



HUMA-N Donation Drive

Impact Report

August 25th, 2025



What Makes us HUMA-N

The HUMA-N Donation Drive initially started as a small way to give back to the Vancouver Community. HUMA-N, which stands for **H**elp **U**, **M**e, **A**ll of us – **N**ow, came to be when my dear friend Happy stepped up to revitalize a previous donation drive idea that had fallen through. He was able to gather five bags from himself and his coworkers; five bags that he entrusted in my hands so that I would find places where they'd be most needed. This gave me an idea.

I had previously wanted to do a complex donation drive with an event, music, sponsors, and all these moving pieces. I was operating with the misconception that if you wanted to do good and have an impact, you have to aim for grand displays or spectacles.

But what if by stacking small acts of good on top of one another, we can achieve impact that is just as significant, if not more so?

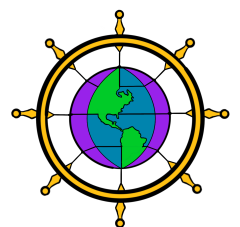
I opened this idea up to my social media network, through Instagram. I put out an open ask for one simple thing: *“If you have anything at all you'd be willing to part with, please reach out to me.”*

Following that was a simple promise. I would make sure all the items I received would go to places that serve the needs in our community.

The outpouring of support was immense. For one month, I had many amazing individuals reach out with donations, ranging from a single book to multiple bags of clothes and shoes. What started with Happy's generous donation of five bags has led to a network of **30+ individuals** who cumulatively donated/facilitated in the donation of over **700 articles** of clothing, shoes, books, and even artwork and toys: all of which went to community-focused, social initiatives and local non-profit organizations.

Below is a breakdown of the donations received from the HUMA-N Project as well as the projected impact of the drive. While we can't hope to accurately quantify the positive outcomes achieved through the drive (more on this later), I've provided a rough metric through which we can at least get a glimpse of the minimum impact the drive might have had on the Donation Centres we worked with.

Thank you in advance for reading. Be Kind. **Be Human.**

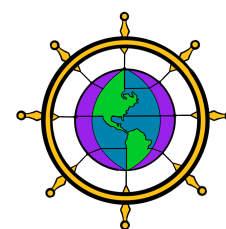


Donation Centres

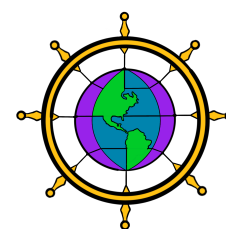
Vancouver is a city with a rich and diverse landscape of social development. Not only are there several well-structured non-profit organizations aimed at addressing the city's areas of greatest need, there are also many home-grown, grassroots initiatives that serve to give back or add salubrity to the local community.

By leveraging my professional contacts and my understanding of this local network, I was able to connect with representatives from these initiatives to ensure that all the donations were routed to the places where they'd be most needed. Here's a breakdown of the donation centres we worked with.

Centre	Description
Union Gospel Mission (UGM)	Union Gospel Mission manages both their Men's Emergency Shelter and their Women and Family's Center. The org receives clothes, shoes, and personal hygiene products.
Evelyne Saller Centre (ESC)	Evelyne Saller Centre provides a variety of services to low income residents of the DTES. They receive clothes, shoes, and personal hygiene products for donations.
First United (FU)	First United provides direct support to our neighbours in the Downtown Eastside and advocates for dignity, belonging, and justice for the community. They receive clothes, shoes, and personal hygiene donations.
Watari (WAT)	Watari supports diverse communities, facilitates meaningful change and focuses on community driven programming. They were collecting women's and unisex clothing options.
book'mark - Friends of VPL (VPL)	Book'mark is a charity dedicated to help support the Vancouver Public Library. Naturally, they accept book donations.
Vancouver Downtown Community Court (DCC)	The Downtown Community Court aims to address complex crime issues in the downtown area. They were actively seeking men's clothing donations.

