

DAN'S LEGACY ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



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We respectfully and gratefully acknowledge that our work takes place on the
unceded and traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples.



In fiscal year 2025–2026, Dan’s Legacy Foundation registered **646** new youth clients and delivered more than **10,000** direct service sessions across six integrated programs: trauma-informed mental health counselling, practical wrap-around supports, and job-skills training opportunities.

This report highlights the impact of our trauma-informed modality of care, providing the empirical data which shows the positive impact that directing significant resources towards harm prevention strategies has on at-risk youth in British Columbia.



MISSION

To provide youth who have experienced trauma, with effective counselling, education, vocational and other support programming



VISION

At risk-youth, through insight and empowerment, have the opportunity to achieve their full potential and contribute to their community



VALUES

Accountability
Integrity
Compassion
Empowerment
Respect
Collaboration



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year, we continued to provide vital mental health counselling and living supports to at-risk youth across Metro Vancouver, ensuring young people had access to the care, stability, and opportunities they needed to move forward. Even as funder priorities shifted in response to rapidly evolving global challenges, resulting in an anticipated funding shortfall, our commitment to meeting the needs of vulnerable youth remained unwavering.

Challenges always provide opportunities, and we found new ways to streamline our intake process to identify the highest risk clients requiring immediate support, while also ensuring that youth presenting with less severe symptoms had their needs met – either by our programs or those of our more than 40 community partners. The end result was a seamless process from intake through to graduation, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from the clients who felt welcome, supported, and truly understood by everyone at Dan's Legacy.

For the past four years I have had the privilege of witnessing the positivity of the staff as they repositioned to maximize opportunities and mitigate challenges, all while keeping a trauma-informed, client-centred focus to provide the best possible service to the youth.

With the creation of the new Centre of Education, as well as the unprecedented growth of our Dan's Diner Social Enterprise and catering business, Dan's Legacy is well on its way to bringing insight, empowerment, and hope for the future to youth across British Columbia.

To my colleagues on the Board of Directors, I am deeply grateful for your dedication, generosity, and leadership. As volunteers, you give so much of yourselves to this work, sharing your time, wisdom, and expertise in service of our mission. Your guidance has been invaluable, helping to create the stability, vision, and confidence that allow our team to continue supporting young people and growing our impact.

To our donors, volunteers, and champions of this work, thank you. Because of you, youth facing some of life's greatest challenges can access support when they need it most. We are deeply grateful for the role you play in helping young people find hope, build resilience, and discover what is possible for their future.

Kristy Hayter
President



About Dan's Legacy Foundation

Dan's Legacy provides trauma-informed and culturally sensitive counselling, outreach and job-skills training programs for at-risk youth.

Client Profile

Dan's Legacy works with youth aged 15-25 who are asking for help. The top presenting concerns are debilitating anxiety and depression, sleeping and eating disorders, most often the result of childhood trauma. The youth have little to no self-regulation skills and are trying to deal with the pain in ways that often causes more trauma, such as substance misuse, gang involvement, self-harm, and relentless gaming.

What Makes Dan's Legacy Unique

The youth are met where they are physically and emotionally, wait times are kept to a minimum (one to two months), and all programs and services are offered free of charge.

Evidence Based Programming

Dan's Legacy has the evidence to confidently assert that our programs are evidence-based.

[A year-long evaluation study](#) conducted by researchers from UBC's Stigma and Resilience Among Vulnerable Youth Centre (SARAVYC) confirmed that Dan's Legacy's holistic approach to counselling and wrap-around service is working.



"The 16-session model and wraparound services offer a scalable solution to address the opioid crisis and mental health challenges, appealing to donors seeking high-impact investments. There is alignment with the provincial government's health and social justice goals, supporting youth resilience and community stability."

- UBC SARAVYC Study, 2025.

OUR IMPACT 2025–2026

All statistics from Dan's Legacy's proprietary ShareVision database

Trauma-Informed Counselling

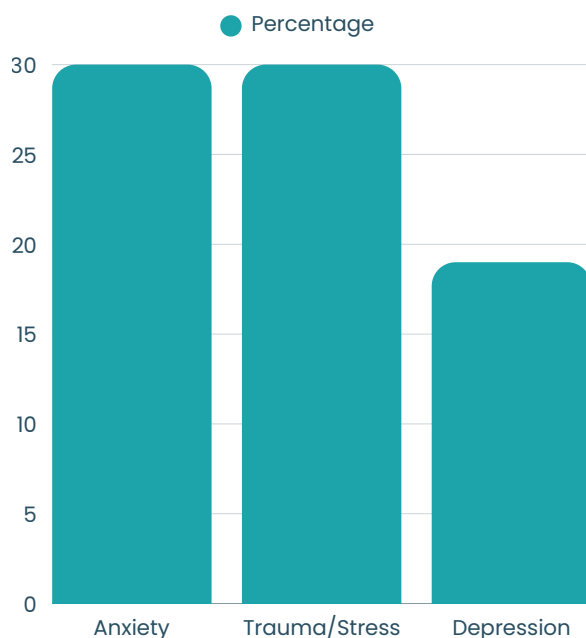
In fiscal year 2025–2026, Dan's Legacy registered 646 new youth clients, averaging 107 new registrations per month. Of all registrations, 77% were for youth age 18–25. Mental health counselling delivered 6,204 sessions, with 412 clients completing care due to achieving their goals or obtaining notable improvement in symptoms.

