

VOLUNTEER  
CANCER DRIVERS  
SOCIETY



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**A Ride to Care  
for All Cancer Patients**



## President's Message

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

2025 was another year of meaningful service to cancer patients in need of transportation to care. As of March 2026, 571 volunteers were serving as drivers, supported by a dedicated volunteer support team across our communities.

Over the past year, we have continued to experience growth, and with that, the need to evolve. In August, we appointed Shirley Chiang as Executive Director and began expanding our scheduling system to enable our drivers to serve patients in a timelier manner.

As we moved into 2026, we marked 10 years of service in February. I stepped down after nine years as President of the Board of Directors, marking the conclusion of my tenure in that role.

Serving VCDS has been an honour. I have been continually inspired by the generosity of our donors and the unwavering commitment of our volunteers to ensure patients can access the care they need. As I step back into the role of driver, I remain committed to supporting the Society, particularly in fostering the donor relationships that sustain our work.

I am confident in the leadership ahead and pleased to pass the role of President to Gail Kaufmann.

Sincerely,

RJ (Bob) Smith



## Incoming President's Message

Gail Kaufmann - Communications Director

It is a privilege to step into the role of President of Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society as we mark 10 years of service and enter our next chapter.

Bob's leadership has helped create a strong and compassionate foundation, built through the dedication of our volunteers, the trust of our donors, and a shared commitment to ensuring patients can access the care they need.

I begin this role with deep respect for what has been created and a clear focus on how we continue to grow and strengthen our impact. As we look ahead, our priority is to build on this momentum. We will continue to strengthen our systems, support our volunteers, and work closely as a Board to ensure we are responsive to the increasing demand for our services across the communities we serve.

We are also committed to ensuring that every dollar entrusted to us is used to fulfill our mission.

Sincerely,

Gail Kaufmann

# Board of Directors

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



**Marlyn Graziano**  
Vice President Communications  
and Development



**Tom Akam**  
Treasurer



**Deb Salh**  
Secretary



**Ken Askew**  
Director Quality Assurance  
and Technology



**Ho Yee Low**  
Director Dispatch



**David Pais**  
Director at Large  
Network Integrity



**John Kerolus**  
Director Driver Operations



**Anne Gloeckler**  
Director at Large

# Patient Impact Story

## Harvey & Arlette of Richmond

A \$72 one-way taxi fare should not be a barrier to Harvey getting to his cancer treatments.

Harvey and Arlette have always lived steady, independent lives. Harvey typically did the driving, while Arlette preferred to stay closer to home. When treatment was scheduled at the Vancouver Cancer Clinic, transportation quickly became an unexpected challenge.

For his first appointment, they took a taxi. The cost was \$72 for just one trip. With ten treatments ahead, Arlette began doing the math. Would they need to stay closer to the clinic? How quickly would the costs add up?

*"It wasn't something we had planned for," Arlette recalls. "It added a whole new layer of worry at a time when we were already dealing with so much."*

At the clinic, they were met with kindness and support, along with a great deal of information to absorb. Amid it all, one recommendation stood out. Staff and other patients repeatedly mentioned Volunteer Cancer Drivers, encouraging them to register for support. *"Everyone spoke so highly of the program,"* says Arlette.

From their first call, the Book-A-Ride experience was seamless. With complimentary rides arranged to and from their home for each appointment, they no longer had to worry about whether transportation would become a barrier to Harvey's treatment.

Today, Harvey and Arlette's story is one of many. Each patient who arrives at treatment with greater peace of mind reflects the generosity of donors and the commitment of volunteers who make complimentary rides possible.

*"It took that worry away," Arlette shares. "We could focus on what really mattered—Harvey's treatment and getting through it together."*

