe home with people who love and care for her has made a huge difference to us both."

"I feel like we won the lottery. I know that Jadacey will be safe but I also know that she will be loved and cared for. That's what matters most."

Kelly continues to be an integral part of Jadacey's life, visiting her whenever she can. Their story underlines the importance of having a place to call home – not just a house to live in, but a home where one belongs.

Last year, Communitas took on the project of building two new homes. Built by Stattonrock Design and Build, these homes replaced one aging home owned by Communitas that had been vacant for nearly a year as it was no longer a suitable home for people living with disabilities. That home was removed by Nickel Brothers and will go to a new owner. The lot was already zoned for two houses, giving Communitas the opportunity to build homes specifically designed for the eight people who moved into these homes in February. Jadacey was one of those people.

Kelly and Jadacey were able to tour Jadacey's new home just before she and her housemates moved in. The home is bright and spacious. It is equipped with all the things that are needed when you live with a disability: extra wide doors and hallways, lifts on the ceilings, an accessible bathtub, and lower counter tops. All of these amenities are tastefully created so that this home does not feel like an institution. That's important to Kelly.

"I appreciate that this home has everything Jadacey needs but I really like the homey atmosphere," Kelly says. "I love the nice patio out back. I can see them sitting around a fire pit there or enjoying meals in the summer."

Kelly is grateful that her daughter is able to move into such a beautiful home.

"I feel like we won the lottery," Kelly says, with a smile. "I know that Jadacey will be safe but I also know that she will be loved and cared for. That's what matters most."



Got Shredding?

Apr 12, 2025
10:00am – 1:00pm
2776 Bourquin Crescent West,
Abbotsford, BC

Let us take care of your shredding needs!
Secure shredding provided by
Urban Impact right on site.

\$10/bankers box. Cash/Credit/Debit

Your participation in this event
supports people of all abilities!

SHRED-A-THON



What's new at Little Sprout Café?

Meet Chef Kerry, the new chef at Little Sprout Café! Kerry has been hard at work revamping our menu to offer customers some protein-forward menu options that continue to celebrate the freshness of the microgreens grown right in the café.

Next time you're in, try out the Smash Burger or the Salmon Burger, enjoy breakfast with the Eggs Benny Bowl or sample the new coffee and tea providers.

As a social enterprise, Little Sprout also focuses on training and hiring people of all abilities. Be sure to say a big hello to our trainees!



FOCUS

Abundant Life for All Abilities



BECOMING

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BECOMING AT COMMUNITAS

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WHO ARE YOU BECOMING?

“Becoming isn’t about arriving somewhere or achieving a certain aim... it is a forward motion, a means of evolving, a way to reach continuously towards a better self. The journey doesn’t end. Becoming requires equal parts patience and rigor. Becoming is never giving up on the idea that there’s more growing to be done.”

– Michelle Obama (in her autobiography, *Becoming*)

At Communitas, we spent a whole, wonderful year celebrating our golden anniversary, looking back at all the amazing people and processes that helped us become who we are today.

As we look forward to the next 50 years and beyond, we want to keep building on what has already been achieved. We recognize that to be an organization that celebrates abundant life for all abilities means we need to keep growing, keep learning, keep supporting, keep being curious. We want to see what more we will become.

So our theme for 2025 is “*Becoming...*”

As Mrs. Obama says, becoming isn’t about having arrived, it’s a forward motion.

This is true for us as an organization but also for the people we serve and for our staff. We want to take this year to explore what we can become – can we become kinder, stronger, calmer? Can we be more curious, more gentle, more generous?

Some of the people are exploring new opportunities to learn new skills – they are becoming baristas, landscapers, janitors, support workers, mental health workers, managers, and more.

All of this speaks to our desire for that abundant life – a life filled with new opportunities to grow, learn, make new friends, and experience new things.

As you look ahead to the rest of this year, what does “Becoming” mean to you?



THE COMMUNITAS50 FUND

Last year, as we celebrated our 50th anniversary, we created the *Communitas50 Fund*; an initiative inspired by 50 years of serving communities throughout BC. As we engaged with families, stakeholders, and the people we serve, four areas emerged that became the focus of our fundraising efforts:

- **Inclusive Housing** – creating safe, accessible homes for people with disabilities.
- **Life Skills Development** – equipping individuals for greater independence.
- **Mental Wellness** – expanding access to mental health supports.
- **Meaningful Work** – increasing employment and training opportunities for people with diverse abilities.

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, over \$300,000 has been committed towards these initiatives – supporting us to make significant progress in these areas. What a wonderful way to celebrate a 50-year legacy and to invest in the future of our communities.

Let us share about a few of the key initiatives we’ve undertaken with support from your giving:



We completed the construction of two new group homes in Abbotsford, creating customized living spaces for eight adults with developmental disabilities. This milestone represents more than bricks and mortar—it means security, stability, and community for those moving in. Read about this project in Kelly and Jadacey’s story!



Accessing mental health support remains a challenge for youth and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). To address this, we are launching a specialized counselling service, with plans to hire our first clinical counsellor by late spring 2025. We have consulted closely with practitioners at Archway Community Services and educators at Trinity Western University, to ensure we are designing services that will be effective and meet the real community needs.



Employment is a key factor in fostering independence and self-worth. This February, we welcomed a new Social Enterprise Manager to drive the expansion of two of our social businesses: Comm-Crew and Janitorial Services. This role, made possible through donor support, will focus on business growth, operational training, and increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.



These milestones mark significant progress, but the need remains. We continue to see increased demand for accessible mental health supports, accessible and affordable housing, and meaningful work. We so value your partnership and connections as we continue to make a difference in the lives of the people we support.

If you’d like to continue supporting these efforts, visit [CommunitasCare.com/donate](https://www.comunitascare.com/donate) or connect with us to learn more. Your contributions make a lasting impact—ensuring individuals have the opportunity to belong, grow, and thrive.

Thank you for being part of this journey.



BECOMING EVEN MORE

“I love our new theme for 2025: Becoming... it inspires me to think about how we, as an organization, will thrive in the months and years ahead.”

2025 will be filled with opportunities and new experiences. For example, we are already in the process of becoming re-accredited by the Council on Accreditation. And we have hired a new IT Specialist, becoming more technologically savvy through streamlining processes that can give us back time to be with people more. We are becoming accustomed to new leadership, as we recruit a new manager of Philanthropy and Donor engagement, a new Social Enterprise Director, and a new Chief Financial Officer.

For me personally, and for the organization, this year marks a significant change for all of us, as I step down from my role as Chief Executive

Officer at the end of June. I do so with a sense of excitement – not for myself - but for what is about to unfold for Communitas. It feels like just the right time for a new CEO who can lead the organization into our next natural season of growth and diversification. I am excited for us to turn this corner, discover a new roadmap and anticipate the opportunities coming to Communitas.

I am deeply grateful to serve under such an amazingly dedicated board and also alongside so many hugely talented people (past & present.) Communitas shines because of the diverse contributions each person makes to the mission and values of the organization.

Though I do not personally know what is next – what I am becoming – I know that I have been shaped by my experiences here at Communitas and that continues. I’m excited to see what God has in store for Communitas as the rest of this year unfolds.

With deep, heartfelt gratitude,
Karyn.

