



providence farm
A THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY

Annual Report
2024/25



Our Mission

Trusting in Providence, and building upon the faith-centered heritage of our founding members, we are committed to serving needs and to fostering talents of people in the Cowichan Valley, especially of those not easily accepted elsewhere, through our therapeutic community at Providence Farm.

Our focus shall be upon the renewal of the body and spirit, and upon people caring for the soil, and the soil nurturing the people.

It is with gratitude that we express our heartfelt thanks to the Sisters for entrusting the mission of Providence to us, to our founders for building a brilliant foundation from which we strive to build good work upon, and to all those who came before us and walked gently upon this land.

Our Vision

To responsibly steward the organization's entrusted assets for the community's benefit.

To be a leader in demonstrating the therapeutic benefits of harnessing nature and community as allies.

To maintain organizational momentum while respecting the legacy of past contributors.

"There is longing among all people & creatures to have a sense of purpose and worth. To satisfy the common longing in all of us we must respect each other." ~ Chief Dan George



Our Purpose

“...the Farm was intended to be a place of opportunity, open to those with unmet needs... a place to grow (figuratively and literally), take risks, support collective dreams, and create social change.”

— Jack Hutton, Founding Father

Fifty years ago, a small group of visionaries—Jack Hutton, Sister Frieda Raab, Jack Pearce, and Devon Mills—imagined a place where the land could nurture people, and people could nurture the land. They saw possibility where others saw limitation, and together they built Providence Farm: a community rooted in compassion, belonging, and hope.

Today, we honor that legacy by continuing to serve some of the most vulnerable members of the Cowichan Valley. As a Trauma-Informed agency, we offer adult Community Inclusion Day Programs through a Person-Centered approach, ensuring every individual is seen, heard and valued. Our work is grounded in Nature-Based and Horticultural Therapies where gardens, greenhouses, and open fields become classrooms, sanctuaries and places of renewal.

In 2024–2025, over 100 Participants—each with unique abilities, stories and goals—found opportunities for growth, healing and connection at Providence Farm. Through contract-supported referrals from CLBC and VIHA, as well as community partnerships, we continue to create spaces where people can be their most authentic selves, discover their strengths and belong.

Here, we care for the land and in return, the land helps care for us.



A note from Our Participants

At Providence Farm, our Participants are not just at the heart of what we do—they are vital partners in shaping our programs. Their voices, ideas and lived experiences help guide the spirit of our work, ensuring that we move forward with authenticity, empathy and respect. Continuing last year's tradition, we once again gathered as a community to workshop a theme that reflects our shared experience.

This year, we explored the meaning of belonging—what it looks like, feels like and how it grows here at Providence. Together, we created this message for you, our supporters:

Dear friends,

Over the past few years, we have learned the importance of leaning on and investing in one another to stay safe, connected and strong. By sharing our strengths, unique talents, perspectives and abilities, we create a community that thrives on trust, mutual respect, and genuine care.

Our gift to you is the reminder that belonging is built together—one relationship, one act of kindness and one shared moment at a time.

We are individuals with brain injuries, developmental diversity, neurodivergence, physical disabilities, mental health concerns, diagnoses and age-related illnesses. Each of us brings a unique lens, adding to the beautiful kaleidoscope of experiences and perspectives that make Providence Farm a vibrant, inclusive place.

We are connected, inclusive, accepting, compassionate, kind, generous, grateful, inspired, creative, resourceful, determined, strong, resilient, thriving, powerful, diverse, able, smart, experienced, relevant, persuasive, charming, authentic, genuine, humble, honorable, trusting, empathic, thoughtful, serious, silly and hilarious.

Friendly. Accepting. Respectful. Mindful. Inclusive. Loving.

We are FARMILY.

