



**WISH**  
Drop-In Centre Society

# WISH NEWS

SPRING 2015

*Improving the health, safety and well-being of women in the street-based sex trade.*

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## Run, Walk or Wheel for WISH!

### SAVE THE DATE!

The annual Scotiabank Charity Challenge is on **June 28th** this year and once again, WISH will be participating!

We invite you to join us by signing up to run a 5K or half-marathon and raise funds for WISH by collecting pledges.

Registration is currently underway at [www.vancouverhalf.com](http://www.vancouverhalf.com). WISH will also have a number of FREE registrations available for runners/walkers/wheelers who are willing to commit to raising at least \$100. **Please contact Marina at 604-669-9474 or**



**wishfundraising@shaw.ca to find out how to claim your free spot. You can also keep checking our facebook and twitter pages for updates.**

Find out all the details about the event, including start times and course routes at [www.vancouverhalf.com](http://www.vancouverhalf.com)

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we will need your help!

The 5K course is wheelchair accessible and is also child, dog and stroller friendly.

You can register as an individual or gather a few friends together to register as a team. Some companies will even sponsor employee teams so feel free to ask your employer if this is something they would consider doing.

*We hope you can join us!*

## Farewell, Kate Gibson

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that our beloved long-time Executive Director, Kate Gibson is retiring and will be leaving WISH this Spring.

A longtime volunteer, Kate joined WISH as an employee in 2003 and became Executive Director in 2004. WISH thrived under Kate's leadership and grew into the very busy organization it is today, providing safety, front-



line services and engaging programs out of its purpose-built facility on Alexander Street.

WISH participants, staff, volunteers and community partners will remember Kate's fierce dedication to the mission of WISH as well as her caring management style and infectious sense of humour.

*She will be greatly missed.*

**Thank-you, Kate for all you have done for WISH and all the best for your next chapter!**

[www.wish-vancouver.net](http://www.wish-vancouver.net)

# Volunteers Make WISH Happen!

April 12-18, 2015 is National Volunteer Week: A time to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions that volunteers make in their communities throughout the country.

Volunteers are part of the heart and soul of WISH! In fact, WISH was actually founded by volunteers over 30 years ago.

Today, over 65 volunteers contribute their time and en-

ergy to WISH every day. They prepare meals, staff donation rooms and generally assist Program Staff to make the WISH Drop-In Centre the friendly, welcoming place that it is. They serve on the WISH Board of Directors, organize third-party fundraisers for WISH in their communities and help out around the centre as part of corporate 'days of service'. They run, walk and wheel for WISH in the Scotiabank Charity Challenge and help out in the office with

administrative tasks.

WISH is also fortunate to have a number of women from the community as volunteers who are trained through our Peer Volunteer Program and who are a real asset to the centre.

In honour of the upcoming National Volunteer Week, we have profiled 2 of our volunteers: Marilyn and Shannon. If you are interested in volunteering at WISH, please email [wishvolunteers@shaw.ca](mailto:wishvolunteers@shaw.ca).

**Thank-you volunteers!**

*"There is a really nice atmosphere in the Centre. You can feel the encouragement and support for the women, not only from the staff and volunteers, but certainly from the women to each other"*  
- Marilyn Werden,  
WISH Volunteer

## Marilyn Werden



Marilyn became curious about WISH when her colleague – a WISH board member – sent out an email asking for sponsorship in the Scotiabank Charity Challenge.

After learning more about WISH's work with women in the Downtown Eastside, she decided to become a volunteer.

**"What I love about volunteering are the women themselves and the staff. There is a really nice atmosphere in the Centre. You can feel the encouragement and support for the women, not only from the staff and volunteers but certainly from the women to each other."**

Marilyn loves the sense of community at WISH.

**"I've been volunteering long enough now that some of the women recognize me and give me a lovely welcome indeed and I really appreciate their warmth".**

Thank-you, Marilyn for your dedicated service and generous spirit.

## Shannon Goodall



Originally from Toronto, Shannon moved to Vancouver to attend school five years ago. She has always been interested in women's health issues and hopes eventually to go to medical school and work with marginalized communities.

Shannon came to volun-

teer at WISH after hearing a friend speak highly of her own experiences as a WISH volunteer. After attending an orientation session, she knew that it was something she definitely wanted to do.

**"I really enjoy talking to the women and watching them interact and support one another. The sense of**

**community is really inspiring. Even days when I have a bad day at work I can come to WISH and being surrounded by people all helping each other out really helps improve my mood".**

Thank-you, Shannon, for your volunteer service! Your time and energy are very much appreciated.

