



CITY IN FOCUS

Annual Report

2022/2023

+1 (604) 689 7292
info@cityinfocus.ca
www.cityinfocus.ca

City in Focus
PO Box 20089 Fairview,
Vancouver, BC V5Z 0C1

2023

Dear friends of City in Focus,

We are concluding the 35th year of our ministry.

I greet you with gratitude as I reflect on the profound impact we've had in the past year, thanks to your unwavering prayers and generosity.

In a world filled with challenges, from our post-COVID return to a trend of growing secularism reflected in our society, political arenas and medical world, we have made a difference. Together we've lifted up those in need, brought together disparate communities for the betterment of the kingdom and demonstrated the true essence of compassion and faith in action.

With accountability at our core, we've ensured that your contributions have been utilized wisely, aligning with our shared mission to care for the soul of the city.

As we look to the future, our vision is clear: to continue in word and deed the life and witness of Jesus. I invite you to continue to stand with us, as your support plays a pivotal role in bringing hope, healing, and transformation to countless lives.

Blessings,

Tom



Our Vision

In collaboration with a diverse group of individuals and organizations, City in Focus (CIF) leverages shared resources and collective wisdom, bringing together the teachings and Spirit of our Christian faith to effect meaningful change.

Our Mission

1

CIF's impact reverberates across Vancouver's diverse landscape through pastoral care, relationships, transformative events, philanthropy and leadership.

2

It's a testament to unity, channeling wisdom and compassion to connect the isolated, support the marginalized, and empower the disenfranchised.

3

This authenticity underpins CIF's distinctive value, cultivated in an environment where lived experiences intertwine with genuine understanding and care.



Our Value

This is what a longtime supporter wrote about City in Focus this past summer:

“Within Vancouver's intricate weave of economic, political, and social elements is a distinct yet often overlooked thread - the spiritual.

City in Focus (CIF) has emerged as a guardian of this spiritual dimension, "caring for the soul of the city" with a mission that defies boundaries. Age, denomination, faith, ethnicity, and social status are equally seen, equally embraced, in the face of City in Focus's commitment to compassion, conversation, and connection.

This mission materializes through nurturing relationships with business leaders and aligning them with community-focused ministries.

The result is a synergy that harmonizes seemingly disparate realms to address the city's array of needs and to support the spiritual well-being of families, individuals, and the communities in which they work, learn and live.”



By weaving spirituality into the city's fabric, City in Focus nurtures fulfillment and holistic well-being. These connections transform the lives of people in our society.

Philanthropy

City in Focus has helped raise more than \$1.5M for local charities.



Since 1989, we have cared for the soul of the city by encouraging giving.

We continue to convene nonprofits in addressing gospel driven goals, in witness, by either word or deed.

We are also engaged with philanthropy for the many pressing issues facing our province, including mental health, food insecurity and education.

Some examples this year include agencies working against child sex trafficking, organizations supporting immigrants and refugees, groups with a focus on uplifting single parents, creating scholarships for low-income students as well as ministries expanding social housing in Vancouver.

Some organizations, alphabetical order:

A Rocha

East End Boys and Girls Clubs

First Nations Reconciliation Fund

Hope in the Shadows

L'Arche

Mission Possible

More than a Roof

Salvation Army

Sanctuary

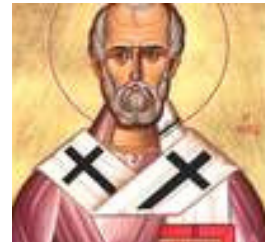
St. Mark's College (Bursary Fund for 1st and 2nd-year students)

St. Paul's Hospital

Street Outreach Initiative

The Door is Open

Union Gospel Mission



St Nicholas Fund

Bringing unexpected hope from the love of God to those in need.


The person we refer to, as Saint Nicholas was the Bishop of Myra in the fourth century in modern day Turkey. As a young man, Nicholas inherited great wealth after his parents died in an epidemic.

He practiced charity his whole life and showed compassion to the poor or those unjustly treated by society.

The St. Nicholas Fund is committed to alleviating suffering and providing essential resources, support, and opportunities to underserved, marginalized individuals, aiming to enhance their well-being and empower them towards self-sufficiency.

The goal of this fund is to, metaphorically, toss some bags of gold through the open windows of those we learn are in need.

Give with **Charitable Impact** --> 



One hundred percent of all money given goes to the charity recipient.

Expanding Influence

At its core, City in Focus is a chaplaincy that allows people to be in the world but not of it.

Our central passion is the opportunity to reach into the secular world and bring the light – both the comfort, and the challenge – of Jesus.

In addition to our philanthropy, we deliver hope, humour and wisdom to inboxes through a weekly “Word for your Week,” we send out a popular monthly blog and we host critical annual events such as the BC Leadership Prayer Breakfast and Dinner, now in it’s 56th year.