"True belonging doesn't require that we change who we are;
it requires that we be who we are." ~ Brené Brown



Our Board of Directors

Board Chair: Bev Suderman
Vice Chair: Linda Love
Treasurer: Tom Todd
Secretary: Noelle Philp

Directors: Susan Scott Gabe
Rhoda Taylor
Christoph Steeger

Dear Members and Friends of Providence Farm,

As a Board of Directors, we are very proud of the organization that it is our privilege to steward. VIPCA fulfills an important role in our community, fostering the talents and meeting the needs of people who are not easily accepted in our society. Our role is also to steward the land, while creating opportunities for renewal on the land. Part of our commitment is to foster harmonious relationships between people, between people and the land, and to support mental, physical and spiritual health for our Participants, our staff, our volunteers, and our community. We encourage anyone who believes in our mission and has time and willingness to commit, to consider applying to serve on our Board of Directors. It is challenging work and also rewarding to support the staff, programming and land through financial oversight, governance and vision.

Since our last report, the Board adopted a new strategic plan for the period of 2025-2028, focusing on the key areas of programming, land management, financial stability and becoming a more inclusive organization.

Other highlights:

1. We developed and adopted several plans and policies:
 - a. Providence Farm Forest Management Plan
 - b. An investment policy, to implement the bylaw change from 2024
 - c. A capital plan, outlining our key priorities for capital improvements on the Farm.
2. The Board participated in a series of Governance Workshops, which highlighted that we are working effectively in many areas and there is more work to be done to be even more effective



3. Partnerships and collaborations have led to meaningful change on the Farm, including repairs to the CTRA Barn, experimental plantings to support new cedar plantings in collaboration with the Quw'utsun Cultural Connections Society and make the sheep pen more accessible for Participants to enhance their therapeutic value.

4. Excellent media attention about some of the creative initiatives at the Farm, including an item in CHEK news about the Drone Flying Program; an in-depth article with the Discourse about Seniors' Programming at the Farm; and excellent Facebook documentation of "Adventure Therapy," using the ATV to take participants further out on the land than they had been before.

Some upcoming challenges include:

1. Accreditation: VIPCA has been beyond the threshold for accreditation for a couple of years, but there have been delays in having the process start although staff and board members have been undertaking various tasks to be ready for it when it is time. So while we talk about accreditation a lot, there has been little progress.

2. Pursuing opportunities for reconciliation in action, which may include some cedar plantings on the Farm, relocation of the driveway and other measures to address concerns of our closest neighbours, the Quw'utsun peoples.

3. The ongoing need for fundraising in a time of fiscal restraint within the provincial government and economic stress for many members of our community.

We are grateful for all of the staff, volunteers, donors/funders, members and Participants who make Providence Farm the healing place that it is today! Thank you for your involvement and your support. Please let us know if you would like to become more actively involved with the Farm through volunteering, donations, or Board service.

On behalf of the Board,
Beverly Suderman, Chair

"We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men." ~ Herman Melville



A note from Our Executive Leadership

Over the past year, the trifecta of the Head (Leah Boisvert, Director of Operations), the Heart (Stephanie Kok, Director of Therapeutic Programs) and the Hands (Conrad Murphy, Director of Infrastructure and Agriculture) has continued to move forward as a united and collaborative leadership team. Guided by the same values of respect, love, generosity and kindness, our shared leadership model has deepened in cohesion, trust and collective purpose.

In 2024–2025, our shared leadership approach has evolved into a dynamic and lateral model, fostering collaboration across all departments. The administrative, programming and site teams have worked in alignment, drawing on one another's talents, skills and lived experiences to strengthen our agency's efficacy. We recognize our colleagues as departmental leaders and integral stakeholders—entrusted partners who help maximize our capacity and bring the vision of Providence Farm to life.

Our year has been marked by intentional trust-building and rapport-building with those we serve, as well as the cultivation of meaningful partnerships with like-minded organizations such as CTRA (Cowichan Therapeutic Riding) Glenora Farm, NACL (Nanaimo Association Community Living), BCCEO, Board Voice, VIU Community Support Program, "Island ED Meetup" and Clements Centre. Together, we are building a network of shared learning, mutual respect and collective impact.

