

Your Donations Are Saving the Lives of BC Youth

“Without the Crossing I wouldn’t be alive”



CCF Board Member Peter Spencer is joined here by Health Services Minister George Abbott, Ida Goodreau, CEO Vancouver Coastal Health to his right and Susie and Rob Ruttan to his left at the ribbon cutting for the opening of the Ashnola Lodge, marking the completion of construction of the first building at The Crossing at Keremeos.

It's an historic moment in the struggle to help BC youth with addictions: After almost ten years of planning and organizing, a two-year campaign to raise \$6.5 million, and a year of construction, The Crossing at Keremeos is up and running.

The Crossing welcomed its first young women residents in March, and in July, right before our grand opening, the first group of young men moved in.

The Crossing is managed by Portage, an agency that has operated successful drug and alcohol treatment programs in Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces since the 1970s. Just seven months into the Portage program at The Crossing, 16-year-old Serena is very aware of how far she's come. “I wouldn't be alive if it wasn't for this place,” she says bluntly, “and I think that's true for the other girls here as well.”

Seventeen-year-old Oliver, in his fourth month, says that without The Crossing he'd be in jail. “That's where I was before I came here,” he says. “My life was so unmanageable. It wasn't just about the drug use—it was everything.” His life has already started to turn around. “My relationships have improved, and my ability to make positive choices. It's the longest I've been clean in four years.”

When Serena arrived at The Crossing, she was taken aback by the incredible level of structure. She went from a life of “doing whatever I wanted,” to days that start at

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The buildings at The Crossing have been carefully renovated to be safe, comfortable and welcoming for the residents.



More than two dozen young people are now in residence receiving treatment and beginning their journeys to health and healing.



On July 7, 2009, The Foundation hosted an afternoon at Keremeos to celebrate the delivery of BC's first long term residential treatment centre for youth.

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5:30 AM and that are filled with group and individual counselling, chores and school. Residents move through five stages during their time at The Crossing, and once they get to stage three they start being responsible for residents at earlier stages of the program. Serena, in stage four, not only schedules shifts for chores, but also acts as a role model and inspiration for the newer girls. "They can't believe that I used to be right where they are," Serena says proudly.

The staff at The Crossing say that one of the most important things they do is help the youth to get to know themselves. "It's rewarding to see their progress," says Maria, a counsellor with the girls' program. "They're happier, more content than when they arrived." The program includes extensive planning for life after The Crossing, including plans for accommodation, employment and school.

Peter Spencer, a Central City Foundation Board member, came up with the idea for The Crossing back in 2000 after learning about the lack of help for BC families through the story of Rob and Susie Ruttan's struggle to find support for their son. Peter has tirelessly advocated, planned and fundraised

ever since. (Read more about Peter and the history of The Crossing at <http://www.centralcityfoundation.ca/Crossing/>). Earlier in the project, he and other staff and Board members from Central City visited Portage facilities in eastern Canada to get a sense of how The Crossing would be run. Most of their guides on the tour were current and former residents.

"This was a life changing moment," Peter says. "It allowed me to meet and listen to the people who are otherwise just statistics, young women and men with horrendous stories. I don't have experience in this area. I'm just one of many who want to do something about this."

When Peter reflects on the ten-year journey of making The Crossing a reality, he says that he's gotten as much out of the experience as he's put in: he's found out about a part of society he knew nothing about; he's developed a passion for helping youth who struggle with addiction, and he's gotten to be part of a project that will make a huge difference.

Peter is also clear that Central City didn't build The Crossing alone. From Grief to Action, a parents' advocacy group, was a

tireless partner in the journey from the very beginning. Vancouver Coastal, Fraser and Interior Health Authorities have provided amazing leadership and support as well, helping to ensure that The Crossing is part of a coordinated system of services.

Serena's assertion that she wouldn't be alive without The Crossing is no surprise to Peter Spencer.

"That's why we built The Crossing," he says. "It's about saving lives."

The incredible generosity of British Columbians made it possible for The Crossing to get started. We hope you will continue to support our efforts to make our communities stronger and healthier.

Please see the back page for information on donating to Central City.

