



625 Queens Ave
Victoria, BC V8T 1L9
contact@mustardseed.ca
250-953-1575

FACT SHEET

mustardseed.ca

General Information

- The Mustard Seed is a street church that has been helping people living in poverty since 1975.
- Services include:
 - A food bank,
 - Advocacy, Outreach and Pastoral Care
 - A drop-in centre with a coffee shop, clothing bank, haircuts, nursing, chapel and a welcoming community,
 - Weekend meals and outreach program
 - A family centre with life skills programs
 - An addictions recovery program at Hope Farm Healing Centre
- The Mustard Seed provides approximately 7,000 clients per month with community, compassion and opportunities to improve their lives. That includes close to 1,000 families.
- More than 50 volunteers per day help The Mustard Seed to serve those in need.
- 111,000 volunteer hours are given to The Mustard Seed annually which is equivalent to 56 full time employees.

Who Does The Mustard Seed Serve?

- Families are overwhelmingly the largest group of people who are turning to The Mustard Seed for help. Close to 1,000 families each month are relying on help from The Mustard Seed.
- The working poor are increasing in need as their pay cheques simply won't stretch far enough to provide for food, shelter and clothing.
- Weekend meal programs including Street Café on Fridays, Dinners on Saturdays, Family Dinners on Sundays are providing opportunities to increase the connection between people in The Mustard Seed community.

Fundraising/Financial

- The Mustard Seed has a budget of more than \$2 million per year
- The Mustard Seed is funded 100 per cent by the generous donations of individuals, families, businesses, groups, churches and not-for-profit agencies.
- Less than two cents of each dollar that is donated to The Mustard Seed is used for administration and fundraising, when including all donated food and time.
- Many events are held in Greater Victoria in aid of The Mustard Seed and the charity also holds two fundraising events each year – The Great Canadian

Food Fight in October and The Spirit of Giving campaign during the month of December.

- One of The Mustard Seed's largest challenges is managing through 'the lean months' when donations are significantly lower from January to September.

Food Bank

- 4 million pounds of food were donated to The Mustard Seed in 2012 thanks to the generosity of Victorians and national corporations.
- The Mustard Seed is a member of Food Banks BC and Food Banks Canada.

Hope Farm

- Hope Farm Healing Centre is a fully-operating, 36-acre farm in the Cowichan Valley.
- To those seeking to be free from addiction or other life-damaging patterns, Hope Farm offers a restorative farming community grounded in Christian Practice that offers a sanctuary of hope. Through engagement in the community and contributing to the work of caring for the land and the animals on it, our residents are offered the opportunity to address some of the root causes of pain and brokenness in their lives.
- Through the caring for the land, the residents contribute back to the community as fresh produce, eggs and meat are received by those on low income through our foodbank and other food-providing agencies in downtown Victoria.
- The farm has 12 recovery spaces for men and since it was founded in 2006, 100 men have participated in the program.

Family Centre

- The Mustard Seed's Family Centre opened in 2012 to help families living below the poverty line to develop opportunities to improve their lives.
- A skills development program is an intricate part of the Family Centre and we walk alongside parents and provide a supportive environment to learn the skills they need to give their family a better future.
- Eighteen families are involved in group programs at the family centre and 42 families are receiving individualized and/or community support.

Christmas

- The Mustard Seed is at its busiest from October to the end of the calendar year, managing the additional need at Christmas time and devoting energy to the many community fundraising events that help sustain those in need throughout the year.
- More than 1,000 additional volunteers are required at Christmas time to serve those in need and help raise funds for the year ahead.
- The Mustard Seed holds a Christmas dinner each November, serving approximately 700 people a chef-prepared turkey dinner with all the trimmings.
- Approximately 800 Christmas hampers are distributed each year to families-in-need.