We also remain committed to reconciliation and professional growth. This year, our leadership team participated in an intensive four-part Culturally Committed Workshop Series, attended gender diversity, mental health and AI workshops and engaged in sector-wide learning at the Vantage Point Not-for-Profit Leadership Conference in Vancouver and the BCCEO Network Conference, Federation of Social Services. These experiences continue to shape our leadership lens, ensuring our work remains inclusive, informed and responsive.

With open minds and open hearts, we reaffirm our active commitment to sensitivity, passion, genuineness, enthusiasm, trust and collaboration. We are dedicated to fostering optimism, perseverance, and progressive direction for those in our care—honoring the legacy of those who came before us while preparing thoughtfully for those who will come after.

Our focus remains steadfast: the renewal of body and spirit, and the enduring relationship between people caring for the soil and the soil nurturing the people.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our Board of Directors for their tireless efforts, camaraderie, and unwavering trust. Your guidance and partnership strengthen our mission, sustain our growth and inspire our journey forward.

Leah Boisvert, Stephanie Kok & Conrad Murphy





Our Community

VIPCA proudly acknowledges that Providence Farm resides on the traditional and unceded territory of the Cowichan First Nations.

At Providence Farm, belonging is more than a value—it is the natural order of things. In nature, every element has a place and purpose. In the same way, every Participant, partner, and supporter strengthens the whole of our community.

This year, we proudly celebrated the 45th Anniversary of the Vancouver Island Providence Community Association (VIPCA)—a joyful, well-attended milestone honoring our roots and the vision that guides us today. Founders Jack Hutton, Jack Pearce, and Devon Mills joined foundational employees Christine Pollard, Ali and Lauren Stubbs to share stories alongside notable guests who have supported the Farm for decades. The Cowichan Discourse captured the occasion in a beautiful feature, highlighting how the founding principles of belonging continue to shape our future.

We also honored two remarkable retirements. Cindy Ross, a Horticultural Practitioner legend, concluded over 25 years of service, having cultivated Saint Ann's Garden Club into the respected and beloved Seniors Program it is today—and will continue to be tomorrow. Steve Bull, a Peer Mentor for over 30 years also retired, leaving behind a legacy of gardens we will continue to tend in his honour. Both have left lasting imprints on the land, programs, and people of Providence.

We welcome Participants, home share providers, volunteers, allotment gardeners, farm stand supporters, curious visitors, festival-goers, event guests, land partners, suppliers, and all whose paths lead here. Whether your connection is large or small, long-term or momentary, you are part of our ecosystem—and you belong.

Just as the land thrives on diversity, so does our community. We celebrate every unique contribution, learning from the resilience of the soil, the patience of the seasons and the generosity of the earth. The gardens remind us daily: growth happens when the conditions of care, respect, and trust are present.

With open hearts and open gates, we walk alongside one another—and alongside nature—fostering healing, trust, and connection.

Belonging here is not earned; it is found.

Welcome to Providence Farm!



Our Therapeutic Programming

Never underestimate the resilience gifted to us through nature, community, trust, friendship, and love.

In 2024–2025, Providence Farm’s Participants and Extended Family demonstrated a deepened spirit of innovation, trust, and collaboration. Building on the momentum of the previous year, we refined our Nature-Based Therapeutic Practice, integrating new tools, training, and evaluation methods that strengthened both our service delivery and our sense of shared purpose.

Seniors Programming – Saint Ann’s Garden Club

This year marked a turning point for Saint Ann’s Garden Club, our cherished Seniors Program, rooted in the beauty and rhythm of the gardens. We were overjoyed to restore and renew our partnership with our VIHA GSS contract funders and even more grateful to successfully renegotiate a contract that had remained stagnant for five years—finally bringing funding in line with the actual cost of operations. For too long, the Farm shouldered an annual \$60,000 deficit to keep this vital program alive. Today, we celebrate a more sustainable path forward.