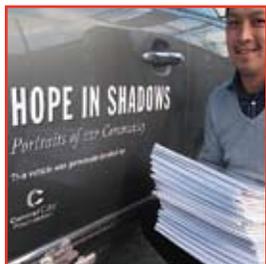


Neighbours Helping Neighbours in Need

Hope in Shadows and the Boys and Girls Club put an incredible amount of energy and passion into helping their neighbours; we're proud to be able to provide, through the generosity of Central City Foundation donors, some of the practical tools they need for their important work.

Hope in Shadows: a new car to help with calendar deliveries

This past June, hundreds of residents of the Downtown Eastside lined up for a chance to get one of 200 black and white disposable cameras distributed by the Hope and Shadows project. The lucky 200 then spent the next three days taking pictures of their friends and neighbours. These amateur photographers offer a much more accurate, and moving, portrait of the area than any of the countless journalists or professional photographers who have made the Downtown Eastside their subject.



Hope in Shadows intern Yosuke Yamamoto shows off the Central City Foundation logo.

of the best images make it into the Hope and Shadows calendar. Then vendors, all of whom are low income with multiple barriers to employment, sell the calendars on the street, keeping \$10 of the \$20 cover price. In 2008



The new Hope in Shadows car with its custom wrap.

This is the seventh year of Hope in Shadows, and the project gets more successful every year. The photos from the 200 cameras are posted for the Downtown Eastside community to vote on, and 12 more than 220 vendors earned \$131,000 from book/calendar sales.

This year, a new car provided by your generous gifts to Central City Foundation

has allowed the project to continue to expand, enabling more distribution of the calendars throughout Vancouver, as well as helping transport supplies to other events, like the distribution of cameras, the community voting and readings from the Hope and Shadows book.



Lavynia and Samuel have been selling Hope in Shadows calendars for four years. The project gives them a sense of pride in their community as well as providing some much-needed income.

Partners Samuel and Lavynia have sold Hope in Shadows calendars for four years. Samuel, a former logger attempting to live on a small WCB pension, says that the extra money around Christmas time is welcome, not to mention the fact that he and Lavynia are trying

to save money so they can rent an apartment of their own. But it's also about much more than the money. It means a lot to Samuel that people from the Downtown Eastside get a chance to participate in the project, that the photographers and subjects are both from the area. He says people wait in line for hours to get a chance to get one of 200 cameras. Lots of people participate in the community voting, and there's a great deal of pride for the people whose photos make it into the calendar.

Lavynia says that when she and Samuel first moved to Vancouver four years ago, they had nowhere to live; the money they made from the calendars paid for a hotel room. "These calendars have literally saved our butts," Lavynia says. Like Samuel, she gets much more than money from the project. "What I love most about the project is it's all amateurs, just taking photos of their daily lives. One day I hope to get a camera. I have tons of ideas."

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Vancouver: an industrial dishwasher to free up staff time

In 1941, the City of Vancouver built the Kimount Club in Mount Pleasant for the Boys and Girls Club. Since then, Kimount has been providing



Hungry kids enjoy a hot snack at the Boys and Girls Club. Staff can now spend much more time with the kids, because they're not spending three hours washing dishes after each snack and meal.

a safe, supportive environment for the neighbourhood's children and youth. In partnership with Kidsafe Project Society, Kimount provides after school and weekend care, as well as full-day programs on professional days, spring break, winter break and over the summer

to ensure that children and youth have a secure and nurturing place to go.

Nearly 70 children come to the club every day, and the kitchen is a central part of all the programs. Not only do the children get healthy meals and snacks, but they also learn about nutrition and cooking.

The new industrial dishwasher from Central City ensures that dishes are properly washed and sanitized, and helps Kimount keep up with the high volume of hot meals and hot snacks that the club provides. But the dishwasher provides much more too.

"This is really important," says Jason Lee, Clubs and Camp Manager. "Now the staff are free to spend more quality, one-to-one time with the kids." This increased staff time is essential in a club filled with energetic, and often needy, kids. Before the dishwasher was installed, staff were spending up to three hours washing dishes after each meal.

