



WISH Drop-In
Centre Society

2015/2016

ANNUAL REPORT

Note from the Chair



KAREN BERRY

Board Chair



...WISH frontline staff, volunteers and program coordinators worked tirelessly to attend to the needs of women involved in Vancouver's street based sex workers in a compassionate and caring way...

WISH continues to raise the bar year after year in providing caring, compassionate, non-judgmental care to women who are involved in Vancouver's street-based sex trade.

As the, now Former, Board Chair I was honoured to play a part in this work.

Mebrat Beyene has settled into her new role as Executive Director of WISH. She brings a tremendous amount of leadership, energy, insight, experience, professionalism, humour and charm to her role. We continue to be very lucky to have her.

Last year we saw an enormous increase in the need for our services. Despite this increase, WISH frontline staff, volunteers and program coordinators worked tirelessly to attend to the needs of women involved in Vancouver's street based sex workers in a compassionate and caring way.

I would like to thank all of the wonderful WISH participants, donors, supporters, volunteers, board

members and staff who made our work possible last year. We can't do this work without you!

From donating to running for WISH in the annual Scotiabank Charity Challenge to organizing fundraisers in your community or through your place of worship or school to volunteering at the centre, Thank you!

I encourage you to get in touch with us and find out how you can be a part of our mission to improve the health, safety and well-being of women in the street-based sex trade.

WISH BOARD MEMBERS 2015/2016

Roberta Robertson
Siobhan McCormick
Sarah Ciarrocchi
Adrienne Lee
Karen D. Berry
Lindsay Chen

Amalia Schön
Emma Watkinson
Sarah Orr
Kayan Yu
Christina Entrekin

Note from the Executive Director

This past year has been one of learning, relationships and (re)connections.

As I wrap up my first year at WISH, I have been overwhelmed by the compassion, perseverance, commitment and dedication of everyone connected to this organization. Participants, current and past staff, past Executive Directors, current and past Board members, current and past volunteers, and our donors all have powerful and meaningful stories about why they help make WISH happen. I've shared many tears, laughter, anger, sadness, and happiness in the expression of these stories.

Last fall, I met a woman who called the office wanting to come by with a donation. She recounted her story: A little over 20 years ago, she was homeless, heavily addicted, and working the strolls of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, when she used to come to WISH "...back when it was at the church, and only open a couple of nights a week". As we sat in my office, talking, she spoke about the old VPD Missing Women Task Force poster up on the wall behind me. She remembered a lot of those women and had called many of them her friends. She shared with me how terrified and on edge women were and what it was like working the streets of the DTES while so many friends and women were going missing.

Now, many years into her sobriety and years after exiting the sex trade, and with her son flourishing in school, she described feeling ready to share her story and to give back to the organization that saved her life. She quietly handed me a folded envelope with a donation inside it. We shed more tears, more hugs and she left with me

with a tremendous connection to the impact of WISH.

With tears in both our eyes, she plainly told me that were it not for WISH, she would not have survived.

This is our *raison-d'être* and our call to action.



As I reflect on the past year, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to acknowledge a few key women who have contributed so much to WISH.

The powerhouse that is 'the one and only Roberta Robertson' volunteered at WISH for nine years and served on the Board for six. As Chair, she enthusiastically supported and promoted WISH in her social and professional circles and never visited empty-handed. She motivated neighbours, co-workers, acquaintances, friends and even strangers to donate, give their time, collect for, and support WISH in whatever way they could – a true Board Chair if I ever did see one! We thank her for her tremendous contribution and wish her all the best as she moves on to the Board of our friends at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre.

Farewell to Board Secretary, Siobhan McCormick and to Co-Chair and Chair, Karen Berry and Chair Adrienne Lee. All of whom served on the Board for 5 years.

