



## Empowering lives in the Downtown Eastside

Hello friends,

I am so grateful for your encouragement throughout the winter months. While the dark, cold days can be difficult for us, they are even more challenging for so many of our friends without adequate housing. Yet, with your support, we have employed over 60 people from the Downtown Eastside community over the past few months, offering meaningful work, nutritious meals, and a caring community. Your help makes this possible.

As you read this newsletter, I hope you are inspired by the stories of transformation and the hope that the Mission Possible community offers every day. We have a new fundraising event coming up in June, and I invite you to join us. We would love to see you in person!

In the months ahead, your generosity will allow us to keep the doors open to those seeking an opportunity to move their lives toward stability. Thank you for partnering with us!

With gratitude,  
Rev. Matt Smedley  
Executive Director & CEO

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## Your Support Makes Our Mission Possible!



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## Courage and Determination

### Diego's Story

Having left El Salvador in 1987 due to a civil war, Diego moved around a lot, first through Mexico and the United States, before landing on the east coast of Canada in 1989. He didn't speak English, but he was determined to learn and did so in just seven months!

When he lost his job at a car factory in Ontario during a recession in the early 90s, he moved to British Columbia and found work with a construction company that produced cement and held the position for five years.

He then moved to Vancouver, looking for a new start and new opportunities after separating from his common-law partner with whom he had a son. But life in Vancouver proved challenging,

and Diego ended up without a permanent address, living in shelters for two years due to difficulty finding a place to call home.

While staying at a shelter, Diego noticed the crew from Mission Possible walking around the area regularly. When he saw the sign outside our office, it piqued his curiosity, and he decided to come in to learn more about our programs. Instantly, he felt comfortable in our space and found a deep respect for MP's other associates. In particular, Diego understood that many had faced similar struggles with substance use and felt safe and supported in their company.

Diego began his journey at MP with the Clean Team and recently joined the MP Neighbours team once completing his security training.

In addition, he works Saturdays at our Power Breakfast, keeping the area clean and monitoring the line as people receive their hot meals.

"Now I'm busy over here working, you know, so I'm very focused on my job and trying not to do anything wrong in my life," he said.



**I'm very, very happy because before I wasn't able to save money, and now I'm saving. Finally!**

#### DIEGO

Diego is thrilled to share that he now has a permanent home in the Downtown Eastside and is proud to have stayed clean and sober. He's enjoying his time at Mission Possible and feels like it has helped make him more responsible.

"I'm very, very happy because before I wasn't able to save money, and now I'm saving. Finally!"

Keeping busy and focusing on work helps Diego stay grounded. He's currently looking for even better housing in a different neighbourhood and is frequently in touch with his mom, who is still in El Salvador.



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DIEGO

Looking forward, Diego is excited to see what his security certification will allow him to pursue. He's looked at a few job opportunities outside of MP and recently completed a resume and cover letter workshop with one of MP's partners. Diego's primary goal is to save money as he hopes that within the next few years, he'll be able to move back to El Salvador, buy a home, and spend time with his elderly mother.

"I have incredibly fond memories of growing up there in the countryside, living beside a river, growing lots of produce and taking care of farm animals," he shared.

Diego hasn't had to touch a single cent from his last paycheque and is happy to be moving forward on the right path. With such a positive attitude and determination to meet his goals, there's no doubt in our minds that he'll get where he wants to go.

## Cleanest Day of the Year

June 11, 2022

The Cleanest Day of the Year is a virtual and in-person fundraiser with a goal of raising \$150,000. We need your help to reach our lofty goal to support 30 people, start to finish, in MP's Employment Readiness Program!

Participants can join virtually from anywhere in the world to help by picking up garbage, recycling cans or bottles and doing their part to tidy up a section of their neighbourhood!



## Be a Clean Team Hero



But wait, there's more! There will be an in-person event happening simultaneously, led by staff members and associates of Mission Possible. It has long been a part of Mission Possible's programming to assist in cleaning up the Vancouver Downtown East Side and now we need your help!

It's amazing what can be accomplished when people collectively come together. One small bag of garbage removed from a neighbourhood may not feel like much but if we can get hundreds of people cleaning at the same time, we can make a massive impact. We really can make it the CLEANEST DAY OF THE YEAR!!

Mark your calendars! Join us at the 14th Annual Mission Possible Gala on December 1st at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel in Vancouver!



Celebrate the incredible achievements of our past and present associates while helping us raise crucial funds for our Employment Readiness Program.

Your generous contributions at last year's hybrid virtual/in-person Gala raised \$252,000 towards keeping our essential programs running!

Visit our website and follow us on social media for more information! For partnership opportunities and donations of auction prizes, contact [development@mission-possible.ca](mailto:development@mission-possible.ca). Help support another year of life-changing opportunities! Thank you!

None of this could be done without our supporters. Thank you so much to our 2021 Gala Partners.



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