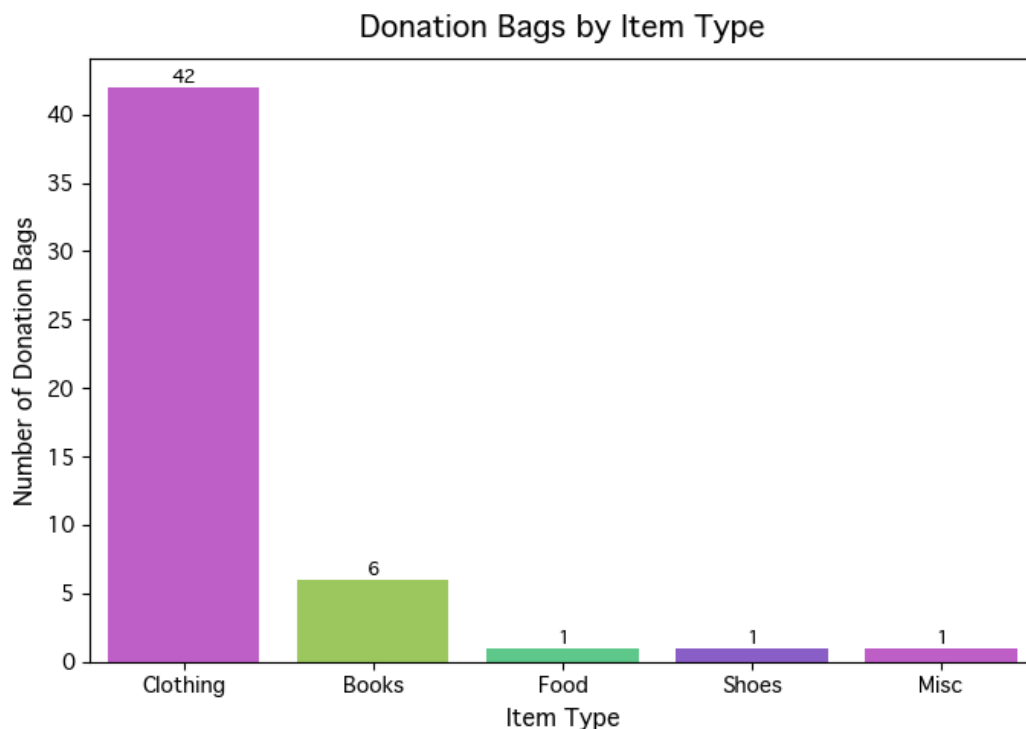


Insite (INS)	Insite Supervised Injection Site provides access to a clean, safe, stigma-free space for people who use drugs. They take in clothing donations.
Molson Overdose Prevention Site (MOP)	Molson Overdose Prevention Site provides access to a clean, safe, stigma-free space for people who use drugs. They take in clothing donations.
The Osborn Shelter (OSB)	The Osborn shelter serves to support Vancouver's unhoused population and provides residents with a safe space to sleep and receive services. Osborn takes in mostly clothing donations.
Woodwards Community Housing (WDW)	Woodwards Community Housing is home to a diverse group of long-time Downtown East Side residents. They receive small amounts of clothing donations.
Vancouver Community Fridge Project (VFP)	The Vancouver Community Fridge Project strives to combat food insecurity in our communities. They receive food donations (perishable and non-perishable).
Mount Pleasant Tiny Libraries (TL)	Community initiative operating on a "take a book, leave a book" system. Receives book donations of all kinds.



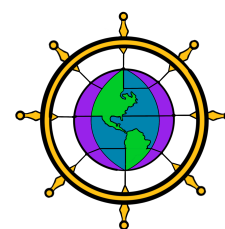
Donation Breakdown

From June 1st to June 27th, 2025, we received 51 unique bags of donations from all the generous people who contributed.

