

# Homeless

## HONOURING A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT THE DR. JOE HAEGERT CENTRE: HOUSING AND SUPPORTS



**Dr. Joe Haegert joined Cool Aid as a young man.**

Dr. Joe Haegert grew up in a European immigrant family who had no money but placed a high value on education and sacrificed much to pay for their children's education. They believed that all people had a right to be treated with compassion and decency, a perspective that has guided Dr. Joe's work throughout his lifetime.

The Victoria Cool Aid Society began operations on June 10, 1968. Just two years later, on August 18, 1970, the Free Medical Clinic opened at First United Church with a young Dr. Joe Haegert enthusiastically leading the charge. Within four years, his Cool Aid practice had become a full-time commitment. As the doctor recently said to his patients in a retirement letter:

"Listening to each of you discuss your life struggles, your intense feelings, your passions and your tragedies and triumphs, I am often in awe of your courage in facing the difficulties of living. You are not passively enduring disappointments but are the most alive group I have ever encountered, struggling intensely, but always so thankful to me as your doctor, when I should be thanking you for the opportunity to assist in whatever way I can."

Today, the Cool Aid Community Health Centre provides a wide variety of health services to over 4,000 patients, many of whom are homeless. Over the years, other professionals have joined Dr. Joe in this work, including physicians, nurses, counsellors, pharmacists, dentists, dental hygienists, medical office assistants, an acupuncturist, nutritionist and other visiting specialists. We've come a long ways since those early years.

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"Listening to each of you discuss your life struggles, your intense feelings, your passions and your tragedies and triumphs, I am often in awe of your courage in facing the difficulties of living." – Dr. Joe Haegert

# HELP BUILD THE “DR. JOE HAEGERT CENTRE”

Cool Aid has an option to purchase a large, empty property that could house over 100 people who are homeless. Within the building will be a variety of health and social service supports to help people live healthy and productive lives.

The capital cost to complete the Dr. Joe Haegert Centre is estimated at \$9 million, with \$2 million needed from private donations. Every \$20,000 in gifts will pay for one apartment, after government and partner contributions are added.

Cool Aid would like to include two palliative care apartments for people without homes who are nearing the end of their life and need a dignified place to stay, with care, during their last days.

We need to raise \$500,000 more from individuals, companies and foundations in order to attract sufficient government and partner funds to build and operate the new Dr. Joe Haegert Centre. Already, Cool Aid’s friends (donors) and family (staff and directors) have raised the first \$1.5 million.

Together we will end homelessness and build a healthier community for all.

## TO MAKE A DONATION OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

### **Alan Rycroft**

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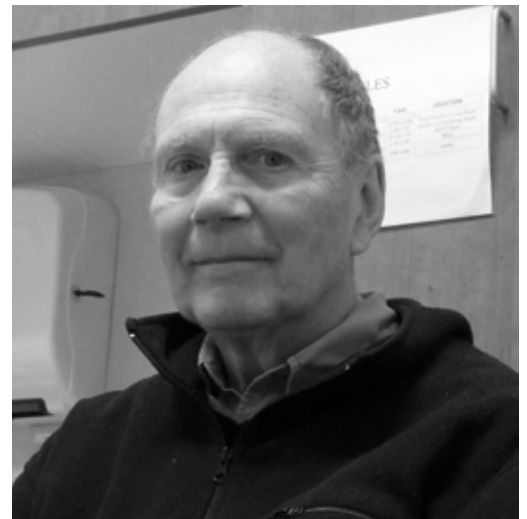
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**Dr. Joe Haegert retired in 2014. Help honour his lifetime of achievement.**

**HELP END HOMELESSNESS DONATE TODAY**