

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Our Place gets Cheesy by turning postponed fundraiser into fun Culinary Contest

The search is on for the best Mac & Cheese dish!

VICTORIA, B.C. While the COVID pandemic forced the cancellation of Victoria's favourite foodie fundraiser, Our Place has been cooking up a delicious and *cheesy* replacement

"Hungry Hearts has always been about great food," says Our Place Chief Executive Officer Julian Daly. "And we love the idea of partnering with our region's amazing chefs to allow even more people to join in the fun with a unique culinary contest."

From Aug. 8 to Sept. 8, participating restaurants will add a specialty **Mac & Cheese** dish to their menu, and patrons will then vote for their Top Macs. The results will be announced during an **Our Place Hungry Hearts Virtual Gala** on Saturday, Sept. 12, hosted live from Hungry Hearts 2020 Committee Chair Charlotte Salomon's own home.

"The hotel and restaurant industry has been so supportive of the work we do, and they've been hit hard by this health crisis, too," adds Daly. "This contest will allow us to give back to them, while also raising much-needed funds to support our most vulnerable citizens."

The live streamed Facebook event will include a special performance headlined by Darcy Phillips, Jann Arden's touring keyboardist, a culinary demonstration from last year's Hungry Hearts champion, Chef Nicolas Hipperson, Executive Chef of the Union Club, auctions and a special Q & A session with Our Place's new CEO.

"We definitely have all of the ingredients for a great event," says Salomon. "It will be a virtual experience that we can't wait to share with the entire community."

The money raised from the Sept. 12 virtual gala will address the double pandemic affecting the Island's most vulnerable residents through boosting health and wellness initiatives, including funding for outreach paramedics, medical supplies, extended hours for Our Place and other resources.

Viewers will be able to find out the winner of the Mac & Cheese contest and catch the live-streaming event at 5pm on the 12th through a link on the Our Place website:

<https://www.ourplacesociety.com/get-involved/hungry-hearts-2020>

For over 50 years, Our Place has been a unique inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria's most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted and the homeless. Individuals and businesses provide much

of the financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides 3 meals a day plus snacks, hot showers, education, job skills, health care, addiction recovery services, donated clothing, counseling and outreach services; plus 45 transitional housing units and over 150 shelter spaces. Most importantly, Our Place provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

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List of participating restaurants to date:

- Aura Restaurant
- Heron Rock Bistro
- Crooked Goose Bistro
- 10 Acres
- Il Covo
- Boondocks
- Courtney Room
- Frankie's Modern Diner
- Spinnakers
- Virtuous Pie
- Irish Times Pub
- Chuck's Burger Bar
- Smuggler's Cove Pub
- Boom and Batten
- Darcy's Pub (Westshore)