As we start our 33rd year, we focus on the ever-growing demands on WISH's services. With Vancouver's homelessness numbers higher than they've been in over ten years, the



Mebrat Beyene

Executive Director

devastating impact of the Fentanyl crisis, the lack of adequate mental health care and addiction services, and the impact of the current prostitution legislation, we have seen a whopping 28% increase in the number of women served at WISH! Our human and physical resources are stretched thin. To address this, we work to streamline our internal structures and continue to seek new sources of revenue and supports.

By the time this goes to print, we will have welcomed four new Directors to the WISH Board. We have recruited women who have (and still do) run non-profits, know the DTES, are versed in the issues facing the women WISH serves, and who have strong relationship building and fund development backgrounds. We have also recruited talented women to serve on various key committees that will help us generate the resources needed to properly support our staff, our operations, and our services. It is because of these connections and relationships that we are able to fulfil our mission to improve the health, safety and well-being of women in Vancouver's street-based sex trade.

Peace,

WISH Program News 2015/2016

The Drop-In Centre

The Drop-In Centre, the heart of WISH, exists to improve the health and safety of female street-based sex workers in Vancouver.

Women drop in between 6pm and noon the following day for a meal or light snack, a cup of coffee, a hot shower, to pick out some 'new to them' clothes from the donation room or redo their makeup at the makeup counter, to warm up or dry off, to visit the nurse on duty, to report a bad date, to chat with a friend or make a new friend.

The **clothing donation room** offers women the opportunity to pick out something warm or dry, depending on their needs. The room is a highlight of the Drop-in Centre and is filled with clothes from our very generous donors and supporters from around the Lower Mainland.

The **makeup room** offers single use toiletries to women. The toiletries are all donated and each woman is allowed two makeup items at a time, soap and shampoo / conditioner for a shower, and feminine hygiene supplies. The Nurse Practitioner and VPD Sex Industry Liaison Officer each come to the Drop-In one night per week to attend to the needs of our participants. As well, the Learning Centre, operated in partnership with Capilano University, is open two nights per week.



Drop-In Centre mural painted by Kimmortal

Several other agencies come to the Drop-In Centre to connect with the women:

- Downtown Eastside Women's Centre: HIV Worker and Housing Outreach Worker
- Atira Women's Resource Society: Housing Outreach Workers
- Watari Youth (19-24) Outreach Workers
- Ministry of Social Development and Social Assistance: Access Worker
- Women Against Violence Against Women: Thursday night open group.
- Reach Community Health Clinic: LPN and social worker

Other ad hoc activities also happen throughout the year. This year, for example, we have held conversations and info sessions related to the National Inquiry into Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls. Additionally, we had an enumerator drop by to help women with the census, and held info sessions about the national election and the provincial by-election as well as helped women get registered to vote.



SANDRA CHUNG
Drop-In Centre Supervisor/
Volunteer Coordinator

As our facilities age and we incur more and more repair costs, we have needed to manage the Drop-In space more proactively and creatively. We have put many hours and countless efforts towards trying to identify issues or breakdowns before they happen in the hopes of avoiding any emergency costs or worse: closure. We also have been learning what can be done in-house in order to reduce the cost of calling in costly tradespeople. We strive to attend to the increased need for the Drop-In Centre in a fair and meaningful way. As always we navigate the needs of our participants within a tight financial reality.

Our participants are impacted by the many external pressures that impact the neighbourhood. Currently our women are living with frozen social assistance rates, extreme shortage of affordable or even liveable housing, a higher homelessness rate than Vancouver has seen in years, mental health issues, the social stigma of being a sex worker, targeted violence and the very real threat of the prevalence of fentanyl and other synthetic opiate overdoses.

Through all this, we continue to aim for a safe haven for women in the sex trade and where we never lose sight of our vision that every woman should have access to opportunities to make free, healthy and positive choices.

