



OUR STORY. OUR COMMUNITY. OUR FUTURE.

# The Communitas50 Fund

Creating inclusive community and abundant life for all



# The Communitas50 Fund

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## About Us

Communitas means “a community where all are equal”. Since its inception in the 1970s, Communitas Supportive Care Society’s purpose has been to create community for people of diverse abilities. In the beginning, this meant creating innovative, non-institutional homes for adults living with disabilities. Over time, Communitas’ core purpose has found new ways to express itself within a growing community of people living with mental health challenges and acquired brain injury.

Communitas Supportive Care Society is a registered charity based in Abbotsford, BC. Our mission is to create places of belonging, growth and contribution for people of all abilities.

To that end, we facilitate home living, community support, employment, social enterprises, and respite for people living with disabilities in Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, and Vancouver Island.

Communitas is governed by a volunteer board of directors and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation.

Charitable Registration No. 134106228RR0001



**“I love my job! Caring for others is gratifying, and the relationships formed are very real. Communitas is well established, there is a sense of community.”**

*– Linda Siemens, Support worker.*



**“We have so much fun with our co-workers and also with the people we serve. It’s a great organization and I am truly blessed to work here.”**

*– Brian Kroeker, SIL, PSW, WRAP facilitator.*



## Our story. Our community. Our future.



***As we look ahead, we want to expand our capacity, and provide meaningful services that will empower people to thrive in their communities.***

***Karyn Santiago,  
CEO of Communitas  
Supportive Care Society***

Our story began in 1974 when parents asked “who will look after our children?” That question started us on a journey filled with opportunities for belonging, growth, and contribution. In 2024, we will celebrate 50 years of abundant life for all abilities and we are so grateful to have reached this milestone.

We’ve seen a lot of change in 50 years. We began by supporting people living with developmental disabilities but we’ve grown to include services for people living with mental health challenges and acquired brain injury. We’ve welcomed people out of institutional settings into their own homes. We’ve seen stigma around mental health change as people understand that wellness is possible. We’ve seen people of all abilities integrate into our communities, making meaningful contributions wherever they are.

What has not changed is that question: who will look after our children? As we look ahead, we want to expand our capacity, and provide meaningful services

that will empower people to thrive in their communities.

### **Will you join me?**

We are looking for 50 champions: people who believe that inclusive communities are richer for the diversity; people who will challenge friends and family to invest in their communities so that people of all abilities

- will have a place to call home
- will develop important life skills
- will be able to gain and maintain good mental health
- will find meaningful work

Today, we’re inviting you to turn dreams into reality. Together with your generous support, we will continue to give the person-centred support that people need in order to live abundant lives.

### **Will you become a champion today?**

***Yours, with sincere gratitude,  
Karyn Santiago  
Chief Executive Officer***



## The Communitas50 Fund

The Communitas50 Fund is a new initiative inspired by 50 years of serving communities throughout BC. As we look ahead to commemorating our 50th anniversary in 2024, we naturally reflect on the future and ask, “how will we continue to support people over the next 50 years?” This fund is part of our response to that question. We are dedicated to leading and adapting to emerging needs now and into the future. The fund will help progress several key projects and services aimed at meeting the housing, skill development, mental wellness, and employment needs of people with disabilities in our community. Together we expect to raise \$500,000 with the help of 50 champions and their networks.

**We are looking for 50 “Champions to commit to raising \$10,000 each in 2024. Will you help us?**

**[Communitas50fund](#)  
[/Communitas-Champion](#)**



### How it works

Our Champions are cheerleaders – like you – who share, encourage, and invite others to join them in support of the Communitas50 Fund. As a Champion, you’ll reach out to your networks. Your friends, family, and other connections will be able to contribute directly to your \$10,000 goal via your Champion Profile page on the Communitas50 website (see sample, page 9.)

Champion Profiles will be featured in a gallery on the Communitas50 Fund Website and can be easily shared for networking purposes.



“Because of Communitas, our son has become more confident and independent. We have peace of mind because he is well-cared for. He is happy and we are happy!”

– Wendy and Jim, grateful parents.

**Help us extend our impact by becoming a Donor today!**

**[Communitas50fund](#)**  
**[/Donors](#)**



## Donor Recognition

Donors to the Communitas50 Fund who wish to be recognised will be included on a donor recognition list on the website. Donors can also choose to remain anonymous. Names are published only when consent is provided.

Donors who discover the fund and want to give directly toward the \$500,000 can also donate to the fund directly on the website.



*Communitas recognizes donors like you by awarding unique badges that reflect how you choose to make a difference. Browse the listing to find members of the giving community\* who gave through The Communitas50 Fund.*

Name of Donor	Name of Donor	Name of Donor	Name of Donor	Name of Donor



## What Are We Raising Funds For?

It is a challenging time for many. We hear it in the phone calls to our offices asking for help. We see it in the waitlists for services. We observe it in the environment around us and the impact on people's quality of life. Through our conversations with families, stakeholders and people we support, we want to address four priorities that emerged:

- creating inclusive housing options,
- developing life skills that allow for greater independence,
- supporting people to gain and maintain their mental health,
- and helping people of diverse abilities find and maintain meaningful employment.

Communitas is a registered charity, meaning we are not earning any revenue from our work. All funds go towards creating and sustaining services that are in line with our vision – creating inclusive community and abundant life for all.

Our revenues come from a variety of sources. Financial stability at Communitas is achieved through a partnership of government funding, grants, and the gifts of community members who believe in our purpose.