With this renewal came a restoration of attendance and participation, bringing the program back to its fullest potential. We deepened collaboration with our contract partners and clinicians, working side by side to set the highest standard of service and ensure a strong continuum of care. We also welcomed a delightful new staff member—a Health Care Aid with a specialty in Seniors’ Activities—whose warmth, skill, and joy have brought fresh energy to the program, enriching the daily experience of every Participant.

This year also saw the introduction of new intake processes, modeled after our Greenways Program, allowing us to meet our Seniors with a trauma-informed lens that upholds dignity, honors life experience, and fosters belonging.

Saint Ann’s Garden Club has made a robust recovery—its members once again filling the gardens with conversation, laughter and the steady work of tending life. As we look ahead, we are committed to nurturing not only the plants in our care but the community that grows alongside them. Here, every season brings the promise of beauty, renewal, and shared joy.

Stephanie Kok
Director of Therapeutic programming
Planting Hope. Harvesting Joy

"There is no Wi-Fi in the forest, but I promise you will find a better connection." ~ Ralph Smart



Case Management & Participant Voice

The Case Management team advanced our Person-Centered Care Plans, ensuring Participant Voice is central. Goals range from improving self-esteem, conquering fears and building friendships to learning new skills, better managing health and strengthening memory.

The Board of Participants continues to grow in its role—selecting passion projects, advising on accessibility and safety, approving universal wayfinding designs, creating a satisfaction survey and updating emergency plans. Their review and approval of newly groomed garden pathways was celebrated by all, especially wheelchair and walker users who tested them firsthand.

Unique Learning Experiences

- Equine Assisted Learning (EAL): Participants overcame fears, learned to remain calm with large animals, recognized when to offer help and developed an understanding of each horse's needs and personality.
- Providence Farm Productions and Drone School: Participants practiced interview and eye contact, and storytelling, overcame technology challenges, learned editing and voiceover skills, and shared meaningful farm history. One Participant said that during drone school, he forgot about his mental health struggles and felt "strong, confident and sure of himself." Another called the experience "just really cool to learn something trippy and new."
- Check IN Boards: Participants developed mindfulness routines to start the day with calm hearts and minds. New positive language and reframing strategies became part of daily interactions, leading to a noticeable culture of optimism.

Programming Highlights

Nature-Based Activity in the Greenhouse

This year, the greenhouse became a living example of accessibility in action. With care and precision, the space was meticulously mapped and mathematically adapted to welcome mobility aids and wheelchairs with ease. Six newly installed raised garden beds now rise to meet the hands of those who tend them, ensuring that every Participant can plant, nurture and harvest with comfort and dignity. Today, the greenhouse hums with activity and purpose—a place where growth is measured not only in leaves and blossoms but in the confidence and connection it cultivates.

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate action of it's members." ~ Coretta Scott King



Farmly to Table Kitchen Program

The kitchen continues to nourish far more than bodies—it feeds the heart of our community. Over 50 weeks, five days a week, with an average of 40 people a day, our Farmly to Table Kitchen produced 10,000 wholesome lunches for our Providence community members—plus an additional 240 celebratory meals for seasonal gatherings. Here, fresh produce from our land is transformed into meals that warm the spirit as much as the body. The kitchen remains the epicenter of the Farm, where the aromas of cooking mingle with the laughter and conversation of people breaking bread together.

Eco Arts

This year, our Forest Studio welcomed a Registered Canadian Art Therapist, elevating the transformative power of Eco Arts with the depth and insight of Expressive Arts Therapy. Here, nature serves as both muse and canvas, and the creative process becomes an act of healing. Participants' work—rooted in the textures, colors and rhythms of the land—reflects the diversity and beauty found in every corner of Providence.