WISH Drop-In gratefully acknowledges the support of the following:

- City of Vancouver
- BC Housing
- Province of BC's Gaming Policy & Enforcement Branch
- Government of Canada Summer Job Program
- Vancity community Foundation
- 1988 Foundation



SARAH LANGFORD
Drop-In Centre
Supervisor



ANNE VAVRIK
Drop-In Centre
Coordinator



WISH Drop-In Team

The Mobile Access Project (MAP) Van



Last year was exciting in WISH MAP Van-land as we said goodbye to our well-loved custom, early 2000s Ford E-350 and replaced it with a brand new Mercedes Sprinter. Big thanks to the **MAC AIDS Fund** and the **Estate of Marie Langer** for making the purchase and customization of a new Van possible for us! Of course getting used to our new ride was an adjustment but we're definitely all settled into our heated seats now and providing services to sex workers on the strolls of Vancouver.

The WISH MAP Van serves sex workers either where they work on the strolls of Vancouver responding to flags from workers or phone calls, 7 nights a week.

The Van staff provide front-line support to sex workers including harm reduction supplies, juice, coffee, as well as clothing and snacks when available. Most of the WISH MAP Van staff have experience in the sex industry and with addiction. First-hand familiarity with the industry means the Van staff can often identify trends on the ground before other more formal institutional bodies do the same.

Sex worker advocates predict that Bill C-36 will result in increased violence for sex workers, and the Van staff can confirm they sure haven't heard less horrific stories in the past year.

From 3am until 6am the WISH MAP Van is the only outreach van on the road operating in Vancouver and is always the only mobile service specifically targeting the needs of sex workers. To this end, the WISH MAP Van

takes the bulk of the bad date reports that WISH compiles and later circulates to various supports and services on the Red Light Alerts. Women working may also choose not to make a formal report to the Van about a bad date and instead request that we warn other women when we connect with them via word of mouth. We encourage all people who have experienced bad dates to report them, however, we also approach our work with a non-judgemental attitude and meet women where they are at. We often see women who are at first apprehensive to report bad dates but later decide to as they develop a relationship with the Van and Van staff. In these and other ways the Van is an integral piece of violence prevention for street-based sex workers.

Another major part of what the van does is connects this marginalized community to other services providing information and referrals as requested. In particularly high demand in the current climate in Vancouver are connections to housing teams and providers.

The Van Staff remain very proud of our needle return rate, we actually had more needles returned than we handed out which is quite a rare accomplishment for harm reduction programs. A good return rate is 90%, and last year the WISH MAP Van handed out 108,643 clean needles and exchanged 160,882 used ones. 148% return rate. This is reflective of the harm reduction education the Van staff share with the folks we see, the relationships we build and maintain, and the ability to provide a sense of connection to community.

...From 3am until 6am the WISH MAP Van is the only outreach van on the road operating in Vancouver and is always the only mobile service specifically targeting the needs of sex workers...

Last year, we also secured a donation of three thousand crack pipes thanks to Vancouver Coastal Health! The Van staff assemble them into safer smoking kits and hand them out. After we ran out of our previous supply of donated crack pipes (about one thousand), we were overjoyed to receive more to provide consistent harm reduction supplies to the women that need them the most.

At the beginning of last year, all Van staff were trained on how to use Naloxone kits, which is a simple to use life-saving opiate antidote, muscular injection to be administered in case of opiate overdose. The knowledge we gained about how to respond to overdoses has proven to be exceptionally important as the end of last year saw a serious spike in opiate related overdoses because of the increased presence of fentanyl in other drugs including heroin and cocaine.

2015 had a rough start for the Van staff as they learned of 11 drug-related fatalities in the first 11 weeks of the year. Alarming, these numbers continue to spike despite the BC provincial health officer declaring a public health emergency in April 2016 about the prevalence of overdoses and danger of fentanyl.

We continue to connect women with various addiction services so they can use as safely as possible. As a team, we continue to provide critical supports to women in Vancouver's Sex Trade.