WORLD VISION CANADA Heroes For Children Award

“We are recognizing Tom for putting his Christian faith in action, and sharing his heart for those who face physical, social and spiritual needs in Vancouver and around the world. He uses his skills and pastoral heart to encourage and challenge business leaders, government officials, faith leaders and others to care for children, families and communities. At World Vision, we are grateful that Tom shares his time, expertise and connections with us to support our engagement efforts.”

- World Vision Canada
Rev. Dr. Ken McMillan Memorial Award



VIDEO

The 56th BC Leadership Prayer Breakfast



**“Forgive us
our sins
as we forgive
those who sin
against us.”
-Matthew 6:12**



[VIDEO](#)

In June, the annual **British Columbia Leadership Prayer Breakfast and Dinner** were held in person at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver with more than 1000 in attendance.

The weekend is a significant annual event in the life of the city and a unique occasion for people of faith to come together in an intimate setting to share conversation and offer support and prayer for our leaders and each other.

This year's invited speakers were the Canadian leader, **Chief Phil Fontaine**, and his wife, **Professor Kathleen Mahoney**.

Chief Fontaine has served an unprecedented nine years as National Chief of the Canadian Assembly of First Nations and he is best known for his central role in raising public awareness of the Canadian Indian residential school system and pushing to secure Federal and Papal apologies.

His life was fashioned by his faith and experiences growing up in the church. He spoke to us about the power of forgiveness and how he took the unusual initiative, as the wounded party, to open a process of reconciliation.

Read the July blog here --> 



City In Focus BC Leadership Prayer Breakfast 2023



“Personally, I’ve been truly encouraged and strengthened in my work knowing that there are others who are caring, supportive, and generous. The ministry of our organization relies more and more on the partnerships we can foster. The partnership and support of City in Focus has been transformational for us – and our community has become a better place”

-Nonprofit Leader

“I usually wait for the proverbial wheels to roll off before I ask for help. So when our family found itself in an unforeseen emergency earlier this year, I didn’t know where to turn. But God knew to bring Tom into my life. I am so grateful for Tom’s genuine wisdom, consistency and the gentle kindness he has shown me and my family these past months. His pastoral care has truly given me the courage to step out into the unknown, anxious for nothing and in everything giving thanks”.

-Community Member

The Ripple Effect

Through God’s grace,
the smallest act of
compassion is magnified





“Tom Cooper and his organization have made a profound contribution to the “East End Boys Club” and to our “Girls Group” programs based in East Van, where 30% of families live below the poverty line. He genuinely cares about our marginalized students and he provides them with opportunities to meet men and women from all walks of life.



He invites our volunteer mentors and our young people to various events throughout the school year and purposefully introduces our members to highly regarded and respected leaders from across the province. During these opportunities, engaging conversations happen, ideas are shared and these men and women make our youth feel that they matter, as a result, our students develop greater confidence and self-esteem.

He also has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for bursaries for our high school grads to attend their first two years of college.

I value and respect Tom's work. He is a man of deep faith, and I admire his ability to develop and nurture relationships both personal and professional. He cares deeply for others and his unconditional love and encouragement have pulled many through some very difficult circumstances.

With respect,”

Jim Crescenzo
Executive Director, East End Boys Club

4527

Facebook views

3746

website visits

Most viewed blog: April 2023

When the Unexpected Occurs

Many of us have personally experienced or witnessed some unexpected event. Perhaps something that we thought lost, was found. Or maybe someone or something we had given up on turned around and changed the narrative.

As a young man, coach Wally Buono of the BC Lions thought he had lost the opportunity to go to college and play football because his family only had enough money to pay for their oldest son's tuition...

keep reading --> 

SEPTEMBER 2023

37,577

EMAIL OPENS

**Thank you for this
welcome, carefully
crafted reflection on
charity and kindness.
Press on good people of
City in Focus.**
*-Local City Leader, on the
recent blog about
Kindness.*

Word for Your Week

Some favourites 2022-2023....

December 12, 2022

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and where the world's deep hunger meet."

-Frederick Buechner

April 11, 2022

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands but seeing with new eyes."

