

Desert Cove Homeowners Association

Desert Cove: A Community of Outstanding Generosity

Desert Cove has always been a community of compassionate, generous residents. This is one of the many reasons we are proud to say we live here and have been recognized as the **Best Retirement Community in The North Okanagan**.

What we are most proud of is our ongoing contribution to the **Vernon Jubilee Hospital (VJH)**. A place where many of us have, at one time or other, received care.

Although we know that there are many donations made to the VJH from our community, we thought you might be interested in hearing about some.

Covians have been giving to the VJH for many years. The VJH has contribution information from Desert Cove as far back as 1996.

Did you know there is an "Overnight Room" at the VJH, near the Intensive Care Unit, that was donated by the Desert Cove Homeowners Association in 2011? A comfortable room where a family member can stay close to a loved in ICU. **Sylvia Michaluk** was the driving force behind a very successful fund-raising effort. Over a period of three years, Covians worked very hard and raised a total of \$42,000 (forty-two thousand dollars) to fund this room.



Another one of our neighbours, **Jean Holtom** dedicates many hours of her time each year gathering ingredients to **make jam** and donating the proceeds to the VJH and Hospice. Over the years I'm sure she has donated a significant amount.

The VJH Foundation shared with us that they have received donations (not including the bottle recycling program) from our community to the tune of approximately **\$29,000** (twenty-nine thousand dollars).

Desert Cove Homeowners Association

Our **Refundable Recycling Program**, is one of our most successful programs and one that we are very proud of. Once a year, the Vernon Jubilee Hospital Light a Bulb Foundation Representatives visit Desert Cove and are presented with the “Big Cheque” of our contributions for the year. This year Kate McBreaty (Executive Director) and Brad Callihoo (board member) joined in our celebration.



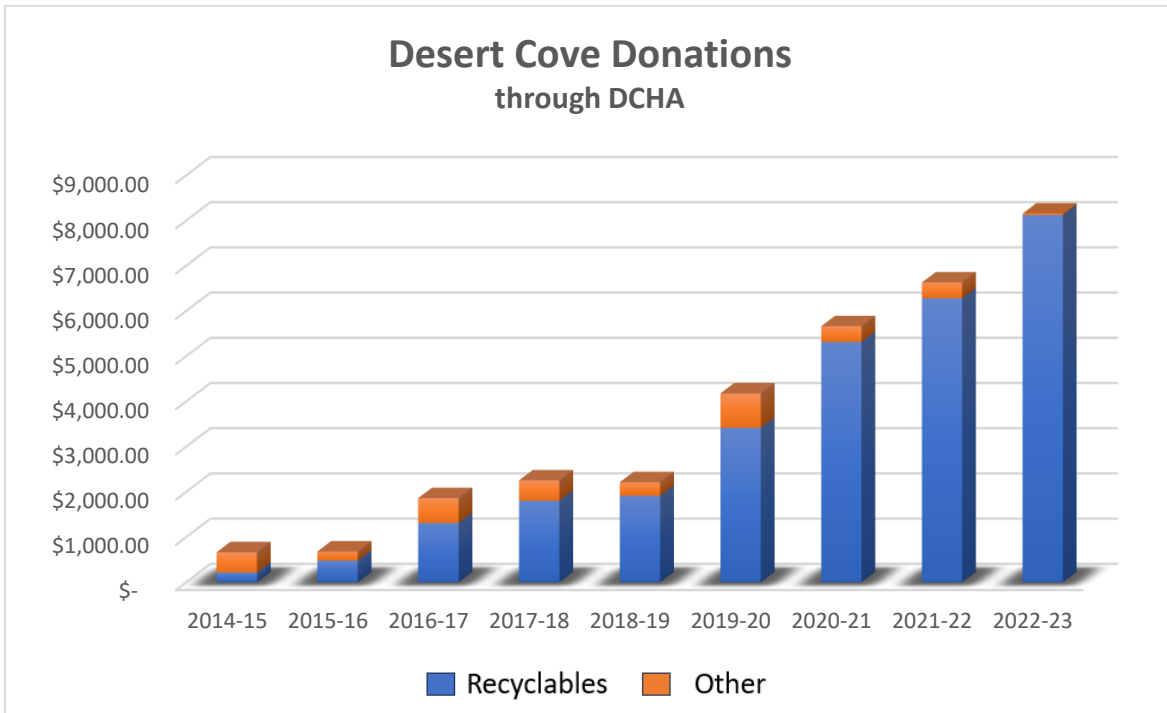
From what we have been able to attain, the recycling program really got off to its official start in about 2012-13, which was when the DCHA purchased the first recycle bins. We have **Marg Wild** and **Dave Caldwell** to thank as they were the folks who spearheaded the program. And look at what it has grown into today!

Dave Caldwell managed the recycling until 2019 at which time **Jim Horsford** took over. Up until a year ago it was these two dedicated, hard-working individuals who did all the dirty work; sorting and delivering the recyclables for refund. If anyone has ever done a bottle drive, you will know this is not the prettiest of jobs. We are forever grateful to Jim and Dave who took such ownership and pride in the program.

Fortunately, we now have a team of folks who have stepped up to help with the program. **Bill Versluis, Chris Meisner, Bob Cox, Mike Hovde** and a couple others now share the load.

The chart below shows how our program has grown over the years, our last donation being **\$8,000!** (eight thousand dollars).

The blue bar shows our recycle program, the orange shows donations the DCHA have made on behalf of residentsⁱ.



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Over the course of the recycling program, we have donated approximately **\$36,000!** (thirty-six thousand dollars)

With other donations from our community of approximately \$29,000 (twenty-nine thousand dollars) and the Over Night Room of \$42,000 (forty-two thousand dollars):

A total amount raised of approximately \$107,000 (one hundred and seven thousand dollars) from Desert Cove!

What an amazingly generous community!

This year (2024) not only did the VJHF publish several very lovely articles about our community, we also received a follow-up call from Brad Callihoo. Brad was excited to tell us that they had raised \$600,000 (six hundred thousand dollars) in this year's campaign which enabled them to buy another x-ray machine. He wanted to personally thank us for our ongoing donations and how its communities like us that make the difference.

We are very proud of the success of our recycle program. So how can we all do our part and support it?

- Volunteer to be part of the recycle team
- Donate your recyclables
- Make it easier on our volunteers by following the guidelines of what items are recyclable and rinsing containers like milk cartons.

ⁱ Majority of these donations are memoriums made on behalf of a resident who has passed away.