The WISH MAP Van gratefully acknowledges the support of the following:

- Province of BC Ministry of Justice: Victim Services
- City of Vancouver
- MAC AIDS
- The Estate of Marie Langer



MARY SHEARMAN
Mobile Access Project (MAP) Van
Coordinator



WISH MAP Van Team

Aboriginal Health and Safety Project



ALEXANDRIA BEVERLY
Aboriginal Health and Safety
Project Coordinator

In the Aboriginal Health & Safety Program (AHSP) we offer a continuum of culturally-safe services for marginalized, sex-working Aboriginal women who experience multiple challenges and traumas related to the residential school experience, racism and other effects of colonization. We offer cultural learning and individualized support to connect women to their culture and to their sisterhood, and to increase their capacity to resist violence and exploitation. The project is coordinated by Squamish Nation Junior Elder, Alexandria Beverly.

We offer four concurrent levels of programming:

Thursday Nights at the Drop-In

Free, drop-in Aboriginal Evening cultural activities held weekly on Thursday evenings in conjunction with WAVAW at the WISH Drop-In Centre: These are coordinated by the AHSP Coordinator and delivered by a variety of community partners and include low-barrier traditional crafts, singing and drumming. Between 4 and 15 women attend these workshops each night.

Individualized, culturally-safe support

We currently attend to 150 Aboriginal women who are involved in the street-based sex trade. This practical support includes help finding emergency shelter and long-term housing. It can also include accompanying women to medical appointments as well as assistance leaving abusive relationships (with the support of the VPD Sex Trade Liaison).

Women can also receive help navigating the court system, income assistance and other bureaucracies and/or returning to their home communities.

The Aboriginal Culture & Creativity Program

This is a structured daytime studio group that meets twice a week. One part of the program is to explore traditional crafts and cultural practices and to go on culturally-relevant outings. The other part of the program focusses on presenting a decolonised world view and history of Canada, supports the women to define their own Indigeneity and access opportunities to make their own free, healthy and positive choices.

Women who complete 70% of the sessions are honoured in a culturally-specific graduation ceremony. Over the past year we had 24 women attend two sessions of this program.

Button Blanket Group

This group was facilitated by Artists/Mentors: Dimicia Speck and Nicole Smith to teach marginalized Aboriginal women in the street-based sex trade the art of button blanket making and provide opportunities to share their work with their community.

A series of six 6-week sessions of the program were offered at the WISH Drop-In Centre for the year. Groups of 8 women participated in each cycle. Each group met

once per week to design their projects, work on their projects, finish their projects and, finally, participate in opportunities to exhibit their projects.

An exhibit was held in November 2015 at the Gallery Gachet.

The sixth and final group of the year focused on making more elaborate regalia and was open to women from previous sessions who wanted to take their skills to the next level. 30 Women participated in this program over the past year.

The Button Blanket Group is closed for now.

WISH would like to thank Artists/Mentors (and Drop-In Program Assistants) Dimicia Speck and Nicole Smith for the time, energy and creativity they brought to the Button Blanket Group.

WISH would like to thank Artists/Mentors (and Drop-In Program Assistants) Dimicia Speck and Nicole Smith for the time, energy and creativity they brought to the Button Blanket Group.

The Aboriginal health and safety program would like to thank the following Organisations for their support:

- Province of BC's Gaming Policy & Enforcement Branch
- Province of BC's Civil Forfeiture Grants West Vancouver
- United Church Women Grace Memorial United Church
- Anglican Fund for Healing and Reconciliation
- RBC Foundation
- The United Church of Canada Healing Fund, Gifts with Vision Catalogue
- Carrier Sekani Family Services
- First Peoples' Heritage, Language & Culture Council



WISH Learning Centre



BETSY ALKENBRACK, LUCY ALDERSON,
AND CATHERINE MINCHIN.

Now in its 17th year the WISH Learning Centre is a partnership between the WISH Drop In Centre Society and the Community Development and Outreach Department of Capilano University.

The Learning Centre continued to provide a friendly space to learn, create, build leadership skills and explore new possibilities. We mirror women's strengths and offer opportunity to grow. Our most important job is to put learning on the agenda for women at all stages: those who are ready for change, those who are content to stay where they are but love the learning, creativity and comradery that we provide and those who use learning as a form of harm reduction (by being in the Learning Centre, they avoid harmful practices such as using or connecting with violence). It is a place where beautiful things are created by beautiful minds.

