




Empowerment
Through
Opportunity

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



A man with a goatee and tattoos, wearing a red cap and an orange safety vest over a red shirt, is pushing a red utility cart. The cart contains a broom and a black container. He is standing on a residential street with houses and a white pickup truck in the background. A semi-transparent grey box with a quote is overlaid on the top right of the image.

“I think we should be lifting people up, not putting them down. Everybody deserves another chance in life.”
- Kim Park, MP Associate

Leadership Team

Rev. Matthew Smedley, Chief Empowerment Officer
Anastasia Bogomolova, Deputy Director
Jasmine Allen, Director of Partnerships
Chris Ward, Director of Opportunities
Tara Chang-Swanson, Director of Programs
Ida Wang, Manager of Administration

Board of Directors

Pam Ryan, Chair
Nicole Gilewicz
Kim Macey
Gordon McCann
Tristan Kingcott
Michael LoVecchio
Andrea Spiegel

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EMPOWERMENT OFFICER



Reflecting on this past year, I want you to know that Mission Possible's work has never been more important.

As inflation swells, the cost of living skyrockets in Vancouver, and social assistance fails to meet people's needs, more people are seeking supportive employment opportunities than ever before. This past year over 850 people attended our information sessions, nearly double the number that we saw in previous years.

Thankfully, we were able to enroll 118 people in our Employment Readiness Program and see them start employment with us, while 39 people transitioned to employment outside of MP throughout the year. People like Immacula, who has generously shared her story in this report so you can see a glimpse of the impact your support is making in people's lives.

To each and every one of you who has given, volunteered, attended our events, employed our associates, or worked with our social enterprises: THANK YOU for your partnership!

You have encouraged people to believe in themselves and their ability to contribute meaningfully in their communities.

You have empowered people to take care of themselves and their families.

You have inspired people to step out of isolation to join a healthy community.

As we look ahead to the next year, our waitlist remains long. Hundreds more people will seek training, coaching, and employers who understand their unique barriers.

I hope to offer all of them opportunities for supportive, meaningful employment. Together we can continue to grow Mission Possible's life-changing impact through the Employment Readiness Program, and continue to invest in the beautiful, amazing people in this Downtown Eastside community.

Thank you for being on this journey with me.

Rev. Matthew Smedley
Executive Director & Chief Empowerment Officer

WHAT WE DO

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH OPPORTUNITY

Mission Possible transforms lives through meaningful work. We walk alongside people facing barriers to employment by providing supportive, transitional work experience and community for those who are ready to enter the workforce.

It can be difficult to build a sustainable livelihood for people overcoming homelessness, poverty, substance use, or other barriers like physical or mental disabilities.

Through our Employment Readiness Program and two social enterprises, MP Neighbours & MP Maintenance, Mission Possible transforms lives by helping people experience a renewed sense of dignity and purpose.



Employment Readiness Program

The Employment Readiness Program supports people looking to get into the workforce. Participants receive skills training, on-the-job work experience and support with other employment-related tasks, such as creating a resume and gaining a reference.

118 people participated in the ERP



Power Breakfast & Coffee House

Every Saturday, Mission Possible hosts a weekend meal service called Power Breakfast for Downtown Eastside community members who wish to build connections to Mission Possible without yet joining the Employment Readiness Program.

8,831 Meals served at Power Breakfast



MP Neighbours

MP Neighbours is a community-based solution to community safety and security. Teams complete regular neighbourhood routes in the Downtown Eastside, providing outreach and referral services to people experiencing homelessness, checking in with businesses, and building connections between these diverse groups.

14 MP Associates Employed



MP Maintenance

MP Maintenance is a full-service exterior property cleaning company that provides high calibre services while employing individuals with barriers to employment. MP Maintenance rallies around people who face barriers to employment to help them reach their full potential.

181 MP Associates Employed

IMMACULA'S STORY

FINDING FAMILY AT MISSION POSSIBLE



I walked by Mission Possible on Hastings Street many times before I went inside. Although a neighbour had told me I should check them out, I was nervous.

After nearly four years out of the workforce, one day, I finally got the courage to walk through the doors. I was up front with them about what I needed: I told them that I only want to work with women. Due to my past trauma, I was uncomfortable working alongside men.

I was happy to learn that they were open to that! In fact, Mission Possible has a whole branch of their Employment Readiness Program called the “Women’s Track”, designed to support women and non-binary people.

From this very first day I felt seen and heard at Mission Possible. Everything had changed for me.

I have a complicated history of substance use, mental health challenges and trauma due to an unstable upbringing and workplace issues. I know I’m not the only one, but all this makes me feel alone sometimes. Finding Mission Possible has not only helped me find community, but it has also provided the environment I needed to continue with my 15 years of sobriety.

