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Richmond's Pathways Clubhouse gets 4-Star Rating from charity watchdog

Mental health advocacy group is only Richmond organization to earn distinction

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School's out, but a Richmond organization that changes the lives of people struggling with mental illness just got an A.

Pathways Clubhouse has earned a Four-Star Rating from Charity Intelligence Canada, which ranks how charities spend their money and the work they do. Pathways is the only Richmond-based organization in Canada to receive the Four-Star Rating – the highest rank possible, and joins the 15% of charities across Canada who made the grade.

"Charity Intelligence's research has found charities that are exceptional. This list of 4-Star charities shows Canadians 72 charities that excel in accountability to donors, financial transparency and cost-efficiency. We hope Charity Intelligence's ratings help donors get accurate, independent information in making important giving decisions", Kate Bahen, Managing Director of Charity Intelligence.

"We're thrilled," said Dave MacDonald, Executive Director of Pathways. "While we appreciate the recognition for our work, we're also grateful for the focus it helps place on the importance of mental health services."

In addition to the financial challenges of mental illness, there are all sorts of social and emotional challenges, including mental health stigmas. Dave MacDonald hopes the nod from Charity Intelligence helps to cement mental health programs and services as a wise investment, and highlight the prevalence of mental health issues in the community.

Adds Jaime Cornish, a member of Pathways, "Before Pathways Clubhouse, I didn't have any connections or future goals. Now I have my own home, a professional cooking certificate and a career. Because of Pathways, I feel ready to conquer the world."

Pathways Clubhouse provides adults and youth dealing with crisis and endemic mental health issues with education support, employment support, stable housing, physical fitness, social activities, and a sense of community and belonging. These regularly produce important sustained changes in many critical aspects of their lives. More than 70 members attend the Clubhouse every day, 365 days per year.

Charity Intelligence researches Canadian charities for donors. The website provides ratings for 485 Canadian charities and posts research reports on over 600 charities, as well as in-depth reviews of philanthropic sectors such as Canada's environment, cancer and homelessness. Today, over 87,000 Canadians use Charity Intelligence's website as a go-to source for information on Canadian charities and have downloaded over 330,000 charity reports. Through rigorous and independent research, Charity Intelligence helps donors be informed and give intelligently. Charity Intelligence aims to assist Canada's dynamic charitable sector to be more transparent, accountable and focused on results.

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