Building Leadership skills: Women are encouraged to take leadership at WISH, and a lot of this starts in the Learning Centre. At the monthly *Women's Advisory Group* meetings, women chair meetings, make suggestions for improvements at WISH and learn about programs in the community. They also act as consultants on different issues. This year, they made many suggestions about how to set up the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Women also participated in the annual Murdered and Missing Women's March in February as security and support for participants.

Core Learners: Women who want engage in formal learning are registered as Capilano Students and work with Capilano faculty to develop a learning plan and work to meet their educational goals. This year, we had 24 core learners working on communications, math and computer skills and other upgrading skills. We also worked with another 22 regular participants and approximately 60 other drop in participants. We also work as educational navigators, making women aware of current educational and training pathways.

On-the spot learning: The Learning Centre is also a place where women can come to get on-the-spot learning needs met. They can get help with a form, look up information on the computer, work on a resume for WISH job openings or other community work. We also assist women to make a flyer for an event they are organizing. We are there to support them or refer them to other resources.

Creative Space: Based on research that we did with women in the development of the WISH/Capilano U partnership, the Learning Centre facilitates learning within 5 major themes: being, healing, creating, learning, and leading. Art and creativity are very important modes of expression for women at WISH. As participants have explained, creative expression is a form of relaxation, a way to unwind. It is also a way to reflect and gather thoughts. Creativity also allows women to express beauty and tap into the self that is often protected on the street. This year, we facilitated a variety of art and craft workshops, including oil painting, collage, decoupage, jewellery-making, glass-painting and fabric arts. This year participants took a leadership role, with one teaching crochet and another facilitating a series of "sewing sewcials" where women learned to "up-cycle" or make old clothes into something new.

All of the women's creations, whether they are stories, poetry, opinion pieces, art, crafts or photographs, are showcased in our seasonal newsletter, *WISHful Thinking*. The newsletter also provides news and updates on the Women's Advisory Group meetings, events and programs.

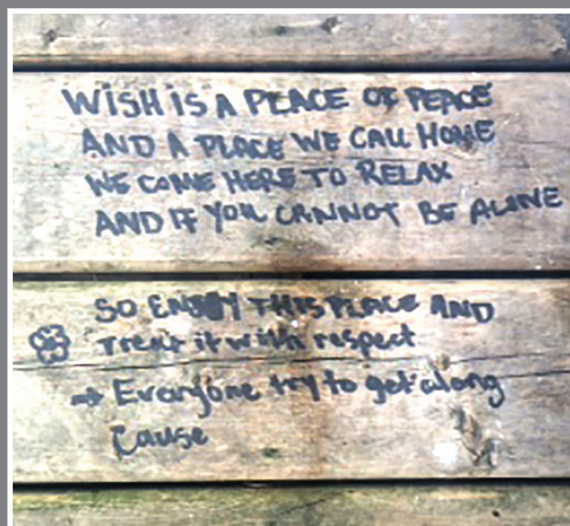
Building Resilient Workers: Eight women from the Peer Safety Patrol and the Peer Volunteer Program volunteered to test a new workbook on health and safety at work developed by the BC Federation of Labour and Decoda Literacy Solutions. Lucy, from the WISH Learning Centre and Eva, Coordinator of the PVP and PSP Programs, worked together to bring this program to WISH. Women found the information interesting and helpful. Lucy and Eva were also impressed with the group's ability to assess hazards and make recommendations. These suggestions will be taken seriously by WISH. The group also had many suggestions for making the book more accessible. When the book is revised, we will offer the course again at WISH.

Micro Enterprise Skills: The Learning Centre has always been known as a place to explore creativity through different arts and crafts. This year, we took it a step further by helping women to turn their crafts into micro-business. Workshops were offered on marketing, costing and other business skills. Women sold some of their work at the WISH Garage Sale and the DTES Women's Market. We also connected some women to the DTES Small Arts Grants and skill workshops.