Approximately 70% of youth were referred to Dan's Legacy via self-referral, by peer/word-of-mouth, or referred by over 40 trusted partner organizations in the community.

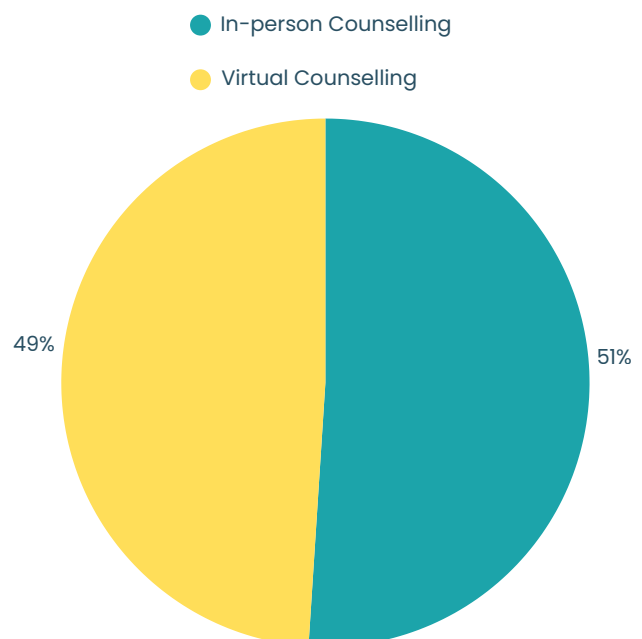
Dan's Legacy's integrated, youth-centered model delivers clinically meaningful mental health gains, stabilization, and long-term employability skills at a fraction of the cost of acute/crisis-system involvement.

With demand continuing to grow, Dan's Legacy is well-positioned to scale impact across British Columbia in 2026–2027 through expanded clinical capacity, deeper partnerships, and renewed provincial investment in youth mental health and wrap-around supports.

