

Fall 2017

# PEOPLE. PURPOSE. PAYCHEQUE.

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## In This Issue:

**Stability in a Job**  
Featuring MP Associate Jaime

**Impact Partner**  
Sarah Swanson and DP World:  
Serving the Local Community

**2017 Gala**  
Mission Possible Gala  
Announcement

**Monthly Donor  
Opportunity**

**Empowering Change**  
Jen Langerud

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## Stability in a Job

When he was 17 years old, MP Associate Jaime was forced to leave his family and the country of his birth in order to save his own life. Jaime was born in El Salvador, and a deadly civil war raged there between 1979 and 1992. Over 75,000 people were killed, including two of Jaime's brothers and several friends and other family members.

With two sons dead, Jaime's parents grew terrified about the possibility of losing their remaining four sons, including Jaime. They determined to do whatever they could to get Jaime and his surviving brothers out of the country. Leaving his parents and sisters behind at such a young age was not what Jaime wanted, but it was what had to be done.

Thirty years later, Jaime feels very fortunate to live in Canada where he has his own family, including two teenage boys. Recently, Jaime realized he needed to work on his own long-neglected emotional and mental health. He has struggled with alcoholism throughout his life, and while he has had long periods of sobriety, a relapse two years ago forced real life change. Jaime entered a recovery program and, while there, heard about the Work Readiness Program at Mission Possible.

Being sober is Jaime's top priority right now. He knows that the part-time work he is currently able to do at Mission Possible is perfect for him and helps bring stability in his life. He hopes to do more as his recovery progresses.



Jaime, MP Associate

Two months ago Jaime was named the Mission Possible employee of the month. He is pleased to be working and loves what MP does in the community,

***“keeping it clean, picking up needles, and helping people overcome poverty by providing jobs.”***

He's thankful to Mission Possible for the opportunity to work, and for the trust that has been put in him as an employee.

As far as the future goes, Jaime has goals for himself, but doesn't want to think too far ahead. With all that has happened, he prefers to take it one day at a time.

# Impact Partner

## Sarah Swanson and DP World: Serving the Local Community



Sarah Swanson, DP World

Sarah Swanson is a Purchasing Manager at DP World, one of Vancouver's largest container companies. DP World is also one of Mission Possible's most dedicated and generous supporters and, as a DP World employee, Sarah perfectly exemplifies that dedication and generosity.

Sarah's involvement with Mission Possible began when she volunteered at a Saturday morning Mission Possible Power Breakfast. It was interesting and inspiring for her to meet the people who came for breakfast and coffee, an experience shared by many of her DP World colleagues. She still volunteers at the Power Breakfast but has expanded her involvement, volunteering for more than two years as a workshop facilitator and now also serving on the Mission Possible Gala Committee.

For Sarah, volunteering at Mission Possible has been a transformative experience. "It makes a huge shift to get to know people from the neighbourhood," explains Sarah. As a result of volunteering, Sarah has a better understanding of the challenges those in the Downtown Eastside face. While it can be difficult to hear the traumatic circumstances many of the participants have gone through, Sarah is encouraged to see them persevering, and trying to seize an opportunity. "The people are wonderful," Sarah says, "and a lot of them go onto success in the program. Being a part of that is a really special thing."

It can be intense serving as one of the facilitators for the Mission Possible Employment Readiness Workshop, but Sarah never leaves without having learned something from the participants. "There's always a takeaway," she declares, "Every single time." Sarah's goal is to make the workshop useful and rewarding in terms of each participant's pursuit of paid employment.

At DP World, Sarah serves on the Sustainability Committee, whose mandate is to encourage DP World employees to volunteer in the community. As a company they make sure their employees take their individual professional skills out into the community through volunteer roles. According to Sarah, DP World takes a lot of pride in being involved in the community in which they work. Community involvement is one of several values of DP World, and in this, Sarah believes that they are walking the talk.

From Sarah's perspective DP World enjoys a great working relationship with Mission Possible because of the energetic, caring group of people on staff. They demonstrate a commitment to participants in MP programs and the others in the neighbourhood. "It's a very 'from the heart' type of operation, and that resonates with the employees at DP World," Sarah explains.

"It's friendly and it's inviting and it's a pleasure to be a part of it."

***"It's a very 'from the heart' type of operation, and that resonates with the employees at DP World."***

# ARE YOU PREPARED?

Meteorologists are predicting snow again this year.

For your commercial property, we offer snow clearing and ice melter applications along with landscaping, window cleaning, pressure washing, awning and canopy cleaning, exterior graffiti removal, and more!

