

Your Donations at Work: Creating Solutions in the Inner City

Central City is committed to investing in our community and building partnerships that provide innovative and critically needed services to people and families in need.



Before: Lu's Pharmacy under construction



After: Architect's drawing of the proposed façade

Lu's Pharmacy will provide a safe space for women to access health services

Since we opened the Cosmopolitan Hotel in 2003, we've been looking for the right tenant to move into the ground floor of the residence. Lu's Pharmacy is a perfect fit: a social enterprise that creates jobs and commerce and addresses a critical need.

Lu's Pharmacy will provide respectful, sensitive pharmacy service and links to further healthcare services. The construction of the pharmacy is a partnership between the Vancouver Women's Health Collective and the UBC School of Architecture, in particular Assistant Professor Inge Roecker, who has been a strong champion of the project. Funds from Central City are supporting renovations to transform the hundred-year old storefront.

Caryn Duncan, Director of the Health Collective, says that many women in the downtown eastside have serious health problems, but "most women's most intimate health care provider relationship is with their pharmacist." The Health Collective intends to create not only a woman-friendly pharmacy, but also a space where inner city women can access health information and medical services that they would otherwise go without.

The pharmacist at Lu's will work behind an open counter, unlike the glass or wire barriers in many inner city pharmacies. The space behind the pharmacy will house an exam room and office space for nurses, doctors and other visiting practitioners, as well as a lounge and meeting area with resource materials on health issues. Duncan says that health care practitioners are already eagerly volunteering their services. Lu's is scheduled to open in January 2009.

At the unveiling of the commemorative plaque at the Phil Bouvier Centre



Minister of State for Childcare Linda Reid, and the Bouvier family: Phil's mother Cecile, his daughters Claire and Elyse, his wife Linda Pearson, and his father Fern. The text on the plaque reads: *The Centre is named to remember and honour Phil Bouvier, who as Executive Director of the Central City Foundation, proposed the purchase and redevelopment of the Centre and whose good humour, leadership and tenacity served as beacons guiding all of those involved to completion of the Project.*

Phil Bouvier Family Centre - It's Open!



Playground at the Phil Bouvier Centre

Construction on the Phil Bouvier Family Centre was completed in March and we celebrated with the community and supporters on April 18, 2008, with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque honouring the memory of Phil Bouvier. The Centre is now a busy hub for families from the downtown eastside and Strathcona neighbourhoods. The main floor houses a childcare

centre with 49 spaces, managed by Ray-Cam Cooperative Centre. The rest of the building hosts a wide range of services for Aboriginal children and families, managed by Vancouver Native Health Society. These services provide information and support to families with young children, particularly in the areas of infant development and children with special needs. More and more service providers are coming to

the centre to deliver services, including nurse practitioners specializing in pediatrics and nurses who can provide hearing and vision testing. Horacio Valle Torres, Program Manager of Aboriginal Child and Family Support Services, says that this hub, or "wrap-around" model of providing services works especially well, allowing families to access many services in one central location.

Neighbours Helping Neighbours In Need

We are proud to support these two organizations that help women facing poverty, violence, homelessness and addiction. Their programs are a wonderful example of “neighbours helping neighbours in need”—a key part of the history and mandate of Central City.



Talitha Koum Society: A Refuge for Women in Recovery

Talitha Koum Society started out eight years ago as a single residence. Founder Starr Peardon had worked in men's recovery houses, and wanted to start one for women. There are now two more houses: a second stage house and a house for women expecting children—either because they

Your donations helped purchase living room furniture for Talitha Koum Society's second stage house.

are pregnant, or because they are working to get their children out of care. The society supports women who have a history of substance use, poverty, lack of education and incarceration.

An important part of the Talitha Koum program is encouraging women to connect with spirituality in whatever way works best for them. “We emphasize the importance of spirituality, the idea that there is something bigger than ourselves in charge,” says Starr. “If we can tap into that somehow, we're laughing.” Volunteers offer massage, arts and crafts, and budgeting and parenting workshops to the residents.

Thanks to the generous support of donors, funding from Central City was provided for sorely needed renovations and supplies for the second stage house, including beds, living room furniture and kitchen supplies.



