



December 2, 2015
 Reception starts at 6.00pm
 Fairmont Hotel Vancouver
 900 West Georgia
 Vancouver, BC

For ticket, or partnership information:
 604-253-4469
events@mission-possible.ca



Two years ago I shared a prayer—or rather, a thought—with God.

Mission Possible Gala 2015

Come celebrate with us!

The Mission Possible Gala is a celebration of the accomplishments achieved by the people we work with and the support we receive from people like you.

Please “SAVE THE DATE” now for Mission Possible’s 7th Annual Gala.

This year’s Gala will be held on December 2nd, 2015 at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. The reception will begin at 6.00 pm.

Tickets are now available for purchase on the Mission Possible website; mission-possible.ca > Events > Mission Possible Gala – Save The Date!

For ticket and sponsor information call Brian or Rod, at 604-253-4469, or email events@mission-possible.ca

Jenny Hawkinson – The Wall

Two years ago I shared a prayer—or rather, a thought—with God.

I would love to do a mural in the Downtown Eastside, but I don’t even know where to start.

A week later I got a phone call from Yolanda at Jacob’s Well, our ‘sister organization.’

“Hey Jenny, I’m writing a grant for a community mural. Can I put you down as one of the lead artists?”

In July, Mission Possible partnered with Jacob’s Well and Servants Vancouver to organize and accomplish the gift of public art for our Downtown Eastside. Funding was provided by The Arts Council of BC.

The design came from a series of idea generating workshops; the collective response was that our neighbourhood was a place of belonging for so many different types of people, and

our hope for the future was that individuals would be well integrated in a healthy and vibrant community. We simplified those ideas into one word: *nest*, and the rest is visual history.

Over the course of two weeks, thirty people put brush to wall. With the grant we hired two lead artists, a project coordinator, a videographer, and three community leaders to help facilitate the volunteer painters. A typical day at the mural site consisted of 3-8 people painting, with many impromptu potlucks, encouraging conversations, and laughter.

The *Nest Community Mural* is an emblem of hope in our neighbourhood. It is a testament to the creative spirit that resides on these streets, and the caring community that came together to make it happen.

People. Purpose. Paycheque.

MISSION POSSIBLE

mission-possible.ca

Fall 2015



Consider becoming a monthly donor today!
 Contact us at 604-253-4469
 or donate online at mission-possible.ca

Slumping shoulders, limited eye contact, defensive communication and an oscillating temperament—these are the signs of a broken spirit. Often Mission Possible staff members observe one or more of these behaviors when first encountering our Downtown Eastside neighbours. Even in the midst of these signs of disempowerment, enough courage and hope emerges to take a step through our doors.

Homelessness and poverty take a toll way beyond a lack of housing or financial means. They can create a sense of shame that leads to a loss of dignity, isolation that destroys networks of support, damaged resiliency, self-doubt that damages motivation, and an eroded sense of hope. These intangible challenges are the most debilitating.

As a result, simply providing relief services, like food or clothing, are merely a first step to restoration. People caught in a cycle of poverty deserve and need to be empowered. They need a “hand up,” along with an opportunity, some encouragement, and sometimes a bit of a nudge. Pretty soon, self-confidence emerges, resiliency returns and hope is actualized once again.

Mission Possible is hard at work leading people on a journey towards empowerment. In this newsletter you’ll read about John’s journey. You’ll also hear about Sarah, a Mission Possible volunteer who has captured the vision and is working to encourage people through our Work Readiness Workshops.

Our engagement in this challenging work would not be possible without your generous support. In the past five years, Mission Possible has provided training and transitional employment opportunities to over 100 individuals in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. So far in 2015, 86 people walking that journey towards empowerment successfully completed the Mission Possible Work Readiness Workshops.

Mission Possible is offering exactly what this community needs. By supporting Mission Possible, you are providing a pathway to empowerment to many who are simply looking for an opportunity.

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, please consider making a gift to Mission Possible. Together we are making a difference.

Rev. Brian Postlewait, Executive Director

Become a Monthly Donor

Contact us at 604-253-4469
 or donate online at mission-possible.ca

With your help, Mission Possible is doing all it can to provide opportunities, training and street level support to help restore dignity to people challenged by homelessness and poverty.

Signing up to be a monthly donor is easy. Fill out our online form and your gift will be automatically processed through your credit card each month.

