

VOLUNTEER
CANCER DRIVERS
SOCIETY



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



*A ride to care
for all cancer patients*



President's Message

RJ (Bob) Smith, BCom., MBA, FCCHL

The remarkable commitment of the Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society has ensured that cancer patients in need receive essential transportation to care. In 2024 alone, we provided over 38,000 trips across Greater Vancouver and the Fraser Valley—driving more than one million kilometres in support of our community.

Across our service area are many frail, elderly citizens facing the daunting challenges of cancer—and young children who rely on us just as much. We remain steadfast in our promise to deliver reliable, compassionate, and complimentary transportation to care, easing the burden of the journey every step of the way.

Supporting these patients benefits us all. As volunteers, we take pride in knowing that each ride is the right thing to do for our fellow citizens. We are deeply grateful for the charitable contributions of the broader community, which underwrite our modest operating costs—and especially thankful that our own members continue to be our largest group of donors.

Looking ahead, every indicator shows that demand for our services will grow. Meeting future ride requests will require the same robust volunteer energy that has carried us this far—and the generosity of individuals, corporations, and institutions through donations and legacy gifts. Your support is vital to sustaining this critical community service.

In 2025, we celebrate our tenth year of service. This milestone comes at a point when renewal and strategic positioning are essential for the next decade. With cancer incidence steadily rising, we are committed to strengthening every aspect of our organization—our structure, culture, and long-term funding—so we can continue meeting increasing complexity with unwavering dedication.

On behalf of the patients we serve and our Board of Directors, I extend my sincere thanks to all VCDS members and our generous community and corporate donors. Your partnership makes every trip possible.

Sincerely

RJ (Bob) Smith

VCDS President

A JOURNEY MADE EASIER

"Over the past two years, both my father (2023/24) and my mother (2024/25) have undergone cancer treatments, and your willingness to provide transportation assistance has alleviated a tremendous burden for us. A special thank you to all the drivers that support us – from the bottom of our hearts – for all that you do."

Board *of* Directors

Our Board Members volunteer their time and expertise to provide the leadership and management to guide the operation and growth of the VCDS.



RJ (Bob) Smith
President



Marlyn Graziano
Vice President Development
and Communications



Gail Kaufmann
Director Communications



Gord Locke
Director Driver Operations



Larry Coleman
Director at Large



Ho Yee Low
Director Dispatch
Chair Finance Committee



Mac Petrie
Vice President
Director Dispatch Operations



Tom Akam
Treasurer



Ken Askew
Director Quality Assurance
and Technology



Deb Salh
Secretary



Anne Gloeckler
Director at Large



Honorary Life Member

George McAffer, OMM

"A Legacy of Leadership, Service, and Compassion"

The Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society named Colonel (ret'd) George McAffer Honorary Life Member in recognition of his extraordinary contributions, leadership and unwavering commitment to the VCDS mission.

From piloting fighter jets during the Berlin Crisis to walking a young woman to safety on a late-night crisis call, George McAffer has lived a life defined by courage, compassion and service. A natural leader, George has brought the same dedication to his volunteer work as he did to his 30-year career in the Royal Canadian Air Force and his later ventures in government and private business.

In 2016, George became a director of the newly formed Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society to ensure cancer patients in Surrey, Langley, Abbotsford, Mission, Tri Cities and North Vancouver would have access to transportation to treatment. George was instrumental in building the VCDS from a grassroots idea into a professional, volunteer-driven organization. He was instrumental in the creation of Society bylaws, the development of key charitable funding sources, leading the expansion of the VCDS services, and establishing the policies and procedures that continue to shape the organization today.

As a volunteer driver, George has been a steady presence and a source of comfort to patients and he fondly remembers the resilience of those he's driven and speaks with humility about the impact of simply being there: "It's a small thing for us—but it means everything to them."

When asked to summarize his George offers two words: "Pride. Satisfaction."

George's legacy is woven into the very fabric of VCDS and the VCDS team is delighted to recognize him as an Honorary Life Member for his visionary role in building and growing the Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society, and for his continued dedication to supporting cancer patients across our communities.