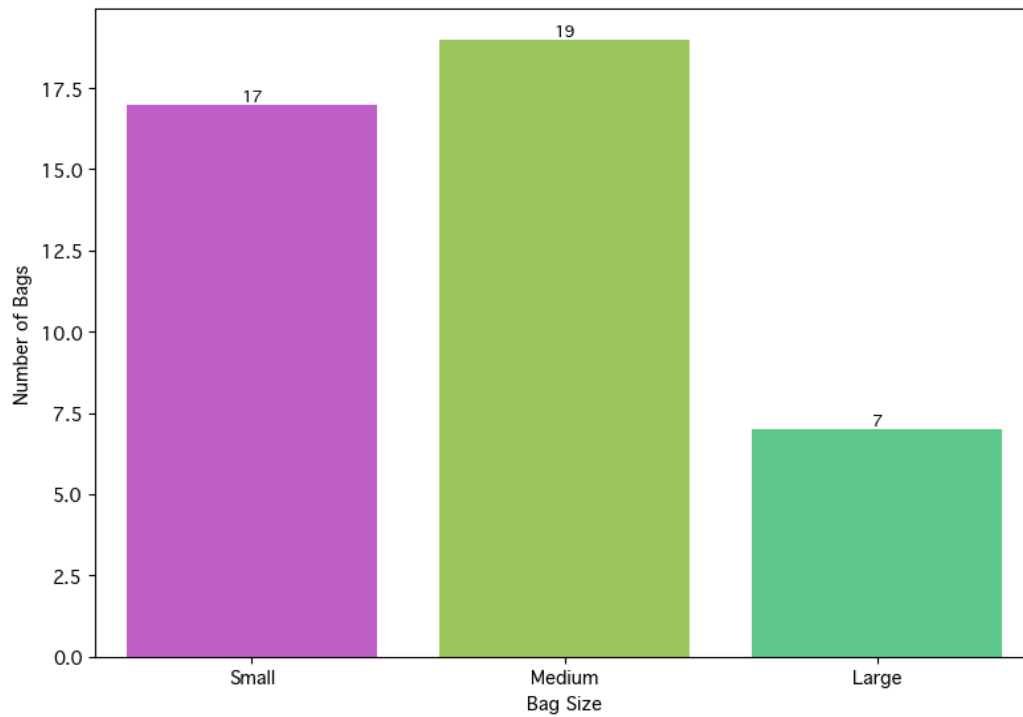


Breakdown of donation bags by item type. Clothing made up most donations. Miscellaneous items include art, toys and board games.

I asked people to donate whatever they could in the way that was easiest to them. The prevailing motto and intent were to “**take the path of least resistance towards good**”. Considering we received donations in varying amounts and sizes, the clothing and shoe donations were grouped into categories of sizes (small, medium, or large bags). I then approximated the number of items within each bag based on the low, midpoint, and high counts of items within each bag size (analogous to the average ± 1 S.D.; see appendix).

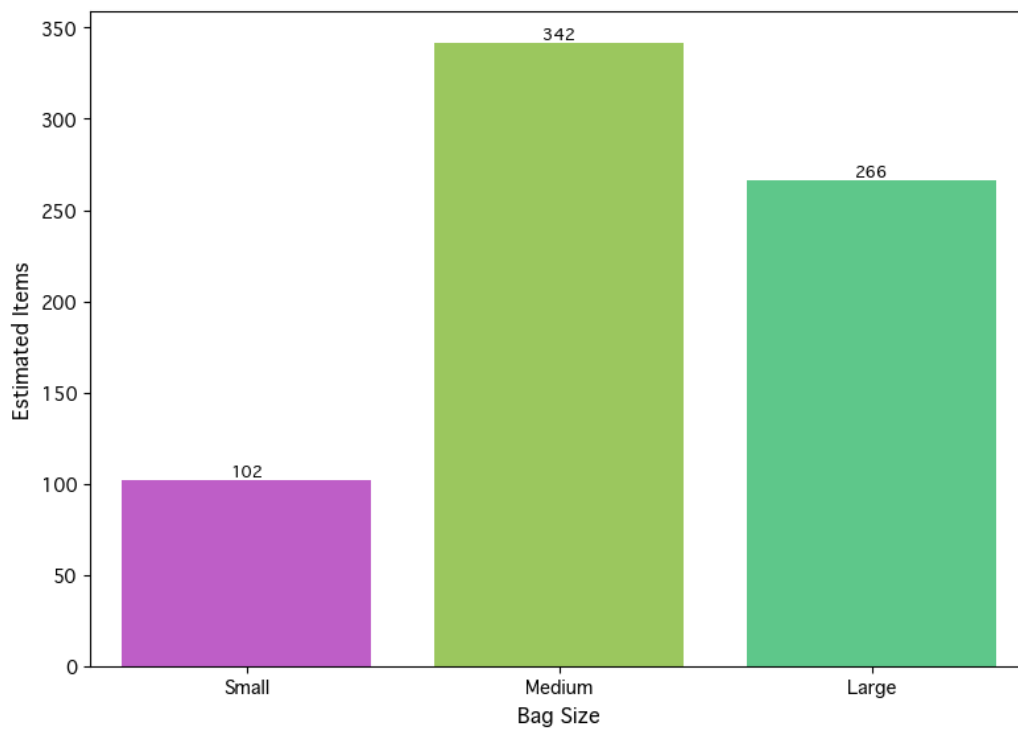


Distribution of Bag Sizes (Bag Donations)