Dominant Presenting Symptoms



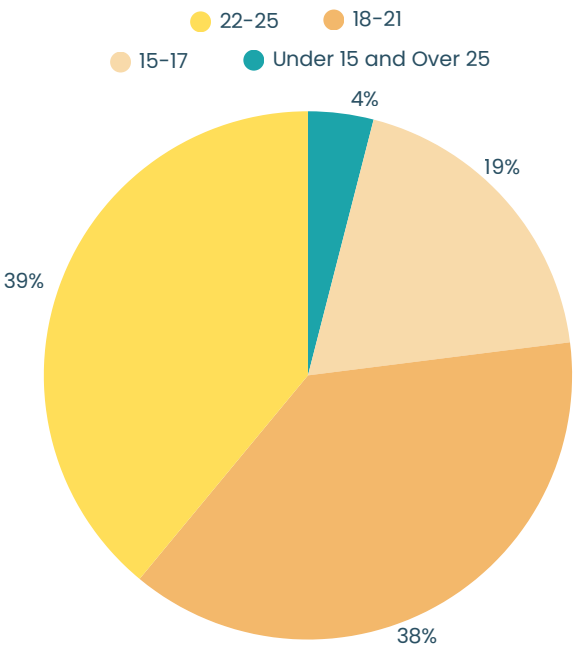
Types of Counselling



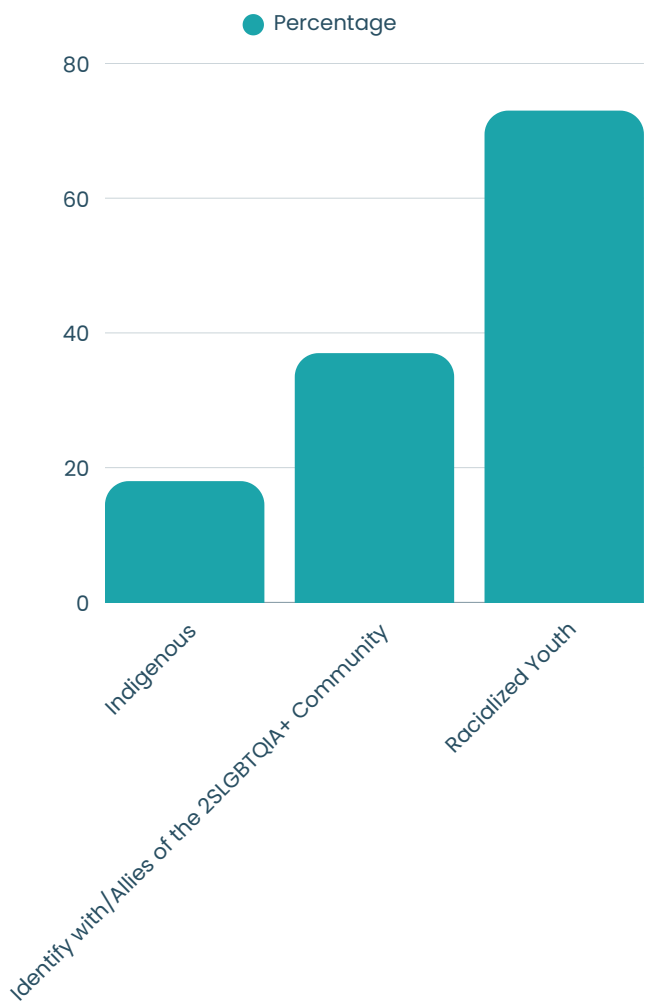
TRAUMA-INFORMED COUNSELLING

All statistics from Dan's Legacy's proprietary ShareVision database

Client Age Groups



Client Profile



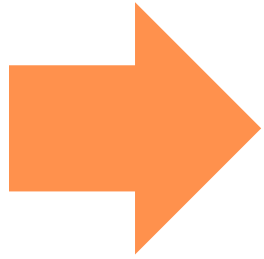
WRAP-AROUND & SUPPORT SERVICES

The goal of the wrap-around programs is to provide the necessary supports that initially help to stabilize the youth in preparation for counselling, and then serve to enhance their physical needs. Regular access to healthy food, exercise and cultural connections are directly correlated to positive mental health. These programs are available to registered clients.

Social Work

227+

Sessions



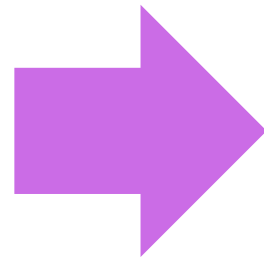
94%

Success rate resolving urgent housing, legal, financial, medical, and employment crises

Outreach

533

Sessions



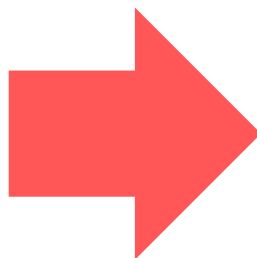
92%

92% success rate
(partially or fully achieved goals)

Grocery Hampers

1,422+

Distributions of food support through grocery hampers for individual youth and often their families or other dependents



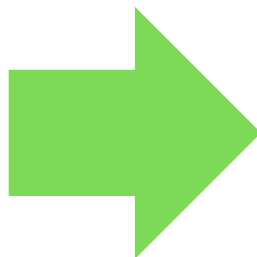
100%

Reporting gains in daily functioning and budget stability

Fitness and Recreation

473

Sessions contributing to psychological well-being



230

Clients showing improvement

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL WORKSHOPS

As part of Dan's Legacy's holistic approach to healing and wellness, we collaborated with Katzie First Nation artist Rain Pierre (słáməx^w) and the City of Surrey to create a vibrant youth-involved mural in the new Foundry Surrey Central building.

The centre officially opened in November 2025, providing essential mental health, substance use, and wellness supports for young people aged 12–24. Local Indigenous agencies and schools in the surrounding community played a key role by inviting youth to submit their original artwork, whether paintings or drawings, for incorporation into the mural. Guided by Rain Pierre, the project blended professional Indigenous artistry with contributions from young participants.

This meaningful initiative not only gave youth a powerful platform for representation in their community but also nurtured a deeper sense of belonging, cultural pride, and connection to place.