So far this year

181 Mission Possible Orientations

95 Work-Readiness Workshop Attendees

236 One-on-One Work-Related Advisory Sessions

NAME: Mission Possible

DATE: September, 2015

Workshops

It's 8:55am on a Monday morning. Coffee is brewing, chairs are set out and the first participants begin to trickle in. Another three day set of Work Readiness Workshops is about to start.

At Mission Possible, we believe in the power of meaningful employment to bring about lasting change. That's why we regularly offer a three day employment readiness workshop series as the platform for all of our support. Through nine hours of interactive, discussion-based training, participants cover a variety of topics such as professionalism, teamwork, self care, and interview preparation. For many individuals, these workshops are an opportunity to relearn skills and focus on employment again, for others, the material is brand new. Regardless, the workshops are a place of encouragement, goal setting and motivation.

John

John was living in transitional housing close to Mission Possible when he heard about its opportunities to work and volunteer. While he was apprehensive about what they would offer him, he signed up for the workshops.

"I wasn't expecting much going into the workshops, but I was pleasantly surprised," he says. "Mission Possible had a more holistic approach... the workshops let me think about my barriers and what I wanted."

For many, that's what needs to be overcome: barriers. Getting a job isn't impossible—just challenging—and at Mission Possible we aim to support people through that process.

For John, the helpful catalyst to overcoming his personal barriers was the sense of community he felt in the workshops.

"I felt like I was becoming a part of something," he says.

Over the course of the three days, participants are encouraged to engage in discussion and offer up their own unique experiences and perspectives. It's not simply a classroom, but an environment of mutual learning, respect and connection.

"There's a reason why we are all here. If I could just go off and do it by myself, I'd go off and do it by myself. I'd have a job and everything would be fine," John explains. "It's the community that helped me take my next steps."

Sarah, DP World

For Sarah Swanson, a regular volunteer and Mission Possible supporter, watching individuals in the workshop step in and mentor each other is a rewarding experience.

"People come to this program from all walks of life and mentor each other," she says. "I feel like it's a success when every person in the room has participated — not just by talking to me — but by talking to each other."

Sarah began volunteering in the workshops through her Corporate Responsibility Committee at DP World, a long

standing supporter of Mission Possible. She's been an excellent resource for individuals participating in the workshops by providing them with helpful guidance and facilitation.

"I want to help address that gap in the poverty cycle," says Sarah. "It's important to enable people to earn a living and have pride in that."

Jennifer, Mission Possible

On the other two days, the workshops are facilitated by Jennifer Langerud, a Mission Possible Advisor. While the workshops play an extremely important role in helping individuals prepare for work, Jennifer says that the importance of connection and community while this material is explored also plays a vital part.

"I think there's value in participants connecting with other people within the workshops," she explains.

There is no "average" story of a person who enters the Mission Possible Work Readiness Workshops. Instead, people are coming from a variety of experiences, struggles and successes. It's these diverse stories that create such a dynamic learning experience.

A common struggle Jennifer sees in participants, however, is feeling overwhelmed, daunted or simply unsure of what's next.

"Many times people walk in thinking that they can't go to work — that it's just not a possibility for them," she says. "My hope is that they leave with a little bit of encouragement that tells them that actually they can work and find employment."

At the end of the day...

Our goal for the Mission Possible workshops is to provide people with an opportunity to brush up on valuable skills that are applicable to any job. Our aim is to support individuals as they take these steps towards lasting change, and our hope is to empower people to find a sense of dignity and purpose through meaningful work.

Fall Gutter Cleaning

Fall has arrived and leaves are starting to fall along with the rain. Did you know that Mission Possible Maintenance provides residential gutter cleaning?

Contact us today! 604-253-4673 or mpmaintenance@mission-possible.ca or mpmaintenance.ca

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- DAY 1: Professionalism
Teamwork
Workmanship
- DAY 2: Personal Self Care
Community
Spirituality
- DAY 3: Pre-interview
Resume
Interview

WORKSHOP ACTIVITY



With the workmanship triangle in mind, create a prioritized "TO DO" list for your morning.

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)



Plan Your Legacy

Estate planning allows for efficient and effective transfer of assets when you pass away. In addition to the goodwill benefits, there are tax benefits as well. When you create your estate plan, consider a charitable contribution to Mission Possible as an option. Supporting Mission Possible in this way will help us to continue to provide services to people who are challenged by homelessness and poverty as well as provide you with a steady stream of income and potential tax benefits.

There are numerous options for setting up a charitable contribution in your estate plan. The easiest is a simple bequest through your will. Please consult your financial planner and keep Mission Possible in mind.