A Bridge to other organizations: We supported women to reach out to other programs in the community. For example, several women applied for Neighbourhood Small Grants to offer community-building activities at WISH. Several women bridged to programs sponsored by Vancouver Community College and Work BC.

The Learning Centre gratefully acknowledges the support of the following organizations for their support:

- The Hamber Foundation
- Highlands United Church



Supportive Employment Program



EVA URETA
**Supportive Employment
Program Coordinator**

The Supportive Employment Program is an amalgamation of two long standing WISH programs; the Peer Volunteer Program (PVP) and the Peer Safety Patrol (PSP) with the addition of the newly developed Mainstream Employment Program. All participants must be current or former sex workers.

The women we work with identified the desire for mainstream employment but felt the barriers to be insurmountable. Some of those barriers include (but are not limited to) not having held a mainstream job in years, if ever; criminal records preventing employment opportunities; stigma; loss of confidence; near homelessness and homelessness.

The Supportive Employment Program meets women where they are at and supports them as they develop the skills and confidence necessary to eventually enter mainstream employment. In theory, the women start in the Peer Volunteer Program, our lowest-barrier entry point, transition into Peer Safety Patrol when they are ready, and ultimately into Supportive Employment outside of WISH. In practice, women step into the program where they fit the best.

In this current year alone, three women entered the mainstream employment market. We are so proud of these

women, their perseverance and this latest accomplishment.

Eva Ureta, Supportive Employment Program Coordinator, recounts, with their permission, the experiences of two women:

“Miss D was once a regular participant at WISH and after some time she decided it was time to get serious about her life choices: where she was and who she wanted to be. She trained to become a member of the Peer Volunteer Program and set a long-term goal for herself to get off social assistance. Miss D is now employed in a mainstream job in her community and is working on her next goal: becoming a member of Peer Safety Patrol.”

“M.P. was living in a state of crisis by way of addiction and poverty. She wanted to reunite with her family which she had not seen or heard from in years. She reached out to me in a moment of clarity wanting to make a positive change in her life. I met her where she was at that point in her life and supported her in her goal of getting employment with the ultimate goal of reuniting with her mother one day. Within a relatively short period of time, MP graduated from the Peer Safety Patrol training program, attended all her scheduled shifts and socked away enough money to send her mother a

bus ticket. She took some time off of work to parade her mom around town, all expenses paid. I don’t know who was more proud: MP or her mother.

Success in supportive employment is a spectrum and can look like a number of different achievements: proper (safe and clean) housing; access to mental health teams or professionals; working 1 day a week or, perhaps, 1 shift a month; or, saving one pay cheque a year to see their children or attending a family gathering.

In the cases of both M.P. and Miss D, they certainly achieved success. As a result of their determination and perseverance they have a new sense of accomplishment; something they had not felt or known before, or in a long time. This is a feeling they can always call on when faced with any new goal or dream that women set their sights on. In wondering, “Can I do this?” The answer can be a resounding “Yes!”

The Supportive Employment Program gratefully acknowledges the support of the following:

- Province of BC’s Gaming Policy & Enforcement Branch
- Face the World Foundation
- Sprott Foundation
- M.A.C. AIDS FUND

Volunteers at WISH

90 individuals volunteer their time for WISH. The majority of volunteers are on the 'front line' and work directly with our participants in the WISH Drop-In Centre. A few key volunteers also support our mission by helping with fundraising and administration. This year, we even have two male allies who volunteer as a handyperson helping us with small repairs around the building, and with tech support when the Centre is closed.

Volunteers contribute more than 5,000 hours a year to WISH. We have volunteers that have been with us for a few months to volunteers who have been with us for over 10 years.

We cannot stress enough how much we appreciate the support and dedication of our volunteers.

WISH also hosts many students from various programs to participate in our Practicum Student Program. We have long running relationships with schools such as Vancouver Community College, Langara, Douglas College and more, as well as a brand new relationship with the Native Education College.

We believe in supporting student learning so that these students, in turn, can work in the community with a deeper knowledge and understanding of the specific needs of our vulnerable population. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!