## SERVICE AWARDS

### Award of Excellence

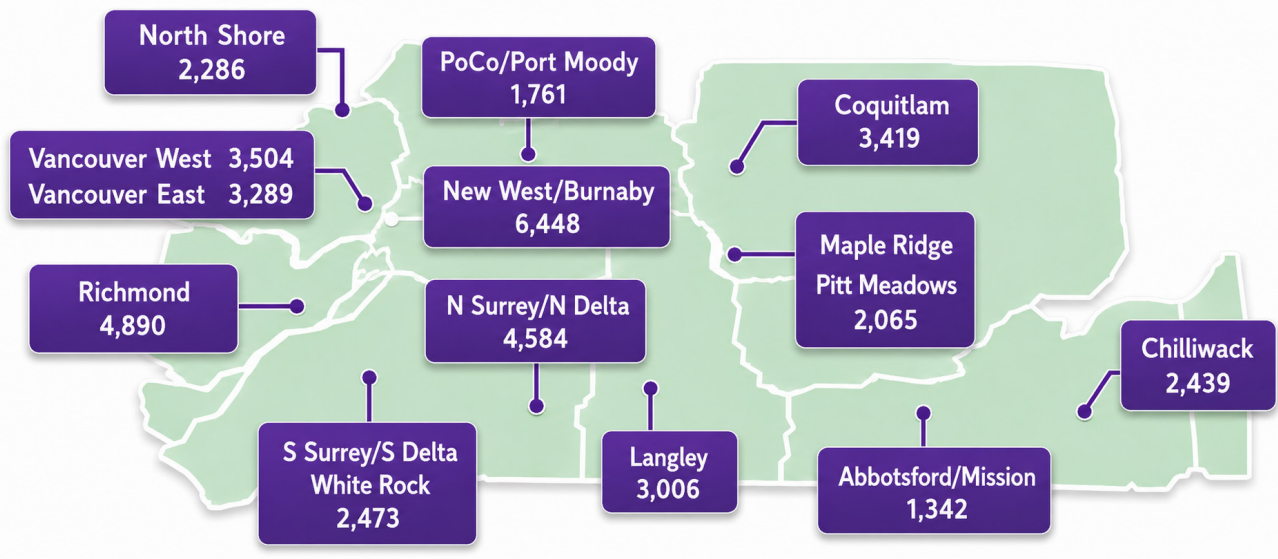
Recognizing leadership, impact, and dedication, VCDS presented this award to Orrie Babiuk – Dispatcher, Ken Askew – Director, Technology and Quality Assurance, and Tom Akam – Board Treasurer.

### Award of Distinguished Service

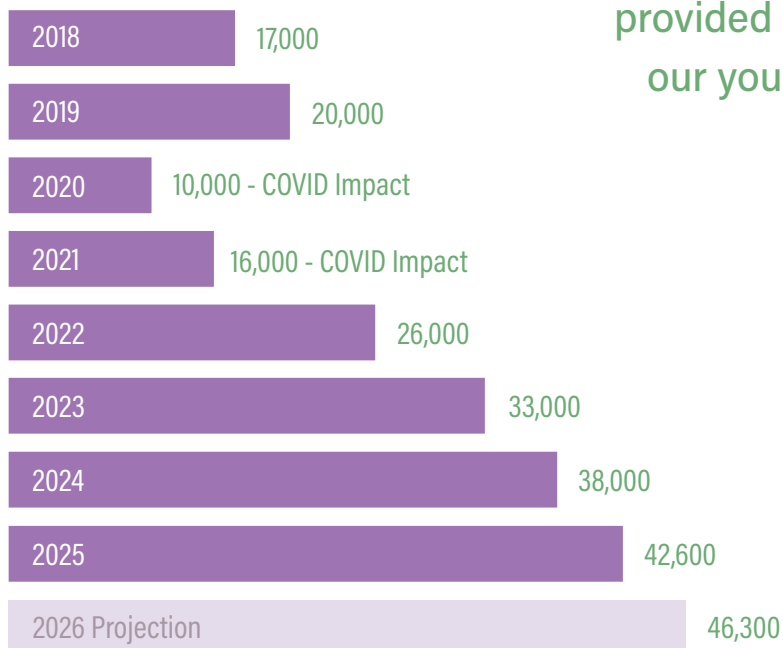
Recognizing exceptional operational commitment and legacy service on the road, this award was presented to Bill Ruppel – Driver and former Board Director, Lyle Philips – Driver, and Ron Pitts – Driver.

# Patient Trip Statistics

## Trips by Community



## Trips Completed



Through our Child Ride Program, we provided 136 trips to and from treatment for our youngest patients and their families.