Providence Farm Productions & Drone School

The skies above Providence became a classroom this year as we celebrated the graduation of six Level 3 drone pilots. Through patience, skill, and a steady hand, Participants not only mastered flight but also produced fifteen vibrant video installations documenting the news, stories, and adventures of our Farm. Each aerial perspective reminds us of the joy in seeing the familiar from a new vantage point.

Farm Stand & Animal Care

This season, the Farm Stand and barnyard were alive with new beginnings as 25 chicks were hatched and raised by our Participants. The work of caring for these tiny, feathered lives became a living lesson in reciprocity—reminding us that the care we extend to others, also extends to ourselves. In tending to the needs of animals, we find deeper compassion, patience and a profound sense of belonging in the great cycle of care.

Professional Development & Collaboration

This year, our team's professional growth was as dynamic as our programming. We hosted NACL staff for a full day of shadowing as they prepare to launch their own Nature-Based Therapy Program, exchanging ideas and approaches that strengthened both organizations. We joined Project 84,000, a UVic-sponsored initiative led by the Cowichan Watershed Board, creating art to raise awareness for the health of the Cowichan River. Our collaboration with the VIU Program Support cohort expanded through the development and hosting of a Nature-Based Practitioner Practicum Curriculum, ensuring future practitioners enter the field with hands-on, community-grounded experience.

As a collective, we engaged in AHTA webinars exploring the growing body of research linking nature and human health, celebrated the seasons with four community lunches that united Participants, staff, volunteers, and supporters and strengthened our capacity for safety and positive interaction through MANDT training. Throughout the year, we worked in concert with partners such as CTRA, Camosun College of Horticulture Program Support, University of Victoria, Glenora Farm, Clements Center, and NACL, sharing expertise, hosting students and advancing inclusive, sustainable programming.

Gratitude

To our Participants—our chosen FARMILY—thank you for your courage, vision, and humour. You inspire our direction and remind us daily that when community and nature work hand in hand, growth is inevitable.



Our Finance and Fund Development

As we reflect on the past year at Providence Farm, we are filled with gratitude for the continued support of our community, our donors and our partners. Thanks to this unwavering support, we continue to provide valuable programming to members of our community that aren't easily accepted elsewhere.

This year the Finance Office focused on the development and implementation of a Capital Projects plan, identifying critical capital needs at the Farm. Following the development of the Capital Plan we focused on securing funding to begin the implementation of the most pressing items. We are happy to announce our success in securing a \$125,000 Capital Gaming Grant to complete much needed maintenance and repairs on the horse barns occupied by Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association. The work will be completed in the Summer of 2025 and will include new roofing and exterior paint for the buildings, electrical upgrades and new gutters. We are deeply thankful to the BC Gaming Grant Association and the Province of BC for their help in making this renovation a reality.

Our financial picture remains strong, thanks to the generosity of those who believe in our work. The Farm's programs continue to thrive, and we are proud to say that the community's support has been instrumental in allowing us to serve individuals with unique needs, fostering personal growth through connection with the land and animals.

Last year we held our second annual Farm to Table Friend Raiser Dinner. This special event brought together friends old and new, and their collective generosity played a crucial role in ensuring the farm's continued success. The overwhelming financial support we received that evening has directly benefit our programs, helping us to enrich the services we provide.

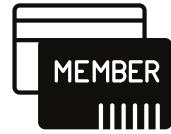
As we look ahead, we are excited to continue our journey with the help of such a caring and involved community. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

Leah Boisvert
Director of Operations

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." ~ Margaret J. Wheatley



Book Your Events
at the Farm



Become a Member



Volunteer



Make a Donation

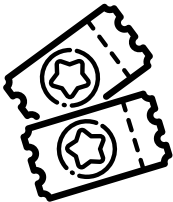


Tell your friends
about us

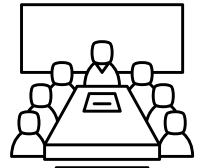
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Ways