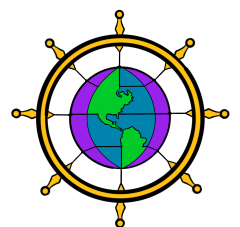


Breakdown of bags per bag size category. Medium sized bags ($\sim 18 \pm 7$ items), were the most frequently donated, closely followed by small bags ($\sim 6 \pm 4$ items).

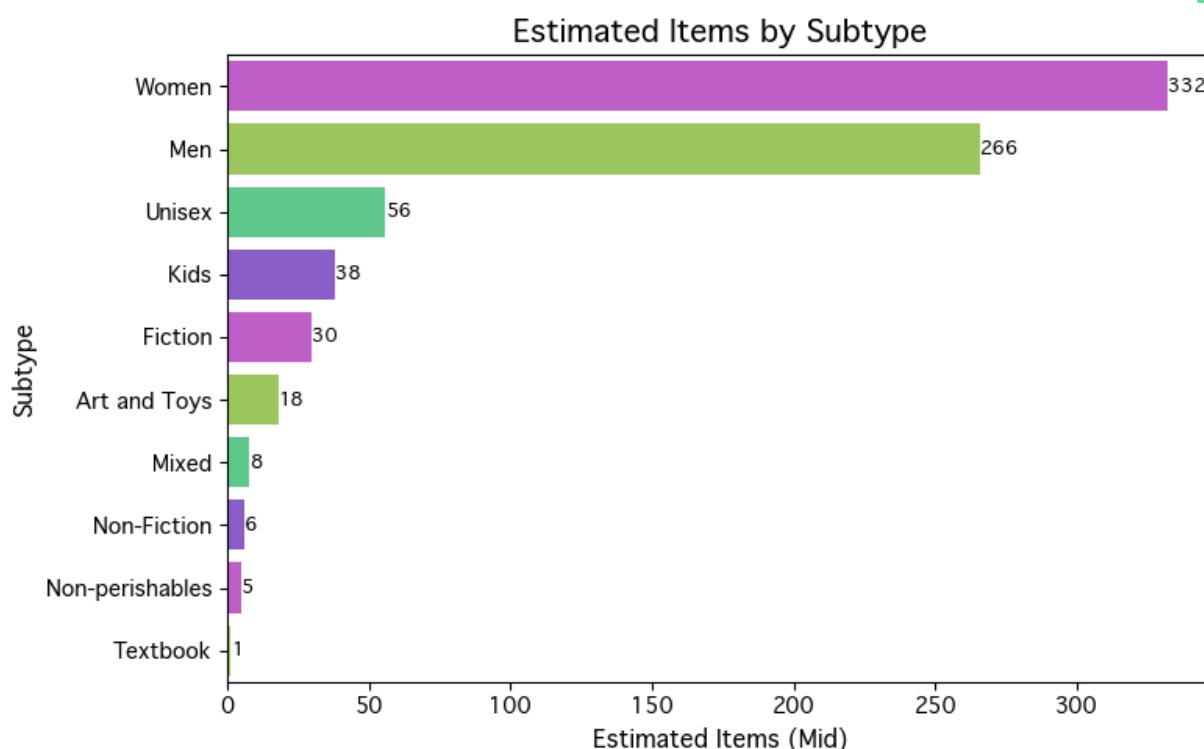
Estimated Number of Items by Bag Size



Estimated total number of items per bag size received from the donation drive. Rough estimate taken from sum of average item counts in each bag.



We received an estimate of **102** clothing items through small bag donations, **342** clothing items through medium bag donations, and **266** items across seven large bag donations.