"You should have seen the excitement of the staff when we got the dishwasher," Jason says. "We are the envy of the other clubs."



The dishwasher is a perfect example of how a seemingly small and simple gift can make a huge difference to a program and its clients. Because of your generosity, we were able to buy a kitchen appliance, staff are able to

spend more time with the children, and more children get the care and attention they need and deserve. **Thank you!**

Since 1907, Central City has been working in the inner city, independently and in close association with a wide variety of community organizations, to enhance the lives of our neighbours in need. Our capital project grants have provided the essential tools, equipment and facilities for many community organizations to deliver their critical services and programs.

Thanks to your gifts, these organizations provide social support networks, skills, education, income and hope to adults, children and families in the inner city.

In 2009, the generosity of donors like you has allowed us to support these wonderful programs as they work to improve the lives of our neighbours in need.



Central City CEO Jennifer Johnstone chats with Phillippa during a visit to the Dugout Drop-In Centre. Phillippa has volunteered for over ten years at the Dugout, welcoming clients and helping distribute food donations.

The Dugout Drop-in Centre Society

Central City has a unique long-term relationship with the Dugout that spans more than 40 years. We believe strongly in the value of this small drop-in centre in the heart of the Downtown Eastside. Seven days a week, the Dugout provides soup, coffee, free bread, and a warm safe place for people in the neighbourhood. Outreach, advocacy, basic one-to-one counselling and a daily AA program are all offered through the Dugout.

"I think the most important thing we offer," says Phillippa, a long-time Dugout volunteer, "is

a warm peaceful place to sit." It sounds like a simple thing, but for people who live on the streets and face violence on a daily basis, warmth and peace are essential.

Every day, Phillippa lays out rows of free bread for Dugout clients. "At one point it seemed they were tired of bread," she says. "But I guess they're really hungry now, because they'll take two loaves if they can."

There has been a significant increase in the number of people coming for soup in the past few years, from 300 to 500 per day. Annual grants from Central City Foundation, made possible by our generous donors, are more important than ever.

Aunt Leah's Independent Lifeskills Society

Since 1988, Aunt Leah's has worked with youth in care and pregnant and parenting teens to help them learn life skills for successful independent living, providing housing, support services, training and pre-employment opportunities. A disproportionate number of street involved and homeless youth have been in care; Aunt Leah's works to keep these youth safe, independent and out of the inner city. An equipment grant helped to address an urgent need to improve efficiency and the security of their program information.

Hastings/Tillicum Community School Society

Hastings is a designated inner city school for children up to grade seven. They provide an after-school program for some of our most vulnerable inner city children. Through the Kids First Program, students from kindergarten to Grade Seven receive academic and other support in a safe and nurturing atmosphere that helps to create an important bridge for families between school and home.

The grant from Central City Foundation provided urgently needed office and program equipment.

411 Seniors Centre



Before renovations.



After renovations.

The thrift store is a social enterprise of the 411 Seniors Centre that provides volunteer opportunities and sells donated books, clothing, household and

Funded Projects 2009

miscellaneous items at low cost to seniors and other community members. Profits earned by the thrift store support the incredible programs and services of the 411 Seniors Centre, including information and referrals, outreach and counselling for seniors, fitness programs, language and drop-in activities, and monthly social events and celebrations. This grant provided funds for essential equipment and renovations to ensure this highly valued thrift store operation remains efficient, welcoming and safe.

Kinbrace

Kinbrace annually assists 20-25 of our city's most vulnerable refugee claimants with supportive housing, settlement assistance, relational support, and help in finding and moving into clean, safe market rental housing. At the heart of their welcome for these new neighbours in need is a practice of eating together in two community houses. The grant from Central City will provide kitchen equipment and custom-built furniture to be used in an extensively renovated communal kitchen and dining facility for these two houses.

Take a Hike Foundation



Take a Hike helps youth who are struggling with drug and alcohol addiction, physical and mental abuse, low self-esteem, depression, unstable homes, and trauma. They have had remarkable success with a combination of academic, therapeutic, adventure-based and community-involved learning programs to assist youth in overcoming these challenges. Take a Hike programs have had a direct impact on improving the chances for these young people to complete their education and graduate from school. This year's grant was used to purchase a van and trailer, essential transportation for their therapeutic and adventure-based learning programs.

Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA)

Recognized for their innovation and leadership, UNYA supports growing numbers of vulnerable Aboriginal youth in our city by providing a solid continuum of advocacy, preventive and support services in a safe, healthy and positive environment. Central City assisted UNYA this year with the purchase and installation of a lift (basic elevator) for their newly renovated building. Native youth are one of the fastest growing groups with disabilities, so it is imperative that their space be accessible. Central City Foundation donors made this possible.

Atira Women's Resource Society

Kye7e (pronounced "Key-ya-h") House or Grandmother House was opened in February of this past year by Atira Women's Resource Society, who had undertaken to lease and convert a 12-unit rooming house back into its original use after years of occupancy as offices. The project was directed at providing new

housing for elder women in the downtown eastside, a particularly at-risk group of women who generally do not do well in large co-ed single room hotels, as they are subject to exploitation and violence. The smaller size of the building was particularly attractive as it is quieter and creates an opportunity to have a more family-like home for women who, because of poverty, stigma and lack of choice are stuck in the larger buildings. Thanks to the generous support of Central City Foundation donors, a grant was made to undertake the necessary renovations to repurpose the buildings and create new housing.



Our mission:

Supporting safe affordable housing and programs that enhance the lives of people in need in the inner city



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

At Central City Foundation, we always want you, our donors, to know how much your generosity means to us, and what an incredible difference you make for people in the inner city. We're also committed to building and strengthening community, with our approach of neighbours helping neighbours in need. That's why this year we held two exciting events to bring donors and grant recipients together.



A Sense of Giving was held in March at Centre A, a gallery in the heart of the Downtown Eastside. Volunteers



In May, Central City Foundation and Vancouver Community College came together for the third year to organize a community



As Jennifer Johnstone said at A Sense of Giving, "We are constantly inspired by this community's resilience and creativity, by the

and staff from about 23 organizations came and set up displays around the room, showcasing the ways in which Central City grants have helped their clients. Donors enjoyed catering provided by Potluck Catering, a grant recipient, as they toured the displays and spoke with the programs' staff and volunteers. Many donors started off the evening with tours of Lu's Pharmacy and Phil Bouvier Family Centre, which they rode to in vans that Central City had funded for Battered Women's Support Services and Urban Native Youth Association.

event at Victory Square, our annual **Fair in the Square**, with barbecued smokies, lemonade and cupcakes, a concert, and even a small fair of community groups, artists and artisans. Once again, hundreds of volunteers served food to thousands of our neighbours, friends and donors, as local musicians kept us entertained. (See photos and videos from these events at <http://www.centralcityfoundation.ca/events.html>.)

ability to find inventive solutions to seemingly intractable problems. The programs that we fund—our partners—support youth, support women and children, support families, and support our neighbours: we honour and celebrate each of you. Thank you to the fabulously loyal and committed donors, large and small, new and longstanding who continue to support Central City Foundation and our inner city community."

Please contact us for information on including Central City Foundation in your Will, organizing fundraising events or any other questions about donating to the Foundation.

Please continue to support Central City Foundation.

With your help we will continue to address the issues of homelessness, poverty, drug and alcohol addiction and mental illness. We will continue to provide safe affordable housing, and we will continue to provide grants to a range of practical, creative programs helping some of the most vulnerable people in our city.



Phone:
604-683-2263
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604-683-2205

Please send your completed form and donation to:

Central City Foundation
206-304 WEST CORDOVA ST.
VANCOUVER BC V6B 1E8

Yes! I believe in neighbours helping neighbours.

Here is my donation of: \$ _____

Name: _____

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Signature: _____

- Please send me information about naming the Foundation in my will.
- Check this box if you wish to remain anonymous. The Central City Foundation is the operating name of the Central City Mission Foundation. All donations are tax deductible. Registered Charity No 134639558 RR0001.

To make a secure online donation, visit www.centralcityfoundation.ca