



Discovery
House

Winter 2011
newsletter



Community Housing Program a Success

Discovery House's Community Housing program has grown significantly since its February 2009 pilot project start. The goal for the first year was to provide 50 families leaving emergency shelters with housing and the accompanying support services. Today, two years later, 132 families have been through the program, significantly surpassing all targets and expectations.

"We knew the need was there but we have been surprised at the growth of the program and the high needs we are seeing with clients in the community," said Heather Morley, Manager of Community Housing.

The premise of the Community Housing program is based on the American model of Housing First – place families in permanent stable housing first, then provide home-based support services as required. The housing is guaranteed and services are voluntary. For up to one year clients may be connected with a case manager and mental health specialist that works with each family to assess their

needs, focus on safety planning, provide support for basic needs, help navigate a challenging social service and health system, coordinate services for both the women and their children, and provide support for mental health and addictions issues.

Assessing, understanding and managing any mental health and addiction issues is paramount to the success of the client," said Morley. "They're not going to be stable in housing, their families or their lives without dealing with these issues."

The program has demonstrated significant success in a short time. After one year in the program 87.9 per cent of families remain stably housed. They are living safely in the community, accessing help and support when required, and often upgrading the skills that will help them build capacity in their lives.

"We nurture support to the community," said Morley. "We don't want our families to become dependent upon us and the services we offer. Our

goal is to help them transition out of shelter and have them develop their own personal and professional support system.”

Just like clients in residence, each Community Housing program client has their own story to tell. Their needs, skills, education, support, and families may vary but the common thread is

that all clients seek is a better life for themselves and their children. The Community Housing program, clearly a success for so many families, provides the foundation and the support to help families make positive changes, hopefully helping to break the pattern of violence for future generations.

Gandhi Events Impact Families

The success of the Purple Heart Gala and The Peace Panel will impact our clients throughout the year. Over \$86,000 was raised to support Discovery House’s programs and client services.

Gandhi’s wisdom about nonviolence prompted thought and discussion. “Be the change you want to see in the world” was a major theme at the Gala keynote and during The Peace Panel. Over 200 guests had the opportunity to hear from additional guest speakers at The Peace Panel. The panelists shared different perspectives on violence, and nonviolence, and creating change in our community. Thinking about what nonviolence means and taking personal responsibility to create change, beginning with our children, was a theme in the presentations. Helping those in our community who are struggling, and speaking up against family violence, always and consistently, were actions that audience members were challenged to take seriously. We each have an opportunity to plant the seeds of change.



If you missed The Peace Panel: Creating a Nonviolent Community check one of these broadcasts on Shaw TV Calgary:

Feb 12 – 2:00 p.m. Feb 15 – 11:00 a.m. Feb 20 – 7:00 a.m.
Mar 1 – 2:00 a.m. Mar 9 – 9:00 a.m. Mar 19 – 6:00 p.m. Mar 28 – 3:00 p.m.

The Gandhi events were successful because of wonderful community engagement.

Special thanks to our sponsors, panelists and the many guests who supported the events:

Purple Heart Gala Presenting Sponsor – Athena Resources Ltd.

The Peace Panel Presenting Sponsor – Cenovus Energy Inc.

Events Sponsors – Pengrowth, Hotel Arts, Infinity Capital (Ram Banga) Mike and Linda Shaikh

Peace Panelists – George Brookman, Chief Rick Hanson, Rev. Dale Lang,
Jan Reimer, and Judge Sherry Van de Veen

The Magic of Santa



Every year the families at Discovery House share an evening with the man in red who comes bearing gifts, hearty “ho ho ho’s”, and lots of hugs. He is Santa, alias Cody Kwong.

The impact of Cody’s gift of time and his incredible effort to raise funds for our shelter

every year is indescribable. So often the families have experienced lonely, fearful, violent and sad times over the holidays but when Santa Cody is in the room, a sense of fun and joy emerges. And his gift continues throughout the year.

Cody asks for support from his FirstEnergy Capital Corp. colleagues, family and friends, and every year more donors step up with great generosity. This year Cody’s goal was to raise \$30,000 in recognition of Discovery House’s 30th Anniversary in the community. Not only did Cody meet his goal, but he exceeded that goal by over \$2,100.

Thank you so much Cody for your generosity. As kids say, “We love you Santa.”

Adopt-a-Family: a record breaking year!

Individuals, organizations and family groups stepped up in a big way to adopt 62 families for Christmas, an increase of 20 families. Families in residence and many families from our Community Housing program shared tears, smiles and joy when Christmas gifts were delivered to their home. The outpouring of

generosity and support for our families is very much appreciated. Thank you for adopting a family! And, to some groups, thank you for adopting our shelter, providing us with gifts and items that can be shared for many months to come. We hope to see you again next year!

Thank You for your generous donations

Alan Reimer • Anonymous • Athena Resources Ltd. • Bearspaw Benevolent Foundation • Calgary Catholic Teachers’ Charities Society • Canadian Natural Resources Limited • Cenovus Employee Foundation • Cenovus Energy Inc. • Cody & Jennifer Kwong • ConocoPhillips • Ejvind & Inger Villadsen • FirstEnergy Capital Corp. • Freehold Royalty Trust • Home Depot Canada Foundation • Jim Prentice Charitable Foundation • Martin Molyneaux & Deborah Yedlin • Max & Kalpna Patel • McCarthy Tetrault Foundation • Peter Taylor • Randall & Claudia Findlay • Shaw Communications • Stanley & Margaret Owerko • Stone Tile West • TD Canada Trust Prairie Region • The Arthur J E Child Foundation • The Prosser Charitable Foundation • Tom & Kim Buchanan • United Way of Calgary and Area, Donor Choice Program • *Note: The listing is for donations over \$2,500.

Seasonal events a hit with families

Discovery House clients are invited to share in many community events over the Christmas season. What a lovely opportunity for our families to celebrate the season. Thank you to: West Island College for the theatre event, W. Brett Wilson for his Christmas dinner

and concert, the Calgary Northmount Kiwanis Club for their toy drive event, Tom Jackson and his team for Christmas Eve dinner, and the Nutcracker Ballet for rehearsal tickets.

Rosie's House

The gift of a home is a remarkable gift for anyone, but particularly for a family who is returning to the community after a lengthy stay at a shelter. Discovery House was delighted to accept the donation of Rosie's House in December 2010. The home will initially

accommodate one family, but in the future two families will benefit from a safe, reasonably priced, comfortable home in our community. Thank you to a donor who wishes to remain anonymous for the kind and generous gift.

Hot Heels Fashion Show and Luncheon – sponsored by EWI in support of Discovery House

Put on your best outfit and your fun 'hot heels', bring a friend, and join the Executive Women International at Hotel Arts on Friday, April 29. Enjoy an exiting fashion show celebrating new spring and summer looks, a silent

auction, and lunch with your friends. Tickets are \$65 or \$650 for a table of 10. Check www.ewicalgary.ca for more information and to order your tickets. Hurry – this event sells out every year!

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Yes!

I would like to make a donation in honor of Discovery House's 30th anniversary and change the lives of women and children fleeing domestic violence.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Please process my gift in the amount of: \$3,000 \$300 \$30 Other _____

Process my gift as: Monthly Donation One Time Donation

Process my payment by: Cheque Cash AMEX Visa Mastercard

This gift is in honor/memory of: _____

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Card Number _____ Expiry _____

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