I never imagined I’d be picking up garbage, but it humbled me and has brought me a lot of satisfaction. As a member of the Women’s Track Clean Team, I worked in the Downtown Eastside with an awesome group of ladies picking up litter, needles, and more from the neighborhood.

It felt good to do something important for the community and be a part of a team.

And in addition to the part-time work, Mission Possible offered me so much more. They helped me get my resume fixed up, provided lunch and pantry items to help out at home, supported me in finding coping skills for my severe anxiety, and encouraged me to find a path back to meaningful work in the health care sector where I had worked for many years.

Six months after graduating from the Employment Readiness Program, I am taking steps to restart my career in health care. I plan to work as a Home Care Aid, providing much needed care to patients in their homes.

The people at Mission Possible are like a second family to me. Today I feel confident, cared for, and hopeful about returning to work.



Celebrating Graduates

The Women's track graduated 20 associates last year. Like Immacula, they have been equipped with skills, tools, and encouragement to return to meaningful work.



Women's Personal Development Summit

On February 7, 2023 we hosted a Women's Personal Development Summit. This is an annual event designed to empower women in the Employment Readiness Program and uplift them in their personal and professional growth. This year's summit consisted of four carefully curated workshops that explored topics such as goal setting, career exploration, confidence building, and well-being.



Looking Ahead

The Women's Track of our Employment Readiness Program will be relocating to a new space this year! We're thrilled to provide a separate, safe space for this program to thrive just one block east on Hastings St.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023



Housing Support

60 people utilized our housing support program to work towards better housing stability. We connect people with social-housing providers in the community.



Employment Readiness

90% of participants reported feeling more employable after their time in the Employment Readiness Program.



Coaching Sessions

1,019 coaching sessions took place last year. This 1:1 support helps participants navigate everything from resume writing and interview prep to citizen applications and tax returns.



89% increase over previous year



Information Sessions

852 people signed up for a program information session about our Employment Readiness Program.



34% increase over previous year



Employment Opportunities

39 people transitioned successfully to employment outside of MP after their time in the Employment Readiness Program.



117% increase over previous year



Food Security

9,175 daily lunches were provided to our participants in the Employment Readiness Program through a partnership with HAVE Cafe.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS

MP Neighbours is Mission Possible's social enterprise that provides community-based solutions to the evolving safety and security concerns in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES). This ranges from picking up used needles to offering de-escalation support, referrals to services and a helping hand to people on the street.

Most importantly, we are ambassadors for compassion, courage, and hope in our community.

The DTES is home to people of incredible resilience and diversity, while also being the epicentre of our city's struggle with the housing crisis, drug poisoning crisis, and people experiencing poverty.

Without enough safe social housing, people have created a community for themselves in the best way they know how and with the limited resources available to them.

As tensions flared over the past year between the community members, city workers, police officers, local businesses and neighbours, Mission Possible was in a unique position to offer help.

We started working with Canada Post to ensure the delivery of mail in the community, and we were awarded a contract from the City of Vancouver to staff up our MP Neighbours Team, training and hiring nearly twice as many associates as last year.

This allowed us to increase our supportive presence on the streets to help clean up, while also offering resources, food and compassion to DTES community members. At the same time, we work to build relationships with local business owners and help deepen understanding between people living and working in this neighbourhood. Our MP Neighbours associates, now known in the community as "Community Navigators", work as a team and receive training in safety and security, de-escalation, general first-aid and mental health first aid.

Your support of Mission Possible has helped to secure community-based solutions to some of our city's most complex challenges. Thank you for empowering our associates to be ambassadors for compassion, courage and hope in the Downtown Eastside.

"Having Community Navigators from MP Neighbours present at our events has made a world of difference for our staff, artists, and patrons. They always ensure that everyone who walks through our doors feels safe and welcome, whether by opening the door for our patrons, cleaning up litter around the building, and keeping a watchful eye on vehicles. We especially appreciate our regular Community Navigator Gordon, whose calm presence, knowledge of the neighborhood, and eagerness to serve, has been invaluable to our organization."