JOB-SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMS

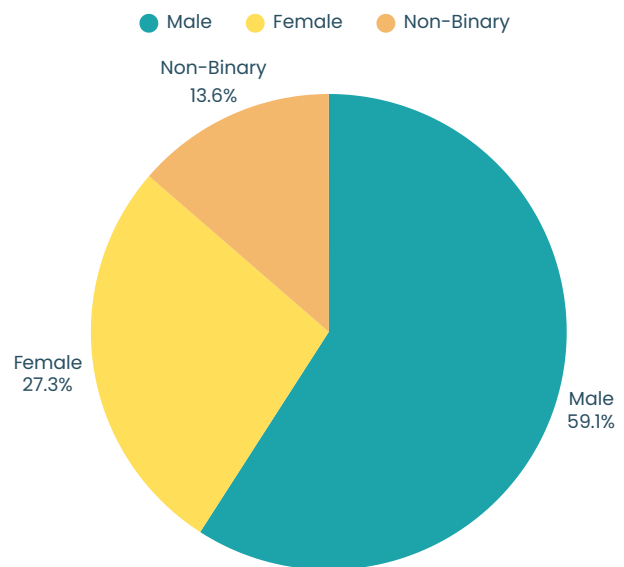
Our job-skills training programs provide hands-on, paid training and real-world work experience in a supportive, trauma-informed environment. In 2025, the programs continued to equip participating youth with essential employability skills, workplace confidence, and soft skills critical for sustainable employment in retail, food service, and customer-facing roles.

Youth participants received structured training through three main streams: Cook Training, Dan's Diner, and F.A.S.T. (Food Acquisition, Storage and Transport).

Daily sessions included:

- Practical skill-building (point-of-sale systems, customer service, food prep, store set-up/closing procedures)
- Real-time coaching and feedback from professional instructors (typical student-to-instructor ratio of 1:2)
- Monthly progress reviews and a final exit interview with outcome tracking
- Teamwork and communication exercises

Training Participant Profile



Participants consistently demonstrated measurable gains in key areas upon program completion with 51% of respondents indicating a shift from low to medium/high proficiency in teamwork, confidence and core workplace competencies.

By integrating relational support, trauma-informed coaching, and practical skill development, the training programs serve as a powerful bridge from vulnerability to independence. Many participants simultaneously access mental health counselling, social work, or grocery supports, creating a holistic pathway that addresses both immediate barriers and long-term employability.

The success of the three programs in 2025 underscores their value as cost-effective interventions that reduce reliance on income assistance and support youth in breaking cycles of unemployment and social exclusion. Continued investment will allow expansion of training streams, increased participant capacity, and stronger employer partnerships to further enhance job placement outcomes.



MITIGATING FOOD INSECURITY

All meals produced by the students and chef instructors in our Cook Training program use recovered food. This allows us to sell the meals at affordable prices to the community, which has a significant impact on mitigating food insecurity, as well as having a positive environmental impact by redirecting edible food away from landfills. We donate approximately 90% of what we rescue to other NGOs supporting hungry clients, which is one of the ways we expand our reach into the community through these valued partnerships.

	2022	2025	4-Year Increase
Food Rescued	182,201kg	279,400kg	42%
Meals Provided	334,576	513,500	42%
Co2 Reduced	468,704kg	938,600kg	67%



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Funding Sources	Amount	Percentage
Provincial Government Grant	\$1,730,000.00	82%
Municipal Government Grant	\$62,739.45	3%
Government Grant (program dedicated)	\$40,000.00	2%
Inter-agency Contract	\$30,000.00	1%
Earned Revenue	\$132,420.11	6%
Individual / Corporate Donations	\$105,667.77	5%

Thank You to our Major Donors

- BC Ministry of Health
- BC Civil Forfeiture
- Public Safety Canada “Building Safer Communities Fund”
- United Way of the Lower Mainland
- Marilyn Snook
- Harbinger Foundation (Joan Van Duzer)
- New Westminster Rotary
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 2 New Westminster



OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025–2026

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WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY



“ I was able to revisit and reflect on a lot of my thought processes, many of which were negatively impacting me in ways I hadn’t considered before. Besides getting better awareness of my mental state, I learned a handful of tools that I still use in my day to day living that help my mental health. ”

“ Being able to work through my thoughts and concerns in a constructive way helped me realize I wasn’t the problem, but it was getting the help I needed. The ability to collaborate on finding the ideal counsellor is the most stress-relieving aspect outside of the sessions themselves. ”

“ I did EMDR that was a huge step into recovery and my healing journey, where I could not finically afford it. Was extremely grateful into receiving the help that no other programs provide. ”

“ I've been in counseling for the majority of my life but my Dan's counsellor was the best I've ever had. [They were] so kind and seemed to really understand me. ”

“ Dan’s Legacy has had a truly meaningful impact on my life. The support I’ve received has helped me during times when I really needed it, and the understanding and kindness shown by the staff has made me feel supported rather than judged. I’m very grateful for everything they’ve done and continue to do for me. ”

WATCH THIS VIDEO TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT WE GOT UP TO IN 2025!



WATCH NOW



"Dan's Legacy's approach, validated by significant statistical outcomes demonstrates its effectiveness in transforming lives of youth. By addressing mental health, housing, and food insecurity through a 16-session model and wraparound care, it meets critical BC needs. Increased funding and refined data collection will enhance the impact of its programs."

– UBC SARAVYC Study, 2025.

Dan's Legacy 2025–2026 Annual Report

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