SANDRA CHUNG
**Volunteer Coordinator/
Drop-In Centre Supervisor**

Adrienne Lee	Danica Eisworth	Khirsty MacArthur	Rachael Bullock
Aiden Sisler	Elaine Dickson	Kim Chartier	Rachael Inglis
Aja Hann	Emily Coleman	Kim Hayes	Roberta Robertson
Alana Olsen	Emma Watkinson	Lan Yan	Sami Syskakis
Alison Brown	Erin Frew	Lara Peretz	Sara Brown
Alix Wright	Erin Grace	Laurel Grochowski	Sarah Ciarrocchi
Amrit Dhaliwal	Eva McMillan	Lauren Kaye	Sarah Orr
Anita Lo	Genna Fuji Johnson	Leah Newson	Sarchen Starke
Anna Marsh	Hailey Dermott	Lili Maligranda	Savannah Zachary
Ashley Elkin	Hannah Standring	Lynn Van Meer	Sharon Mackay
Aubrie Boyer	Hayden Kannegiesser	Marilyn Werden	Siobhan McCormick
Autumn Hagemann	Helen Trung	Marjan Watt	Sneha Shankar
Betty Wen	Jalisa Karim	Maya Schofield	Sophia Mivasair
Bronwyn McBride	Jill Greenwood	Mia Marshall	Stephanie Irvine
Camille Lyon	Joan Williams	Michelle Matzke	Tara Chan
Cathleen DiFruscio	Joanne Pegusch	Michelle Wesley	Vanessa Lever
Celia Cheng	Jocelyn Le Dressay	Natalie Bolton	Vera Khramova
Celia Pratt (Short Term)	Kaitlyn MacMillan	Natalie Fung	Vera Yuen
Christina Entreklin	Karen D. Berry	Nina Jankovic	Vivian Banh
Claire Ronsley	Katie Tweedie	Nivedha Ravi	Yvette Isparelexi
Clara Van Ommen	Kayan Yu	Paula Mondoux	Zoe Fryklund
Corrie Funk	Kayla Woodruff	Perry Mok	
Dana Larmour	Kelsey Jacobsen	Priya Gill	

A GIFT FROM THE ESTATE OF ANNE LANGER

Anne Langer was born in 1916 in East Prussia and attended university in Berlin. She studied social work and worked for Siemens. At the beginning of World War II, Anne married Harald, an architect. Together they had eight children; four were born in Germany, four in Canada. To escape the Cold War and communism, Anne and Harald moved their family moved to Canada in 1951. Their first decades as new immigrants in Ontario were difficult. However, as their children grew up, graduated from colleges and universities, began work and their own lives, Anne and Harald's life became easier.

Through these years, Anne was a social worker with a focus on art therapy. She worked primarily with youngsters, often meeting with their families to facilitate improved behaviour & communication patterns.

After Anne & Harald retired, they created a pottery business. Anne "threw" a variety of pots, bowls, vases, lamps, etcetera, and Harald became an expert at glazing & firing them. Prior to Christmas each year they held a pottery sale, with the proceeds going to local charities.

In 2000, Anne & Harald moved to Kitsilano, Vancouver. Shortly after celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary in 2004, Harald died.

Anne reached the ripe age of 97, crediting her adventurous & optimistic spirit, and vegetarian lifestyle, for being able



ANNE LANGER

to remain active and engaged until her last days.

Anne decided to donate a third of her final Estate to charity, to "give back". Anne wanted to help those less fortunate. She was particularly concerned about women who did not have the same advantages she and her children had experienced. She instructed her executor to identify one or more non-profit organizations working with such women and their children, hoping that additional financial assistance might help some individuals onto a safer and happier path forward.

WISH Drop-In Centre, and specifically supporting the MAP van outreach operation, fits Anne's wishes very well.

WISH is so grateful to Anne Langer and her family. Anne Langer's thoughtful generosity supported the purchase and customization of the new MAP van.