-Marcel Proust

September 11, 2023

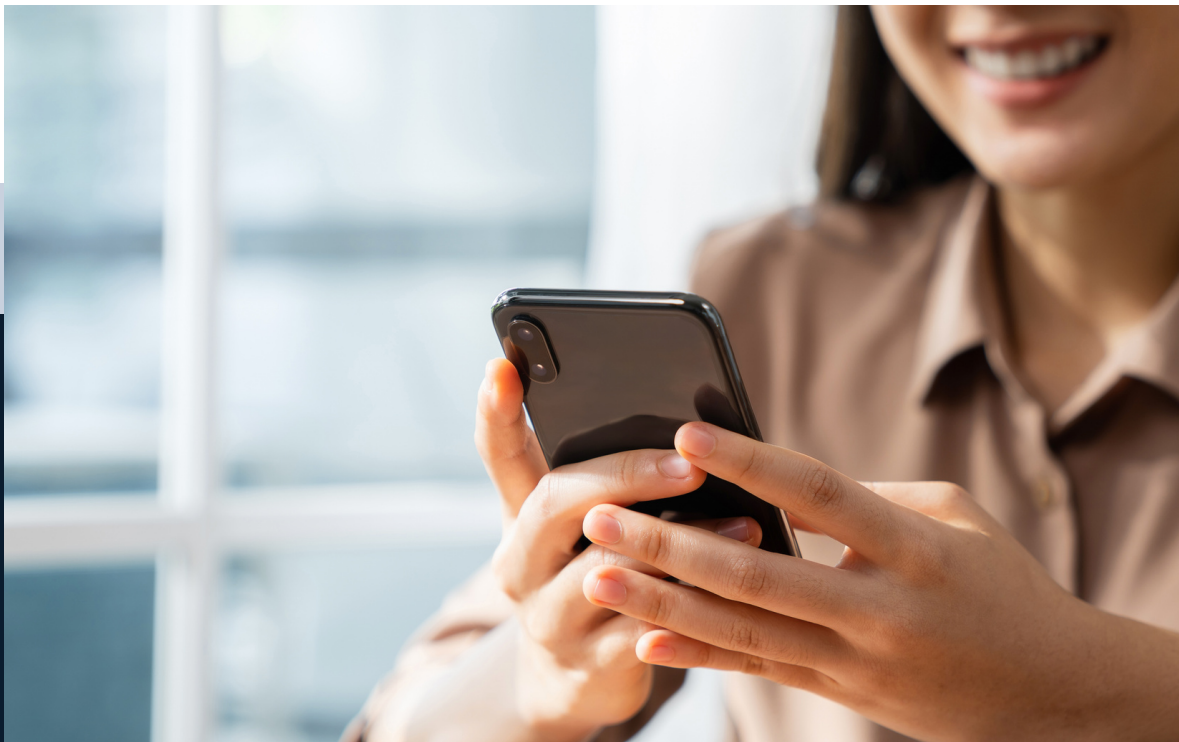
"For faith is the beginning and the end is love, and God is the two of them brought into unity."

-St Ignatius of Antioch

June 5, 2023

"People are so judgemental. You can tell just by looking at them."

-Anonymous



What's next?

Nonprofits are positioned for innovation.

As nonprofits and charities everywhere continue to grapple with the ever-evolving challenges of our time, we are affirmed in our belief that City in Focus will continue to act as an incubator for positive change in the city.

Historically, our model of community transformation was built on two pillars. Firstly, discern where God is already at work and join Him there.

The second, lead philanthropists and donors to build meaningful partnerships with organizations and each other, thereby becoming catalysts for new opportunities for ministry and unity.

To guide us moving forward, we have developed a model for innovation outlined by the initials AEIOU:

Accelerate - add fuel. Amplify what's already working.

Educate - and inform with media training, support and consultation to nonprofits. Level the playing field so their voices can be raised up.

Invest - in one another and continue to work together in practical ways.

Originate - original content that connects. We are currently developing a limited episode podcast on *The Future of Philanthropy*.

Utilize - networks and goodwill to further amplify the ripple effect.



Staff and Partners

We are honoured to have many wonderful partners, volunteers and associates working with us:

A Rocha

Ally

Business as Mission

City Gate Vancouver

Church for Vancouver

Development and Peace

East End Boys Club

Emergence

ELO Network

Faber Institute

Family 360

Flourishing Foundation

InterVarsity

Jesuits

Mission Possible

Pacific Theatre

Reflector

Sanctuary


Mental Health Ministries

St. Hildegard's Sanctuary

St. James Anglican Church

Vancouver Urban Ministries

World Vision

Link to our website for more information--> 

Chris Chiu (AS)
Director of Retreats
& Spiritual Direction

Tom Cooper
Founder & President

Lisa Marquis (PT)
Administrator

Edie Rittinger (AS)
Women's Ministry

Germaine Solaiman (PT)
Director of Strategy
& Operations

Jody Thompson (PT)
VP Strategic Initiatives
& Communications



Summary

The vision of City in Focus is to captivate and mobilize the business community to assist in the renewing of the soul of the city.

City in Focus is committed to serving and supporting various groups of people in need including those dealing with loneliness and/or poor mental, physical health, addiction, hunger, poverty and homelessness, with a special focus on single parent families, refugees and immigrants, seniors, children and youth.

We want to express our profound gratitude to all of our supporters and partners as well as the dedicated volunteers who have, once again, come together to create meaningful, thoughtful and impactful community-building initiatives, events and collaborations that would otherwise not have been possible.

Together, we are making a difference in the lives of those we serve and we look forward to continuing our journey of positive transformation.

We are incredibly grateful for your support.



Partner with Us

When we identify and invest in partnerships where God is already at work, and then amplify, support and lead others to join in, we magnify the impact of the good work that they are doing and we all become something more than the sum of the parts.

Thank you, for being part of something wonderful.



Phone Number

(604) 687-7292



Email Address

info@cityinfofocus.ca



Website

www.cityinfofocus.ca



Give

www.cityinfofocus.ca



CITY IN FOCUS