YOU CAN SUPPORT
PROVIDENCE FARM



Attend our Events



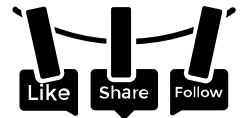
Serve on our
Board of Directors



Shop at our
Thrift Store



Shop at our
Farm Stand



Follow Us



Our Site and Agriculture

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, my office prioritized the replacement of critical infrastructure to enhance both functionality and accessibility on the farm. One of three major projects was the removal and replacement of the St. Ann Building's wraparound deck, a project essential for long-term safety and accessibility. The existing 1,800-square-foot wooden structure was fully deconstructed, and approximately 12 cubic metres of fill material was placed to prepare the site for a new concrete pad. In advance of this work, the sewer line beneath the deck, which had been leaking for years was repaired and a comprehensive in-floor drainage system was installed to ensure effective rainwater management. Once the concrete was fully cured, a powder coated aluminum handrail was installed. This feature not only improves accessibility and safety but also minimizes ongoing maintenance costs.

After workshoping with Participants and staff, it was determined that the outdoor sheep paddock was not conducive to programming due to the mud created during our wet winters. As a result, our Board Chair Bev Sunderman advocated for the support of One Hundred Women Who Care Duncan. With their generous donation we were fortunate enough to be build a 23 foot by 10 foot single slope, wheelchair accessible enclosure with a custom coloured standing seam roof that allows participants to interact with the sheep out of the elements, with benches for seating and outdoor feeders for the sheep.

I would like to thank our volunteers Orley Eby, Mike Pauls, Jack Bunden, Jack Hutton and Jack Pearce for all their help with the St. Ann deck and sheep enclosure projects. We could not have done it without you!

Another significant capital project undertaken during the 2024–2025 fiscal year was the conversion of two washrooms in the Heather House into fully wheelchair-accessible, ACA-compliant facilities. This upgrade ensures greater accessibility for Participants and visitors, aligns with current standards and reflects our commitment to creating an inclusive, barrier-free environment.

This year's Agriculture Team focused on increasing the quantity as well as the diversity of food crops as part of our long-term goal of producing 30% of the fruits and vegetables consumed on-site. In addition, two acres of land was seeded for feed-grade hay, intended both for internal use and sale. These initiatives support greater self-sufficiency, generate revenue opportunities and strengthen our commitment to sustainable agriculture.

A heartfelt thank you to our Board of Directors for their dedication and vision. Their commitment has provided not only a well-rounded strategic plan for growth but also the encouragement and support needed to move the organization confidently into the future.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the Site and Agriculture staff who come to the farm every day with positive attitudes and never complain no matter how hot, dirty, loud or exhausting the work is that day. You should all be very proud of what we accomplished this year as a team.

Conrad Murphy
Director of Infrastructure & Agriculture

"To be a farmer is to be a student forever, for each day brings something new" ~John Connell



2023-24 Site Projects:

- 2024-2025 Site Projects:
- Completed Self-Care plans for all Site and Agriculture staff
- Hosted Queen Margaret and Brentwood students for volunteering projects
- Hosted six VIU micro-credential courses: Pruning, Climate-Adapted Growing, Farm Equipment, Supporting Pollinators and Small Flock Basics
- Created another muster point for emergency preparedness.
- Painted interior of Farm Fashions including custom "Huy ch q'u" mural (Thanks Angela!)
- Completed staff survey for leadership performance
- Designed and installed an automated watering system in greenhouse
- Removed 1800 sq ft of decking around St. Ann building and replaced with concrete decking, in-floor drainage and aluminum handrail.
- Had roof of CTRA buildings scanned with a drone in preparation for Capital Gaming Grant Application
- Fell 7 danger trees around the property
- Toured the Clements Centre's new purpose-built building
- Repaired main sewer line to St. Ann Building
- Hired two Agriculture and one Event summer students
- Purchased and installed portable air conditioners for 5 workspaces
- Repaired and painted 23 picnic tables and 11 benches
- Replaced a large portion of the sound booth roof and changed floor plan to be more accessible
- Met with Kennen Consulting multiple times to coordinate the implementation of the forest management plan
- Presented to the Daybreak Shrine Club to discuss projects they could support
- 14th annual Halloween Event took place raising over \$5000
- Renovated both Heather House washrooms to be wheelchair accessible
- Second annual Burger and Bevy Fundraiser took place on June 27th. Over \$1500 raised
- Had the first ever Belgian Waffle Bike Race on the property
- Attended BCCEO conference on Community Social Health and Safety Association (CSSHA)
- Began populating farm assets into asst management software (Safety Culture)
- Installed new gas unit heater in main greenhouse
- Low voltage wires in the greenhouse control panel repaired
- Attended the Norton Rose Fulbright Cybersecurity Summit
- Renovated main Reception Office
- Replaced two gates on either side of St. Ann Building and installed combination gate locks
- Installed 3 stops signs and 4 speed bumps to deter speeding on the property
- Replaced sump pump in St. Ann Building and installed a dehumidifier
- Repaired pavilion fence with support from Duncan Lions
- Awarded contracts to CTRA contractors for capital gaming funded renovation
- Built a new exterior enclosure for sheep to facilitate participant interaction and accessibility

2023-24 Agriculture:

- Planted 750 pumpkins
- Harvested 3000 lbs of apples for juicing
- Installed bird netting to protect hens from predatory birds
- Toured Glenora Farm to discuss potential partnerships
- Hatched 40 eggs fertilized on the farm
- Harvested 550 lbs of potatoes
- Baled 150 bales of feed grade hay and 380 bales of native grass for bedding
- Seeded an additional 2 acres of land with Vancouver Island dryland mix hay seed



Our (to 31 March, 2025) Team

Our staff work diligently in their areas of expertise, going above and beyond to ensure the achievement of cohesiveness and supportive elements in our community. This dedicated group of talented and trained individuals includes support staff, caretakers, seasonal, part-time and full-time staff.

Director of Operations: Leah Boisvert

Director of Therapeutic Programming: Stephanie Kok

Director of Infrastructure and Agriculture: Conrad Murphy

Case Manager: Beth Whelan

Administrative Assistant: Angela Carlson

Event and Volunteer Coordinator: Sarah Martichenko

Horticulture Coordinator: Michelle Harrison

Nutrition Program Coordinator: Charlotte Hewson

Eco-Arts Coordinator: Farrell Elliot

Program Support Workers: Adrian Fletcher, Tim Fraser, Sharon Rumley,

Alysha Crozier, Aiyden Warren

SAGC Coordinators: Todd Demchuk, Nikky Peers

Seasonal Staff: Cassandra Blanchard & David Sullivan

Site Assistant: Jamie Roerick, Ian Cooper

Peer Mentors: Carmen Baker

Custodian: Lisa Bulcock



Our Volunteers

Belonging is one of the most powerful gifts a community can offer — and our volunteers embody this every day. They create continuity, weaving together the fabric of Providence with their time, skills and open hearts. Here, contribution means being part of something larger than ourselves, without expectation of recognition or reward.

At Providence, we believe our role is to be a place that celebrates and recognizes generosity in its truest form. In a world where it is often easier to focus on personal gain and convenience, our volunteers stand as shining examples of the world we wish to see — one where giving back is an act of selflessness, friendship, love and peace. Regardless of age or ability, they remind us that each person has eternal value and that the gifts we share with others are both immeasurable and infinite. We hope our volunteers know that we see their efforts and regard them as acts of humanity, generosity and deep connection.

In 2024–2025, we were delighted to welcome five new volunteers into our fold, each bringing fresh energy and unique skills. Together with our core group of 20 long-standing volunteers, affectionately known as members of our Extended Family, they form the heart of our volunteer community.

