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Press Release
For Immediate Release

Science World steps in to support Downtown Eastside women's drop-in recovering from flood

Feb 1, 2017 [Vancouver, B.C.] - When media reported a sewage back-up had destroyed donations and their storage area at a local Downtown Eastside women's drop-in, the team at Science World offered their support.

"We were mid-flood clean-up and our staff's work area had been converted into ad hoc storage," explains Mebrat Beyene, executive director of WISH Drop-In Centre Society in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. "Providing support to some of Vancouver's most marginalized women is a 24/7 operation, and the staff offices are the engine that makes that possible."

Science World has relieved WISH staff by relocating the organization's undamaged donations and equipment to a nearby storage facility. Until further notice, Science World will now also be collecting items on the "WISH list" for the Drop-In Centre at their TELUS World of Science building at Main and Terminal. **(See below for "WISH list" items and check scienceworld.ca for hours of operation.)** Items can be left at the Member's counter.

"Science World is more than just a charitable organization. We are also part of this amazing community," said Brian Radburn, CFO for Science World. "It just felt right to offer our assistance and help a neighbor in need. We look forward to WISH getting through this crisis relatively unscathed."

"We work with some of the most stigmatized women in Vancouver, and it can be hard to engender public support," commented Beyene, "As we rebuild in the wake of this flood, having the generous support of an organization with Science World's stature has definitely bolstered spirits at WISH and, we hope, will encourage more people to support our work and the women we serve."

ABOUT WISH

The mission of WISH is to improve the health, safety and well-being of women who are involved in Vancouver's street-based sex trade. Now in its 33rd year, WISH puts its mission into action by operating an overnight Drop-In Centre and variety of programs and services in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, where women can meet their basic needs (food, clothing, nursing care, personal items), receive individualized support and participate in programs that engage their spirits, hearts and minds.

ABOUT SCIENCE WORLD

Science World British Columbia is a charitable organization that engages British Columbians in science and inspires future science and technology leadership throughout our province. They are a charity that believe in being charitable.

ABOUT THE WISH LIST

Thanks to physical donations from the general public, WISH is able to make a variety of make-up, hygiene products, and clothes available to women using the Drop-In. Please see below for a list of items that are always in need. You can take your contributions to the front desk of Science World (1455 Quebec Street, Vancouver, BC V6A 3Z7), where they will be safely stored and delivered to WISH according to need and space availability. Make sure to visit scienceworld.ca for their hours of operation, to ensure that your kind donations can be received.

- Feminine hygiene products
- Bras, panties, socks, tights and pantyhose
- Seasonal women's clothing
- Coats, hats and gloves
- Walking Shoes and boots
- Rain Ponchos, rain coats
- Umbrellas
- Makeup and toiletries (new and partially used)
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste and mouthwash
- Bedding and towels
- Books and magazines
- Mugs, plates, and forks
- Reusable food containers with lids (i.e. Tupperware, yogurt containers)
- First Aid supplies
- Single use compass cards
- Long distance cards for women to call home

-30-

To speak to **Mebrat Beyene, Executive Director, WISH Drop-in Society**, call (604)-669-9474 or email wishdropincentre@shaw.ca.

To speak to a Science World representative, please contact **Jason Boshier, Communications Coordinator, Science World** by calling 604.443.7470 or emailing jbosher@scienceworld.ca.