



# SSVP Vancouver Island Food Secure Housing

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul  
Société de Saint-Vincent de Paul



# Who We Are

## Who



Our incorporated entity is a collective of passionate, purpose-driven individuals—each bringing unique personal experiences and professional expertise—united by a shared commitment to uplift and serve our community.

## What

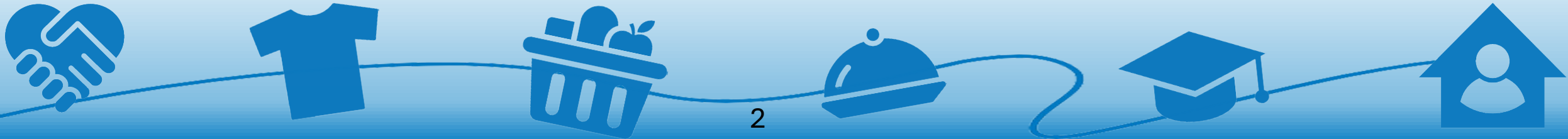


At the core of our mission, we aim to feed, clothe, house, support, and serve those in need with love, respect, justice and joy, striving to improve the quality of life for all individuals in our community. We envision a community where everyone's needs are met.

## Where

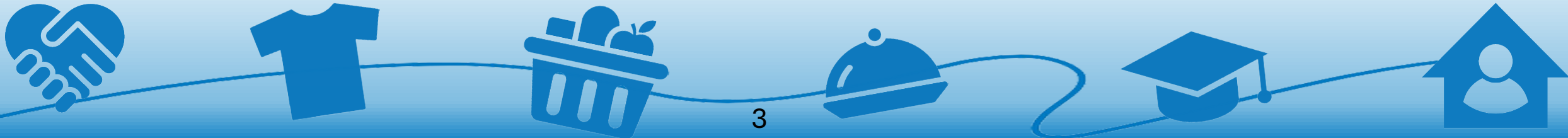


We serve folks across Vancouver Island, BC. Our regional office is located in Victoria in the municipality of Saanich





# How We Serve and Support





# Thrift Stores

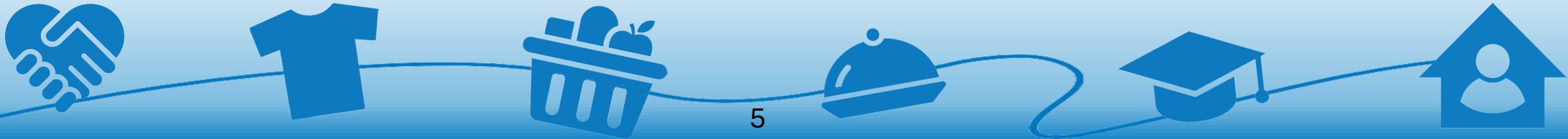
- 2 stores
- Supports voucher program
- Point of contact for “wishlist” items for folks we serve





# Daycare

- \$10/day day care
- Priority for second stage women's children and staff's children







# Ozanam Day Program

- Ozanam day program for adults with diverse abilities
- Support some employment readiness
- CARF Accredited



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# Housing

Our neighbourhood:

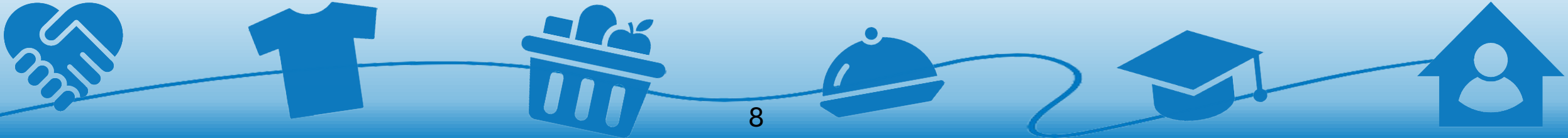
- Rent-Geared-to-Income
- Low-End Market Units
- Seniors Housing
- Second-Stage Transition for women and children fleeing intimate partner violence

- 
- 128 residential units
  - Onsite Supportive Services:
  - Tailored for individuals on a recovery journey



# Social Concern Office

- Tax clinics
- Food Pantry
- Housing navigation and Homeless prevention funding
- Resource referrals
- Voucher program
- Community groups







# What We Are Seeing

## Increased Needs



- Rising Demand for Basic Necessities
- Strain on Community Resources
- Greater Risk of Housing Instability
- Need for Tailored supports
- Increase in folks with co-occurring conditions

## Changing Demographics

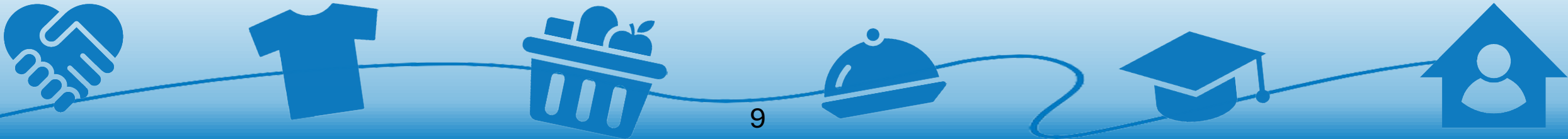


- Larger household size
- Increased diversity with newcomers and individuals with refugee status
- Multi-income households unable to make ends meet
- Individuals with limited or no English proficiency

## A Solution

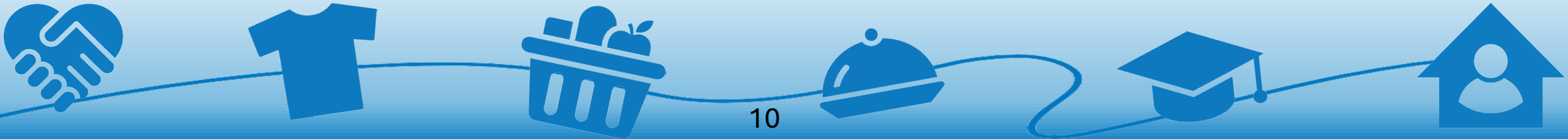


Our dream is to build an integrated community where every individual has access to housing, nutritious food, and a supportive network in turn fostering a healthy society.