Their contributions are as varied as the land itself. From our Founding Fathers crew, who faithfully report for duty every Friday to tend to site maintenance and agriculture, to our dedicated culinary team in the kitchen, every act of service strengthens the Farm. In Farm Fashions, our resident fashionistas deliver warm customer service, while members of Saint Ann's Garden Club provide compassionate companionship. Volunteers mow lawns, bring seasonal celebrations to life, and inspire the next generation through the generosity of Queen Margaret's School and Brentwood College School, who together contributed multiple student service days with two enthusiastic groups lending their energy to the Farm.

Our beloved “beautification fairy” works quietly to add sparkle when no one is looking, while our friends in the Shriners, Rotary and Lions Clubs offer steadfast camaraderie. The craftsmanship of our talented woodworkers, the ingenuity of the Fix-It Shop mechanics, the expertise of Camosun Horticultural Technicians, the green-thumbed gardeners and the bakers who create treats for our seniors all add to the vibrant life of Providence.

To each of you — thank you. You bring joy, laughter, and inspiration into our days. You remind us that kindness, when given freely, has the power to transform communities and nourish the soul.

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, because they're priceless." ~ Sherry Anderson

Friends of Providence Farm

Richard & Jean Addison	Brian & Karin Farquhar	Linda & Rick Love
Tavia Agnew	Stephen Fisher	Neil & Mary-Beth Mackenzie
Katheryn Atchison	Loretta Foley	Dittmar & Pat Mader Mundel
Tanya & Bryan Bass	Daryl Forbes	Vicky Lynne Martson
Terry & Judy Bayes	Tim Fraser	Malahat Lions
Nancy Bennet	Scott Gray	Colleen Mcaskill
Owen Benwell	Edith & Howard Goss	Delta McDonnell
Christine R. Bottger	Alex & Juanita Haddad	Leighton Mellemstrand
Margrit Brauer	Margaret Hammond	Mill Bay Garden Club
Joanne Brocklebank	Mark & Becky Hazell	Jean Moore
Cam Campbell	Muriel Heggie	Lor Newstead
Alan & Noreen Carver	Gerald & Charlotte Herkel	Diane Nowlan
Karen A Chaster	Tom Henry & Violaine Mitchell	Jack Pearce
Chemainus Healthcare	Gerry & Mary Hof	Provincial Employees Community
Auxiliary	Kathryn Holopainen	Service Fund
Clement Family	Jack & Claudette Hutton	Sharon Rumley
Cocks Family Foundation	Hutchenson & Co	Lorna Rumsby
Cowichan Folk Guild	Karin Jarvis	Robert Russell
Cowichan Vocal Choir	Mary Claire Jennings	Sisters of St Ann's
Marion Y Csepe	Lynn June	Susan Scott Gabe
Margaret Davidson & Pat	Renee June	Carol Sim
Wolff	John Kaye & Catherine Macavity	Glenna Stewart
Estate of Jennifer Demedash	Davis Kidd	Lorern & Aly Stubbs
Jim Dias	Danielle & Wyatt Killam	Beverly Suderman
Laurel Duggan	Mickey King	Amanda Tait-Part
Chris & Sanja Duggan	Michael Kelly	Tom & Rosemary Todd
Ralph Eastland	Knights of Columbus	Val & Nev Townsend
Reed Elley	Kathy Korman	Peter & Joan Wilson
Currie Ellis	Mike Lakes	Tim Wyman
Roxie Eremko	Roch Lapointe	Bob Yorston
ian & Phaedra Fairwell	Georgette LeBlanc	

Thank you to all the donors who requested to remain anonymous.

Thank you sincerely as well to all of our volunteers whose names are not listed here but whose friendship, time and energy is priceless.

The Therapeutic Programs at Providence Farm are made possible with support from:



We acknowledge the financial assistance
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