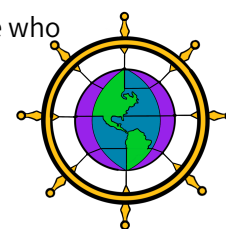


Breakdown of all donations by item subtype. Clothing totals use the sum of average item counts from bags (mid), while all other donations show exact counts.

We received mostly women's clothing, which met the demand that was identified across our network of donation partners, particularly organizations such as Watari and Union Gospel Mission's Women and Family's Shelter. We also received a substantial amount of men's clothing, which also was in demand – places such as DCC expressed a significant need for men's clothing donations. Unisex and children's clothes (including children's shoes) made up roughly **12%** of all donations, while books, food items, art pieces, toys, and board games all came up to about **5%** of the total donations.

Projected Impact

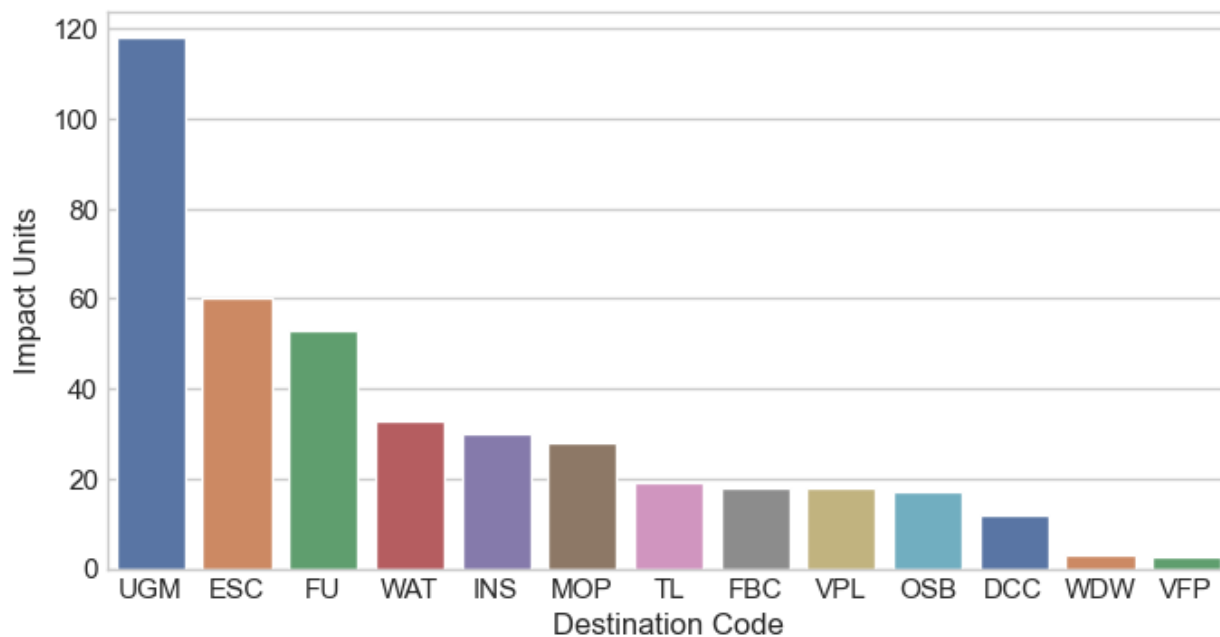
When it comes to philanthropy, impact is a tricky thing to define operationally. It's impossible to measure the gratitude someone feels when they receive a much-needed clothing item. There aren't metrics or units to quantify the relief felt by a parent that's able to get enough food to see their kids through the school week. The impact isn't limited to the direct benefit conferred upon those who receive the donations; there's the indirect effects that ripple through our community.



‘One good deed begets another’ isn’t a mere pleasantry. Whether it’s from people who continue to donate, people who are positively impacted by the donations they receive and go on to impact others in kind, or from people who further the conversation around community ecosystems and revitalization, we see that the impact compounds into something greater than just the HUMA-N Project.