Battered Women's Support Services: Outreach and Social Enterprise

Since its founding in 1979, BWSS has grown into a vibrant organization offering counselling, advocacy, information and support for women who experience violence, responding to some 8,000 service requests a year. To support their programs, BWSS launched a social enterprise in 2001 that now operates two

CCF Board Member JoAnne Chase, President and CEO Jennifer Johnstone and BWSS Executive Director Angela MacDougall with the new van outside MSC 1092, one of BWSS's thrift boutiques.

thrift boutiques. CCF has provided funding to purchase a van, which has already proven to be an important resource. Staff use the van to pick up donations for the thrift stores, which provide free clothing and household goods to women in crisis and sell items to the general public. The van is also used to transport household items for women in transition and in BWSS's outreach work to support women shut in due to violence, disability or illness. Staff are able to provide transportation to women to access services at BWSS or other agencies. The van is an important part of the public education and youth violence prevention program too, allowing volunteers and staff to transport displays and educational materials.

Executive Director Angela MacDougall says, “Starting with the downtown eastside community, the BWSS van forms the linkages in the web of support for survivors of violence and abuse.”

The Crossing at Keremeos: We're almost there... and we still need your help

Construction at The Crossing >

Last year at this time we were just launching our \$6 million campaign to build BC's first long-term residential treatment centre for youth.



There is an urgent need for this centre in our province—it quite literally has the potential to save lives. Youth who are struggling with drug and alcohol addiction need a safe place where they can heal, restore their strength and gain the

skills and education they need to re-enter society.

Central City provided the 58-acre site and made a \$1 million gift to launch the campaign. The generosity of the provincial government, corporations and

individuals has enabled us to raise \$5.6 million.

Our volunteer campaign cabinet, together with the CCF Board and project partner From Grief to Action, is now hard at work to raise the last half million.

Meanwhile, construction on the site is well underway. The Crossing at Keremeos is no longer a dream, but will soon become a reality. Every gift, from \$5 to \$1 million, has made a difference.

Please visit The Crossing's website for more information about the project, including progress updates, photos, a list of donors and more information about how you can help.

www.thecrossingforbc.ca

Funded Projects 2008

Thanks to our very generous donors, Central City Foundation provided the following grants to innovative inner city projects this past year.

Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society (DEYAS)

DEYAS provides services for homeless, addicted and street entrenched youth. "Change the Future" is a unique program that encourages youth from across the Lower Mainland to come together with inner city youth. The program educates youth from outside of the inner city about homelessness and addictions, and breaks down myths and stereotypes. CCF has funded DEYAS to purchase a new van, which will be used for this program and for other outreach.

Gather and Give



CCF Board members join CEO Jennifer Johnstone and Gather and Give Executive Director Jennifer Lee. L to R: JoAnne Chase, Robin Elliott, Barbara Shason, Jennifer Lee, Jennifer Johnstone and John Swift

Gather and Give picks up winter clothing and household goods and redistributes them to people in the inner city. They provide items to about 2000 individuals a year and to over 80 front-line organizations. Funding from CCF will enable Gather and

Give to purchase a safe new vehicle to replace their aging van.

Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House

The Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House is committed to providing nutritious, quality food from local sources. Through their twice-weekly Community Kitchen sessions, DENH staff feed over 200 vulnerable members of the community. The Neighbourhood House also provides a warm and clean space for community and outreach programs. Funding from CCF has allowed the DENH to renovate their kitchen.

Vancouver/Richmond Mental Health Network Society

The Society, run by and for people who have been through the mental health system, provides members with access to a computer, Internet and a library. They also offer classes and groups, from art to yoga to sports. CCF funds purchased a laptop computer and a laser printer for this growing society.

Dugout Drop-In Centre Society

The Dugout provides advocacy, referrals and counselling for people in the downtown eastside, as well as a soup kitchen. Our grant to the Dugout will provide provisions to the centre for one year. CCF has been supporting this program for over 40 years.

Downtown Eastside Women's Centre Association

The Women's Centre provides a safe space for women in the inner city who are escaping violence or at risk of homelessness. Last year, CCF provided funding to renovate the basement, which is used for support groups, meetings, skills training and family visits with children in care. This year we are funding improvements to the bathroom and shower facilities and the addition of a new community laundry facility.

WISH Drop-in Centre Society

WISH works to increase the health, safety and well being of women in the survival sex trade in the downtown eastside. Every week, over 400 women access food, showers and clothing, as well as referrals for healthcare, shelter and detox. CCF funds will help furnish the new Wellness Centre, which will be open 24 hours a day and include a Women's Health Clinic.