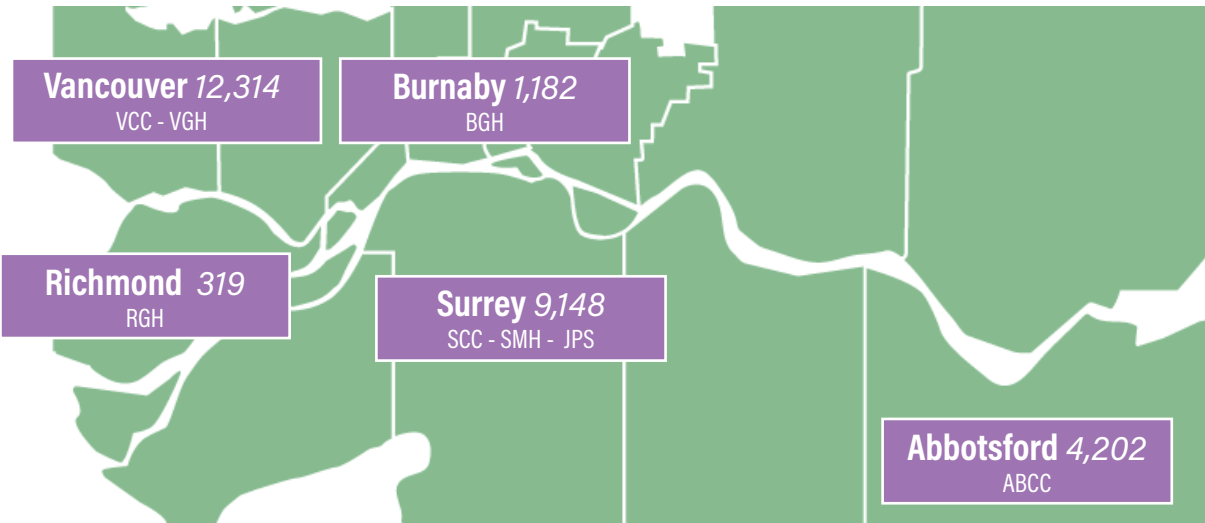
Distinguished Service Award

We are honoured to recognize the recipients of this year's Distinguished Service Award for their exceptional dedication and compassion in support of the Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society and the patients we serve.

Chris Brunner, Daniel Camporese, Carolyn Flemming, Elaine Weberg, Bruce Wells, Ernie Westmacott, and Kenny Wong.

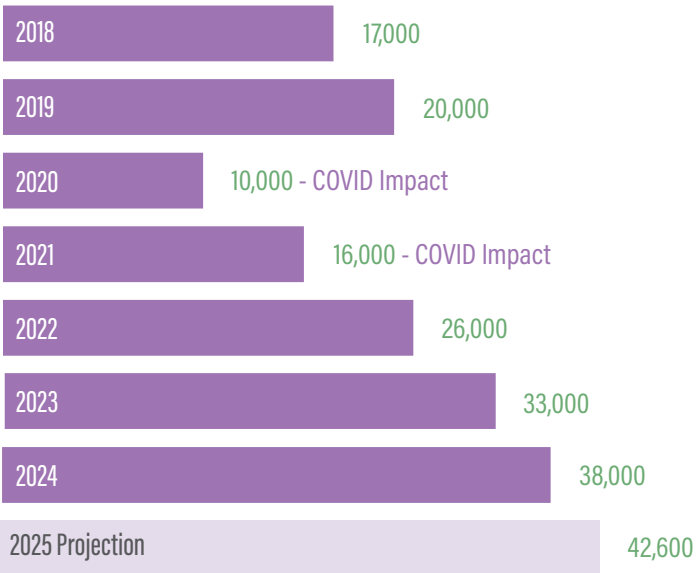
Dispatch *and* Driver Statistics

Patient Trips *to* Treatment Centres



In 2024, VCDS provided 109 trips for children, mainly to BC Children’s Hospital and Surrey Pediatric Oncology

Trips Completed



"I was diagnosed with an extremely rare primary spinal cancer and dealing with a range of surgical side effects, both physical and emotional.

"There was just no way I could have made my appointments at VGH without VCDS, and each and every one of the drivers I have met have been incredibly supportive and all were empathetic enough to realize when I needed someone to listen to me, or when I needed small talk to distract me. The drivers deserve a collective award for their efforts!"