# Break Out Session and Activity



# Our Unique Approach



## How We Are Shifting

- Investing in Staff Well-being
- Welcoming Refugees and Newcomers
- Supporting Seniors
- Learning about Diversity
- Meeting Diverse Needs with Dignity
- Taking Feedback Seriously

## Steps We Are Taking

- Adapting Food Offerings
- Embedding Food Security in Housing
- Enhancing On-Site Food Access
- Supporting Dignity
- Empowering Through Education
- Celebrating Community

## Who We Are Engaging

- Funders and Government Partners
- Community Housing Programs
- Food Security Partners
- Faith and Cultural Communities
- Education Partners





# Why it is Working

## Creating Connection

Engaging diverse partners builds a strong support network that enhances food security, housing stability, and dignity—while fostering inclusion, trust, and a sense of belonging.

## Providing Stability

By meeting basic needs with dignity and building strong partnerships, we create stability, reduce stress, and foster lasting community connection.

## Meeting Peoples Needs

Meeting people's needs goes beyond providing the basics—it's about being responsive, inclusive, and adaptable. By honoring cultural dietary needs, offering language support, and adjusting to shifting demographics, we ensure that every individual feels seen, respected, and supported. This is how we build stronger, more connected communities.





# Successful Models and Research



## Metro Vancouver and BCNPHA study (2012)

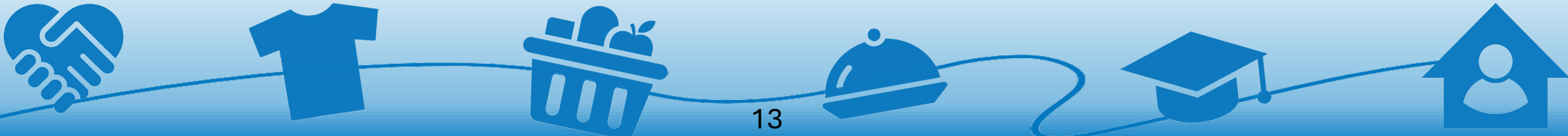
Thomson, M. (2012). A Study of Food Security Programs at Metro Vancouver Housing. BCNPHA and Metro Vancouver.

## University of British Columbia

Stansbury, T. (2021). CLE Working Paper No. 3/2021--A Roof Over Our Stomachs: The Right to Housing in Canada and Its Implications for the Right to Food.

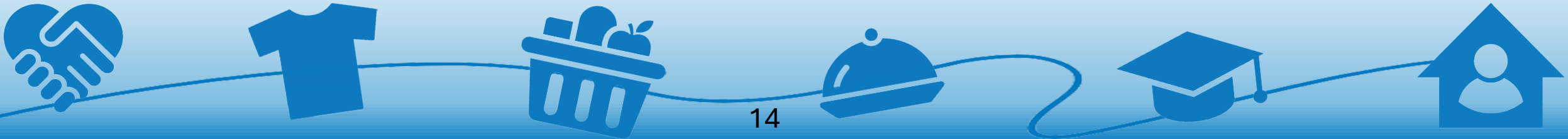
## PROOF – University of Toronto

PROOF is a Food Insecurity Policy and Research organization that examines food insecurity in Canada and advocates for food security to shift from charity to public policy.



# Next Steps and Q&A

- Establish food pantries in all housing locations
- Integrate food growing spaces: gardens, greenhouses, and herb living walls
- Promote food knowledge and skills through education and community kitchens
- Ensure all future housing developments include built-in food security features
- Reduce food waste and expand food security through a food production kitchen.



# Our Future



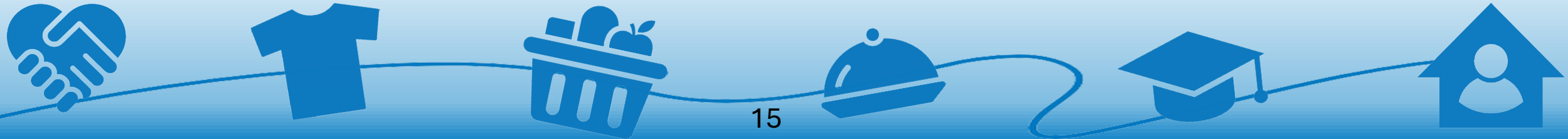
Reduce Food Waste



Provide food secure housing

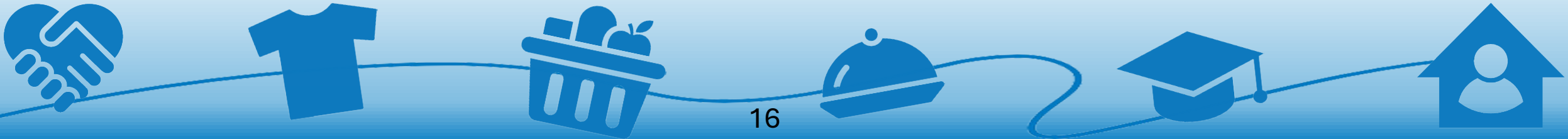


Increase housing stock





# Discussion and Questions







# Thank You

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Please complete the evaluation form  
Merci de remplir le formulaire d'évaluation



# Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Société de Saint-Vincent de Paul

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