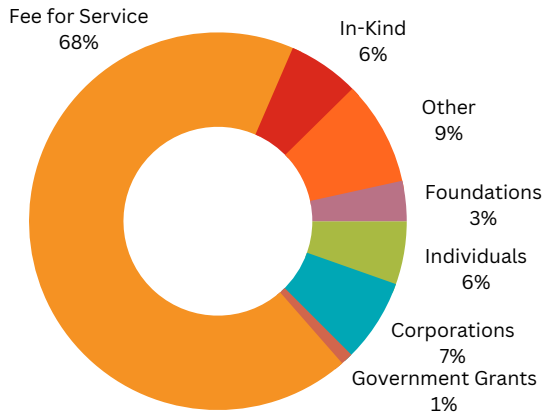
- Solomon Goudsward, Audience Services Director, Firehall Arts Centre

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023

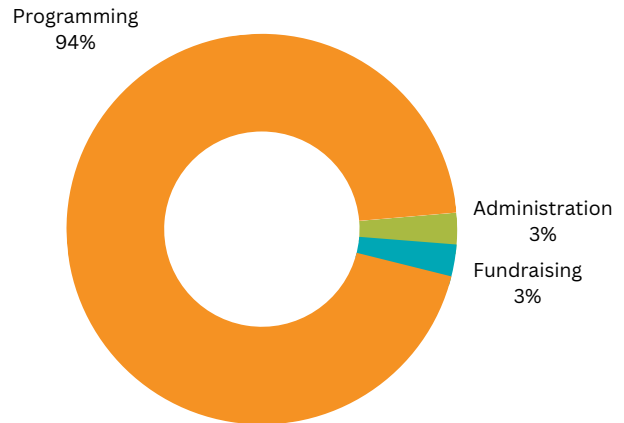
INCOME

\$4,329,456



EXPENSES

\$4,199,253



The above summary of income and expenses reflects the unaudited financial statements of Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society and MP Enterprises Inc. from May 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Reflecting on our 2022-23 year, I'm both humbled and heartened – heartened by what the MP team has accomplished and humbled by how much more we could have done with more time, resources, and sponsors.

From building internal capacity to deliver more efficiently with more impact, to supporting more MP Associates and celebrating their growth and success, we live our values every day. The need and possibilities are growing, and as we look to 2023-24, we seek to build our base of supporters.

Donors make the work we do possible. On behalf of the board, a big thank you to all our donors. We sincerely appreciate you all. Your investment in MP makes a profound and visible difference to people in our community each and every day. We also gratefully acknowledge the x^wməθk^wəyəm, S_kwxwú7mesh, and səilwəta† Nations in whose lands we operate.

– Pam Ryan, on behalf of the MP Board of Directors

GOOD FOR THE SOUL & GOOD FOR THE CITY

MEET KEN JARVIS, MOMENTUM PARTNER

Ken Jarvis is a self-described Eastside Kid. He grew up in East Vancouver and though his career and life have taken him away from time to time, he raised his family here and is now retired in this community.

His roots with Mission Possible run deep as well. Ken remembers MP's humble beginnings of passing out soup on a street corner in the Downtown Eastside. He then joined a work crew that volunteered to renovate MP's first Headquarters on Powell Street. He served on the Board of Directors in the 2000's and saw first-hand the life-changing impact that work can have on a person who has struggled to find their place in life.

Today, Ken continues to support Mission Possible as a monthly donor through our Momentum Partner Monthly Donor Program. He's been giving this way for so long that it feels easy and comfortable. He doesn't have to think about making these donations and is confident it's going to good use.

Ken continues to choose Mission Possible year after year because, as he puts it, "The need is great in the Downtown Eastside. It's as simple as that. There is a huge need for people to be treated with dignity, to be valued and for them to be recognized for their abilities, not their deficiencies."

Ken is inspired by the growing impact he's seen Mission Possible have in the neighbourhood over the past 30 years. "I've admired the commitment and vision of Mission Possible's leadership. For me to have an opportunity to play a small part in this fantastic organization is good for the soul and good for the city. It's a win-win."

We are deeply grateful to Ken and all our Momentum Partners! This family of 50 monthly donors provides a stable source of revenue that we know we can count on.

For just \$38 each month, you can champion an MP Associate through one workshop every month.



Join Ken as a Momentum Partner to change lives with us this year.

"[The experience] has been so healing for me, healing my self confidence and getting back into a routine. Now I feel like I have my life back." - Caitlyn

"I could work but I didn't know how to go out there by myself and find a job. I didn't have the confidence. Now, I do." - Ursula

"I feel good! I wake up at 6 in the morning now, but I still feel like I have more energy and I'm more open with people." - Nacer

"Every single person that I have dealt with here is really supportive, and you feel a kind and friendly environment, and that made me more confident in myself." - Carolina





Thank you to our family of donors, volunteers, staff, associates and cheerleaders for your compassionate support. You have made a significant impact in the lives of hundreds of community members and their families over the past year. We are deeply grateful for you.

Join us to empower more people with hope and possibility.



Contact Us

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