Patients Need More Drivers

The BC Cancer Agency predicts a significant increase in cancer diagnoses in British Columbia in the coming years, with projections indicating a rise from approximately 34,000 new cases in 2024 to 45,000 in 2034. One in two people in B.C. will face a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime

Financial Statements

for the year ended December 31st, 2024

Income Statement

Revenue	2024	2023
Donations & Grants	\$1,004,171	\$904,695
Other Income	21,343	23,651
Expenses		
Cost of Fund Raising	32,386	25,930
Vehicle Expenses	570,522	465,370
Driver Support	65,631	44,860
Administrative Expenditures	18,793	24,081
Donated Board Expenses	6,794	5,446
Funds on Hand		
Operating Surplus	\$331,388	\$362,659

A Patient's Trust

"Thank you to the wonderful volunteer drivers whom I met during my treatments. God bless everyone and thanks for your wonderful service to cancer patients."

Volunteer Cancer Drivers Endowment Fund

The Society has set up a fund at the Vancouver Foundation known as the 'Volunteer Cancer Drivers Endowment Fund' to provide for the future sustainability of its operations. Income earned by the Fund is reinvested by the Foundation. Should the Society have a shortfall in funding in any year, it may apply to the Foundation for a grant from the fund. The market value of contributions and earnings reinvested to date was \$1,720,427 as of December 31, 2024.

Donations and Grants

The generosity of our donors and supporters reached a record high in 2024, with contributions totaling just over \$1 million. This remarkable achievement reflects the deep commitment of our community to helping cancer patients access the care they need.

Every gift, large or small, plays a vital role in ensuring we can continue our mission of providing compassionate and personalized transportation to treatment. Thanks to this support, cancer patients can focus on their recovery without the added worry of how they'll get to their appointments.

Your contributions not only help keep our volunteer drivers on the road but also strengthen the overall health and well-being of the communities we serve. We are sincerely grateful for your trust and generosity.

The VCDS giving community includes members of the public, our patients, VCDS members, the business community, financial institutions, First Responder organizations, cities and municipalities, service clubs, foundations, and societies. Together, you make our work possible.

Donations and Grants	2024	2023
Business Community	\$47,478	\$26,820
Financial Institutions	1,500	0
First Responders	21,500	14,500
Foundations and Societies	423,431	524,557
Legacy Gift	123,618	0
Municipalities	25,500	26,500
Patients	54,114	66,569
Public	65,487	52,953
Service Clubs	58,450	37,350
Society Members	183,093	155,446
	<u>\$1,004,171</u>	<u>\$904,695</u>



Donor Circle \$30,000+ Lifetime Giving

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for their tremendous generosity and commitment to helping VCDS continue its vital work in support of the cancer patients we serve.

BC Children's Hospital Foundation
 City of Delta
 City of Surrey
 First West Foundation – Envision
 Freemasons Grand Lodge of BC and Yukon
 Jim Pattison Auto Group
 Karen van Dongen Foundation
 Gerald Lomas
 Estate of Anton Noteboom
 Estate of Rosamund Hargrave
 OpenRoad Foundation
 Parkland Fuel Corporation
 Peace Arch Hospital Foundation
 Saint Mary's Health Foundation of New Westminster
 Surrey Fire Fighters' Charitable Society
 The Block Charitable Foundation
 Titan Foundation
 Twins Cancer Fundraising Inc.
 Vancouver Foundation
 The Morris And Helen Belkin Foundation
 United Way of BC



Steadfast Support

Thank you for your unwavering support and kindness.

Your generosity helps us continue providing vital services to those who need them most. Because of you, patients have access to reliable transportation during some of the most challenging times in their lives. Every donation, big or small, makes a real and lasting difference.

From all of us – and from the many individuals and families whose lives you've touched – thank you for standing with us.

MAILING ADDRESS

Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society
PO Box 45618 Sunnyside Mall
Surrey, BC. V4A 9N3

VCDS FUNDRAISING CONTACT

Vice President Development and Communications-
Please Call: 236-259-6516



volunteercancerdriverssociety
www.volunteercancerdrivers.ca

Kindness during a difficult time

"Thank you, Volunteer Cancer Drivers, for helping me get to my treatments and never miss an appointment. Your kindness meant the world during a difficult time."

"I'll always remember one ride when I felt especially unwell—your warm smile, the peaceful music, and the comfort of your car lifted my spirits more than you know."

"Your care and generosity touched both me and my family. We'll never forget it".