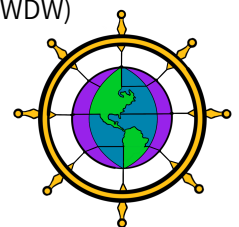
That being said, I wanted to try at least to approximate the immediate impact the donations might have on the donation partners to which they were delivered. Each item type was assigned an Impact Unit, which is the estimated “impact” an item would have on one person (assuming that a single individual might receive **one of**: two items of clothing, one pair of shoes, one book, **or** one non-perishable food item – see appendix). I was able to derive an Impact Score for all the items, which allowed for us to identify the impact of our donations across all the Donation Sites we worked with.

Total Impact Units by Destination



Estimated impact on each donation site based on impact units. Destination codes correspond to donation sites: UGM – Union Gospel Mission, ESC – Evelyne Saller Center, FU – First United, WAT – Watari, INS – Insite, MOP – Molson Overdose Prevention Site, TL – Tiny Libraries Vancouver, FBC – Foundry BC, VPL – Vancouver Public Library, OSB – Osborn Shelter, DCC – Downtown Community Court, WDW – Woodward Community Housing, VFP – Vancouver Community Fridge Project.

We see that across its general shelter and the Women and Family’s shelter, UGM received the greatest amount of donations and thus had the greatest share of impact. Due to the volume of clothes we received, donation partners that collected clothing items were greatly positively impacted by the HUMA-N Drive. Donation partners such as Insite (INS) and Woodward Community Housing (WDW)



had a relatively smaller capacity for donations than partners such as UGM or Evelyne Saller Centre (ESC), which results in less donations going to these sites. We also had a low volume of food donations, which resulted in a lower impact on the Vancouver Community Fridge Project (VFP). The cumulative impact, however, cannot be understated. You can imagine each impact unit representing each individual that will be positively affected by the items donated. At the lowest end, we're still seeing at least two or three people benefiting from our donations. At places like First United and UGM, we'll see anywhere from 50 – 118 individuals benefiting from our donations; keep in mind these are all minimum estimates. It's clear that by choosing the path of least resistance towards good and by stacking up small acts of kindness, we can leave a tremendous mark of hope and goodwill upon our community.

Wrapping Up

I want to offer my deepest heartfelt thanks to all the individuals that contributed to the success of this donation drive. Thank you to **Elijah**, **Sage**, **Pearl**, and **Tolu**, who assisted with the transport of the donations and their drop-off at the partnering centres. Thank you as well to **Mark H.**, the representative from Evelyne Saller Centre, **Mark C.** from Union Gospel Mission, **Ciska** and **Tommy** from Watari, **Nicholas** and **Dara** from First United, and **Rex** from Downtown Community Court. Without your various supports and guidance, we would not have been able to identify the degree of need in our community and work to address it with our donations.

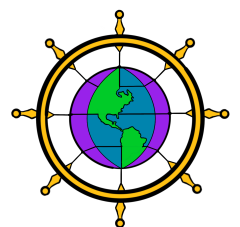
Overall, if I were to organize a donation drive again, I would aim to deliver donations more equitably while emphasizing the need for book and food item donations to ensure greater levels of impact across all sectors. I'd also like to reach out to companies, businesses, and private practices to target areas of especially acute need – dental products such as floss or toothpaste, women's personal products, edible produce and food items that can't be sold, and other items that are not easily sourced through community donations.

For all the material good that came out of the donation drive, it succeeded in a more important way. Together, we were able to prove:

1. **You can have a big impact by starting small.**
2. **What it means to take the path of least resistance towards good.**
3. **A strong community is one that cultivates a spirit of generosity.**

This is just the start. As the HUMA-N Project comes to a close, I'm excited for what comes next: How can we better show that our Communities are our Ecosystems? Even more, how can viewing our communities ecologically, and ourselves as integral to our ecosystems, lead to more vibrant, holistic and integrated communities?

Thank you for reading. Thank you for **Being Human**.



Appendix

Table 1: Bag Size Estimates

BagSize	MinEst	MidEst	MaxEst
Small	2	6	10
Medium	11	18	25
Large	26	38	50

Table 2: Impact Score Reference

ImpactKey	ImpactPerUnit	Notes
ClothingAll	0.5	2 item \approx 1 recipient item
ShoesAll	1	1 pair \approx 1 recipient pair
BooksAll	1	1 book \approx 1 recipient book
FoodCanned	0.5	1 can \approx 0.5 recipient meal
FoodDry	0.5	1 item \approx 0.5 recipient meal