### More Than a Ride

*"I was diagnosed with an extremely rare primary spinal cancer and was 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 the Volunteer Cancer Drivers. Each and every one of the drivers has been incredibly supportive. Thank you."*

## Dr. Martin, Medical Oncologist, BC Cancer Surrey

*"For many cancer patients, especially those who are elderly, living alone, or travelling from outside major treatment centres, getting to appointments can become a serious barrier to care. Community-based transportation support helps reduce that uncertainty, giving patients a greater sense of security, dignity, and control as they navigate frequent treatment and consultation visits."*

# Financial Statements

for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025

## Income Statement

Revenue	2025	2024
Donations & Grants	\$1,086,004	\$1,004,121
Other Income	3,750	6,045
<b>Expenses</b>		
Cost of Fund Raising	48,659	31,708
Vehicle Expenses	623,741	556,938
Driver Support	82,398	64,993
Administrative Expenditures	38,957	18,507
Donated Board Expenses	3,610	6,632
<b>Funds on Hand</b>		
Operating Surplus	\$292,390	\$331,388

*Note: Other Income and Expenses for 2024 have been restated to be comparable to 2025 because of a change in accounting policy regarding GST rebates. They are now deducted from the relevant Expense rather than shown as Other Income.*

## 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 \$2,316,613 as of December 31, 2025 (\$1,720,427 as of December 31, 2024)

### Where Support Becomes Service

*"My Mom has been using your service for almost two years now. She has been through two different cancers in that time. This service has been a godsend for my family knowing that she is able to make her appointments and she is well looked after."*

# Donations and Grants

It is with the deepest of gratitude that we acknowledge our funders and donors for their incredible support in 2025. Organizations and individuals that we affectionately refer to as “the giving community” once again stepped up to ensure that our wheels could keep turning, and that our vital work could continue.

Grants and donations of all sizes supported our operations, and because of this generosity we were able to serve more than 2,000 cancer patients in Greater Vancouver and the Fraser Valley.

VCDS was founded in 2016 on the belief that access to cancer treatment should not be an additional emotional and financial burden for patients and their families. Since our inception, we have received unwavering support from those who believe in our mission. We are there for our patients, because our supporters are there for us. And for that we humbly say, “thank you.”



Donations and Grants	2025	2024
Business Community	\$26,635	\$47,478
Financial Institutions	0	1,500
First Responders	32,201	21,500
Foundations and Societies	467,745	423,431
Legacy Gift	52,134	123,618
Municipalities	24,119	25,500
Patients	95,120	54,114
Provincial Gaming Grant	30,000	0
Public	106,620	65,487
Service Clubs	43,350	58,450
Society Members	207,981	183,093
Unions	100	0
	<b>\$1,086,004</b>	<b>\$1,004,171</b>

## Donor Circle \$30,000 and Above

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
- Canadian Cancer Society
- City of Delta
- City of Surrey
- Estate of Anton Noteboom
- Estate of Rosamund Hargrave
- First West Foundation – Envision
- Freemasons Grand Lodge of BC and Yukon
- United Way of BC
- Vancouver Foundation
- Gerald Lomas
- Jim Pattison Auto Group
- Karen van Dongen Foundation
- OpenRoad Foundation
- Peace Arch Hospital Foundation,  
Healthy Community Grants Program
- Parkland Fuel Corporation
- St. Mary's Health Foundation of New Westminister
- Surrey Fire Fighters Charitable Society
- The Block Charitable Foundation
- The Morris and Helen Belkin Foundation
- Titan Foundation
- Twins Cancer Fundraising Inc.
- BC Community Gaming Grant

## Steadfast Support

VCDS is driven by volunteers and supported by community. Thank you to all who have joined us on our journey of care and compassion.

Your generosity has provided so much more than a complimentary trip to and from cancer treatment. You have given our patients peace of mind, a relaxing trip and the opportunity for a bit of quiet companionship during a healthcare journey that can be fraught with fear and uncertainty.

## MAILING ADDRESS

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

## VCDS CONTACT

Vice President of Development  
Please Call; 236-259-6516



volunteercancerdriverssociety  
[www.volunteercancerdrivers.ca](http://www.volunteercancerdrivers.ca)



## Aileen Reinders – Why I Drive!

*"I've been the patient. I've been the friend or family member helping someone through cancer. I know how heavy it can all feel. Volunteering with VCDS lets me show up for people during one of the hardest chapters of their lives and remind them they're not alone."*