

COCO CAFE GRASSROOTS BLOG

EDITION 1 | AUGUST 2025



WUBS FAMILY
FOUNDATION



COCO Café is more than just great coffee and food—they believe in community, purpose, and the transformative power of inclusion. COCO (Cedar Opportunities Co-operative) is where community works. Located in the heart of Cedar, BC, COCO Café is a place where people with diverse abilities are not only welcomed, but actively empowered.

Through meaningful employment, hands-on training, and genuine social connection, they've created a space that's equal parts café and community hub.

A Vision that Brewed in Cedar

COCO Café was founded by a group of families who saw a gap in their community where people with diverse abilities lacked equal opportunity and took action. Their adult children were transitioning out of the school system and facing limited options.

In a recent interview with Deborah (a parent on the board of directors) states "we have to do what it takes." this is the mindset that inspired COCO to grow into the organization it is today.



Coco Cafe College

COCO College is a fairly new initiative which offers formal skills training for people with diverse abilities. This allows opportunities for participants such as; food service roles, enhancing employment and developing confidence. This program is more standardized, with modules and assessments. They also work with local farms to collect and process fresh produce

COCO College stands as a leading program in supporting people with diverse abilities in Central Vancouver Island and beyond.

DID YOU KNOW?

It is more common for people with disabilities to experience poverty compared to those without disabilities. Studies consistently show that people with disabilities are disproportionately represented among low-income populations and have higher poverty rates. This is why COCO is so important.

The Ripple Effect

Deborah's son Jacob, who lives with diverse abilities, demonstrates how meaningful employment can create a ripple effect within a community. By working at COCO Café, Jacob develops workplace skills and independence while also engaging with customers and coworkers daily. These interactions provide the community with direct exposure to inclusive employment and diverse abilities, building awareness and understanding. Over time, this increased exposure contributes to a more inclusive mindset within the community, and from there combating inequalities, abuse, and poverty that directly affects people with diverse abilities