Urban Promise



Urban Promise provides after school programs and summer day camps for elementary school children who would otherwise be vulnerable during these times. CCF's grant has allowed Urban Promise to

purchase a laptop computer and camcorder as well as kitchen equipment.

HAVE (Hope, Action, Values, Ethics) Culinary Training Society

HAVE provides culinary training and employment placement for downtown eastside and Strathcona residents who face significant barriers to employment. HAVE has been very successful in finding employment placements for their graduates. The grant from CCF has purchased essential kitchen equipment.

JustWork Economic Initiative

JustWork enables people with multiple barriers to employment—disabilities, addictions, homelessness—to gain skills and work in a respectful, safe environment. One of their social enterprises, JustPotters, provides training and opportunities in a pottery studio. CCF funds have supported the purchase of equipment for the studio, including a kiln.

Walk Bravely Forward Society

Walk Bravely Forward provides support to Métis and Aboriginal people who are re-entering society after incarceration, as well as to their families. The program combines Aboriginal healing practices with alcohol and drug rehabilitation and peer counselling. CCF funds have enabled the Society to purchase a computer.

Please feel free to contact us for more information about including CCF in your will, organizing fundraising events, or any other questions about donating to our Foundation.

Thanks

to Our Generous Donors: We Couldn't Do It Without You

Philippa and George Ostler: Supporting Central City for over 40 years



Philippa Ostler:

“Knowing the value of a permanent address and access to a phone to be able to find work, I promised myself I would support the work of Central City as long as possible”.

We are very pleased in this issue of the newsletter to acknowledge Philippa Ostler and her late husband George, two dedicated and generous supporters of our work. The Ostlers began donating to Central City in the 1960s, after George, an accountant, was hired to audit the organization. When George passed away in 1997, Philippa continued the tradition.

Philippa says that as soon as George began spending time at the Central City Mission at 233 Abbott Street, he was struck by the amount of work that the staff did with very few resources. He found the atmosphere consistently warm and welcoming, and saw first-hand how crucial the Mission was for the men who dropped in or slept there. He and Philippa shared a strong belief in the value of Central City's work. In a recent email, Philippa told us about some of her reasons for supporting our foundation:

“Reading the history of Central City on the web site confirms for me the memories of my husband George completing the audit there. It was one of the few occasions when I forgave him for coming home late from work, as he was so invigorated by his time spent at 233 Abbott. The staff people who worked miracles with minimum resources valued anyone who contributed, however little, and he was always inspired to do more...”

He supported the mission for the rest of his life. He valued the annual newsletter, which included one request for funds. He always responded, knowing from his time as auditor that not a penny was wasted. After George's death in 1997, I continued to support Central City financially and was then invited to the opening of the Cosmopolitan on Hastings Street: a newly refurbished hotel with accommodation akin to university residences, with several rooms sharing a kitchen and bathroom. It was kept spotlessly clean with pride, and we met several residents. My memory of that day was talking to a man who described the joy of living in a room with a key where he could lock his possessions and come home knowing he was safe from being beaten up for the few things he had. It seemed such a small need to fulfill. Knowing the value of a permanent address and access to a phone to be able to find work, I promised myself I would support the work of Central City as long as possible.

I have appreciated the acknowledgement of my contributions and have truly felt part of a larger family.”

We are grateful to Philippa and George, and to our many other donors, both long-time and new, for making our work possible.



When you donate to Central City Foundation you will receive a tax receipt for 100% of your donation (charitable tax number: 134639558 RR0001). **You can call us at 604-683-2263, send us a cheque made out to “Central City Foundation” at 206-304 W. Cordova, Vancouver BC, V6B 1E8, or use our convenient secure online system: go to www.centralcityfoundation.ca”**



Introducing Deanna Wing

When you call the CCF office, you're likely to be greeted by the friendly voice of Deanna Wing, our new Executive Assistant to the President and CEO. It has always been important to Deanna to work for organizations that strive for community and environmental leadership, so she

is happy to have this opportunity to support the mission of CCF.

Deanna joined CCF in July. She has worked at Vancity and at Mountain Equipment Coop, in member relations, executive and board support and community leadership. Her

three-and-a-half year old son and 15-month old daughter keep her and her husband Sean busy at home. Born and raised in Vancouver, Deanna is looking forward to winter, when she will be reminding herself that rain in the city means snow in the mountains!