# WISH Goes to the Sunshine Coast



WISH's first ever crowdfunding campaign, held last Fall, was a suc-

**Cedar root basket artist Jessica Silvey meeting WISH women at the Sechelt museum.**

cess and raised over \$1300 to send a group of 10 WISH participants and 2 staff members on a rejuvenating day trip to the Sunshine Coast!

The group had an unforgettable day out and stopped at several places along the beautiful Sunshine Coast, including Molly's Reach café in Gibsons and the Sechelt Museum. The museum was a high-

light of the trip and the group met cedar root basket artist Jessica Silvey whose work was being exhibited. The women spent some time on the beach and in nature and got to enjoy a day away from the 'grind'.

WISH would like to thank everyone who contributed to the fund-raising campaign that made this trip happen. Your kindness lifted women's spirits and created lasting memories for some wonderful women from the WISH community!

**"This amazing organization is giving opportunities and voices to those who have been otherwise excluded from important conversations"**

## Donor Spotlight: Play It Forward Productions

Play It Forward Productions is a non-profit society that produces musical events with local talent and then donates 100% of their proceeds to charity.

We are so grateful that, this past December, they chose WISH to be the beneficiary of their holiday concert. Amazingly, they raised a whopping \$6188 for WISH to help us improve the health, safety and

well-being of women in the Downtown Eastside. Gabrielle Jolly, Communications Director with Play It Forward Productions said:

**"Play It Forward was proud to support The WISH Drop-In Centre Society in our December concert...This amazing organization is giving opportunities and voices to those**

**who have been otherwise excluded from important conversations, and it was an honour to work with them".**

WISH would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all the musicians, crew and organizers who put their hearts into this event! For more information about this wonderful organization, visit [playitforwardps.com/](http://playitforwardps.com/)

## New - The WISH Events Committee

A new committee, comprised of WISH participants and one staff member, has formed! The WISH Events Committee is working hard to plan and deliver social events for the women of WISH.

Their first event which took place February 12th was Sundae Sunday—a sweet and delicious affair where WISH participants got to

indulge in ice cream sundaes topped with all kinds of goodies. Needless to say, it was a hit!

The committee will also be responsible for organizing seasonal celebrations (Easter, Christmas and Hallowe'en) as well as the annual WISH Summer BBQ, bingo nights, trivia night and more.

Thank-you so much to the awesome women who are putting in time and energy to make WISH an extra-great community to be a part of!

Painting by WISH Participant N.





### CONTACT WISH

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Improving the health, safety & well-being  
of women in Vancouver's street-based sex  
trade.

Since 1984, WISH has been an essential point of  
contact for self-identified women who are in-  
volved in Vancouver's street-based survival sex  
trade.

At WISH, services are offered without judgment  
or expectation. Wherever a woman is at on her  
life's journey, she is welcome at WISH.

WISH's work is made possible through generous  
donors in our community.

To donate to WISH, please visit:

**[www.wish-vancouver.net](http://www.wish-vancouver.net)**

Or call 604-669-9474. Cheques payable to WISH  
Drop-In Centre Society can also be dropped off  
or mailed. Thank-you!

## Monthly Giving: A Great Way to Make WISHES Come True!

Monthly donors help WISH so much  
by providing a steady stream of in-  
come to fund our programs and ser-  
vices.

Donating monthly is easy!

1. Go to our website

**[www.wish-vancouver.net](http://www.wish-vancouver.net)**

2. Click on the 'donate now'  
button and choose the 'donate  
monthly' option on our Canada  
Helps page. Enter your informa-  
tion.

You can set up your monthly dona-  
tions on your credit card and they  
will be taken automatically on  
whatever day of the month you  
choose.

You can cancel or change the amount  
of your donation at any time.



*I always have fond memories of  
the amazing food, love and care  
we always received there. (Also,  
the homemade ice tea Joanne  
made was amazing.) Thank you  
from the bottom of my heart.  
What you do makes a huge differ-  
ence.*

- Former WISH Participant

Alternatively, you can simply fill out  
the enclosed donation form and re-  
turn it to us by mail.

Monthly giving can be more affordable  
than giving an annual donation as a  
lump sum. Only \$10 a month adds up  
to \$120 and makes a big impact!

In addition, monthly donors help  
WISH save on administration costs as  
they do not receive fundraising ap-  
peals and get only one consolidated  
receipt per year.

If you have any questions about sign-  
ing up as a monthly donor, please give  
us a call at **604-669-9474** or email  
**[wishfundraising@shaw.ca](mailto:wishfundraising@shaw.ca)**

**Thank-you!**