***You can help us raise funds by becoming a Communitas50 "Champion" in 2024.***

**[Communitas50fund](#)  
[/Communitas-Champion](#)**





## The areas of focus for this fund



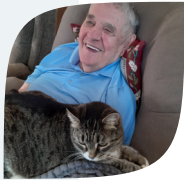
### **INCLUSIVE HOUSING**

Everyone needs a place to call home.  
[www.Communitas50fund.com/Homes](http://www.Communitas50fund.com/Homes)



### **LIFE SKILLS**

Everyone deserves the opportunity to grow.  
[www.Communitas50fund.com/Lifeskills](http://www.Communitas50fund.com/Lifeskills)



### **MENTAL WELLNESS**

Everyone needs access to equitable health resources.  
[www.Communitas50fund.com/MentalWellness](http://www.Communitas50fund.com/MentalWellness)



### **MEANINGFUL WORK**

Everyone should have access to meaningful work.  
[www.Communitas50fund.com/Meaningfulwork](http://www.Communitas50fund.com/Meaningfulwork)







## The Communitas50 Champion

- Is an Individual or business who believes and is able to support Communitas' vision of creating inclusive community and abundant life for all.
- Commits to raising \$10,000 during 2024 (January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024).
- Engages and directs their networks toward the Communitas50 Fund initiative.

## Why should I become a Champion?

- Help to raise awareness and advocacy for people with disabilities.
- Contribute to future innovative supports people need.
- Be part of a collective movement with other like-minded, passionate, and engaged individuals & businesses to bring about change.
- Share your story and social change commitment with a [personalised profile page](#) on the Communitas50 Fund Website.
- Access to Communitas events in 2024.
- And last, but not least, because it feels good to help!

\* Donations are tax deductible.

**Help us raise funds and extend our impact by becoming a Champion today!**

**[Communitas50fund/Become-Champion](#)**





## Champion Profile Page

You can help us raise funds by becoming a **Communitas50 "Champion"** in 2024.

[Communitas50fund/Champion](#)



Hi, I am Kathy Doerksen. I've been on the board of directors at Communitas for 13 years and currently serve as the board chair. Before I retired, I enjoyed a long career with Archway Community Services, working in their legal aid, victim services, and advocacy programs. I am interested in social justice issues, so having a career that allowed me to pursue my passion in human rights, equity, and service has been very rewarding. It's also one of the reasons that I am a member of the Soroptimist club, a world-wide service club that works to empower women and girls through education and economic development. When I'm not working or volunteering, I love to travel and am a voracious reader. I live in Chilliwack where I share a house with my daughter, son-in-law, two very active grandsons, two dogs, and a cat.

Serving on the board of Communitas has been another way to use my gifts. It offers me a place where my work experience, my values, and my passions come together. It is gratifying to know that I can continue to make a difference.

*Having been involved with the organization for such a long time, I can say with confidence that person-centred care is at the heart of Communitas. I hope you'll help us continue to make an impact in the lives of people living with diverse abilities.*

**Give Now**

Gift Info

I would like to give \*  Once  Monthly

Amount

Donation Type \*  Personal  Company/Organization

My Info

First Name \*  Middle Initial  Last Name \*

Address \*

City  State/Province  Zip/Postal

Country \*

Phone Number

Email \*

Payment Info

Credit Card \*

Card number

Gifts will be acknowledged and an official income tax receipt will be mailed to you for gifts over \$10.

I'm not a robot



## A Story Of Support

Darlene is in the kitchen of Little Sprout Café, putting together her favourite menu item. “Not your average BLT,” Darlene says. “The burrata is amazing.”

As a Team Member, Darlene does a variety of tasks including food prep, cooking, and doing dishes. She enjoys food prep the most; the process of following a recipe, getting the ingredients right, and putting it together to create a finished product that people will love. Since she started working at Little Sprout, she’s grown in confidence and has become a valued employee. Darlene has also grown as a person.

Vicky has been Darlene’s mental health support worker. In the years that they worked together, Vicky watched as Darlene worked to rebuild her life, putting her mental health first. As she regained her health, she began to look for ways to give back to her community.

“Little Sprout became the vehicle that allowed Darlene to reignite her passion for connecting and supporting people,” Vicky says.

Little Sprout Café is the latest social enterprise from Communitas. The focus is on fresh, locally sourced ingredients with micro-greens grown in urban cultivators right in the restaurant. The

café is also an inclusive employer, hiring people of all abilities for various jobs and encompassing a training program to prepare people for work in the restaurant industry. Darlene loves the work and truly values being part of a team.

“You never feel like you’re alone,” she says. “It really doesn’t feel like work. It feels like a bunch of people getting together to cook. Happy people make happy food!”

What is clear is that working for an inclusive, supportive employer has also had an enormous impact on Darlene’s mental health. She says her depression feels like it has disappeared.

“My self-esteem and my self-confidence have gone through the roof,” she says. “I’m a different person.”

Vicky agrees. “Since she’s begun working here, I’ve seen her come alive even more. She puts her heart and soul into her work and into the people she works with. She takes pride in how far she’s come and I couldn’t be more proud of her.”



**“My self-esteem and my self-confidence have gone through the roof. I’m a different person.”**

– Darlene, SIL participant and Team Member at Little Sprout Cafe.

**Help us extend our impact by becoming a Champion today!**

**[Communitas50fund](#)  
[/Communitas-Champion](#)**





YEARS 1974-2024



**Our Story.  
Our Community. Our Future.**



**Become a Champion Today.  
Scan the QR code or use the link below to sign up!**

[www.Communitas50fund.com/Communitas-Champion](http://www.Communitas50fund.com/Communitas-Champion)

To apply by telephone please call Sarah De Klein at 604-850-0458 ext. 303