Be safe and prepared for snowfall and icy conditions this year.

Request your FREE estimate:  
[mpmaintenance.ca](http://mpmaintenance.ca)

**MP**  
MAINTENANCE



# Mission Possible 2017 Gala

November 29th, 2017

This year, the Mission Possible Gala is going to be held on November 29, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver. This our 25th Year!!! Come celebrate the accomplishments achieved by Mission Possible participants and the support they receive from people like you. It will be an inspiring evening with live music, humor, great food, videos and the much anticipated presentation of the Mission Possible Comeback Awards.

For sponsorship opportunities contact: Matt Smedley at 604-532-4469.

For tickets visit: [mission-possible.ca](http://mission-possible.ca)

Monthly  
Impact Partner

## Give Today and Receive a Mission Possible Mug!

### 25 Years Ago...

25 years ago, Mission Possible's Founder Liz Wall started handing out sandwiches to people in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Today, we are focused on helping individuals enhance their lives through employment. We currently have 28 people in our Employment Readiness Program, and expect to help at least 70 people move through the program this year. That is a 33% increase over last year.

### Celebrate...

To celebrate Mission Possible's 25th year, and the growing impact we are having, we would like to invite you to participate in transforming a life by becoming a monthly donor. With your help Mission Possible hopes to hire and train 250 people in the next 3 years transforming many lives and creating an enormous economic benefit to participants and the community.

Help us provide more opportunities to even more folks whose lives are waiting to be transformed:

### We have something for you!

For your gift we would like to provide you with a custom Mission Possible made mug, or set of mugs...

- \$38 per month = 1 ☕ = 1 🧑 trained per year
- \$76 per month = 2 ☕ = 2 🧑 trained per year
- \$114 per month = 3 ☕ = 3 🧑 trained per year
- \$152 per month = 4 ☕ = 4 🧑 trained per year

To give today, go to:  
[mission-possible.ca](http://mission-possible.ca)



# Empowering Change: Jen Langerud



Jen Langerud and Tonia Owens

A little over three years ago, Mission Possible was chosen by Essential Impact as the nonprofit recipient of its excellent training program, with the goal of implementing a coaching culture within the organization. At the time, it was unknown how this implementation would take place. Fortunately, Mission Possible gained a staff person shortly thereafter who had the skills and passion to lead the way.

**Meet Mission Possible's Jen Langerud.** Jen has been working at Mission Possible for two and a half years. Before that, she was with Youth Unlimited in Vancouver and Manitoba. At the Vancouver branch of YU, Jen worked in partnership with Mission Possible, even having a desk at MP's main office. As a staff member of Youth Unlimited, Jen frequently referred people for job training with MP Maintenance.

Currently Jen is the Employment Program Manager for Mission Possible. Every associate and staff member at MP is given the opportunity to meet with a coach and work on their employment and individual goals. Jen currently does 80 to 90% of the coaching in the organization. She walks people through every phase of the program, ensuring their momentum towards employment is sustained.

In Jen's view, Mission Possible has come a long way in a short period of time in its efforts to become an organization with a strong coaching culture. All of the staff have received coaching training from Essential Impact and have significant buy-in to the philosophy of a coaching culture. This is reflected in the conversations and training that take place at Mission Possible, with coaching moments happening around the office and on job sites.

Coaching, according to Jen, is helping people to feel empowered so they know they can do what they are setting out to do. She explains that "Having someone coming alongside you to help you process your insecurities and verbally express what your strengths are makes a big difference to reinforce what people are capable of accomplishing."

Jen has seen the power of coaching first hand. As she tells it, "We currently have a supervisor working for us who...the first time I met with her, I don't know if she even made eye contact with me. I had a couple more meetings with her like that, and then referred her to MP Maintenance. Something in my gut told me that we needed to give her a try, or the chance to try. Now, she's part of our full-time permanent staff and you always know she's in the building because you can hear her laughing with her coworkers. Not only that, she is supervising other people. She's training people and bringing others into the program. She's even gone through coaching training herself. I never would have guessed that this is where she could be today. When she got back from coaching training she said that it was 'challenging, but it was really fun!'"

When Jen thinks about where Mission Possible was in January, both in terms of participants and coaching culture, and where it is now, she is amazed. "Our program has exploded. Next week there are 32 coaching sessions happening at Mission Possible; that's how many we used to do in a month. We have hired so many more people the last several months. Our capacity is growing, and at this point it doesn't seem to be slowing down. It's not just that we're hiring more people; the difference now is that..."

***...people are coming here because they want work, and they have identified Mission Possible as a place that can help them do that."***