The purpose of the WISH MAP Van is to increase sex working women's health and safety, particularly in those areas where there are few or no services open late at night. MAP Van staff provide brief respite from the street, coffee, juice and water as well as harm reduction supplies, including condoms and clean needles. They also refer women to emergency shelters, health care services and other supports. WISH is now, thanks to the thoughtful generosity of Anne Langer and her family, confident that this service will continue uninterrupted.



...Anne wanted to help those less fortunate. She was particularly concerned about women who did not have the same advantages she and her children had experienced...

LEGACY, PLANNED, OR ESTATE GIFTS AT WISH

Legacy, planned, or estate gifts provide vital, stable support for our work and whether your estate is large or small, you can make a difference for women in Vancouver, providing hope and stability for years to come.

Over the years, we've learned that every bequest donor is different. Some like to make their gifts in total privacy and anonymity, knowing that the gift will only be revealed after they have died. Others prefer to talk to us beforehand to get information and perhaps some advice on how best to organize their gifts.

Whichever your giving preference, we want you to know that you are more than welcome to reach out to us.

Erin McNeill, Director of Development & Communications
email: wishfundraising@shaw.ca
Phone: 604-669-9474



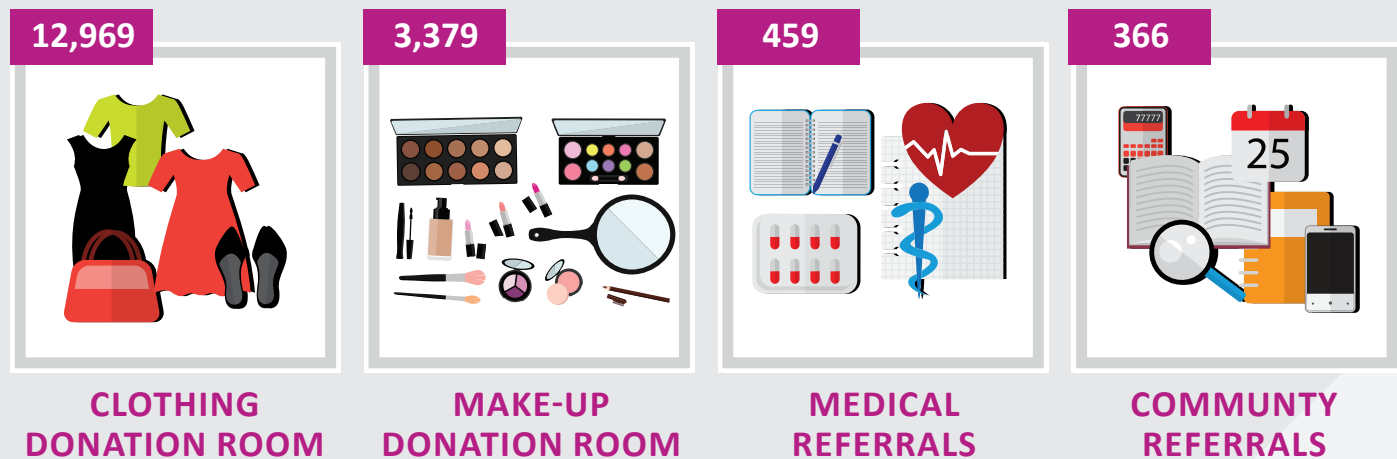
WISH By The Numbers

The Drop-In-Centre, the heart of WISH mission, exists to improve the health and safety of female street based sex workers in Vancouver.

Women drop in between 6pm and noon the following day for a meal or a light snack, cup of coffee and a hot shower, to warm up or dry off depending on the weather, and access programs, services, information and referrals.

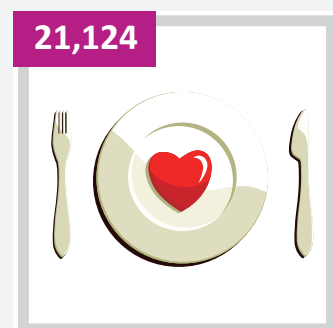
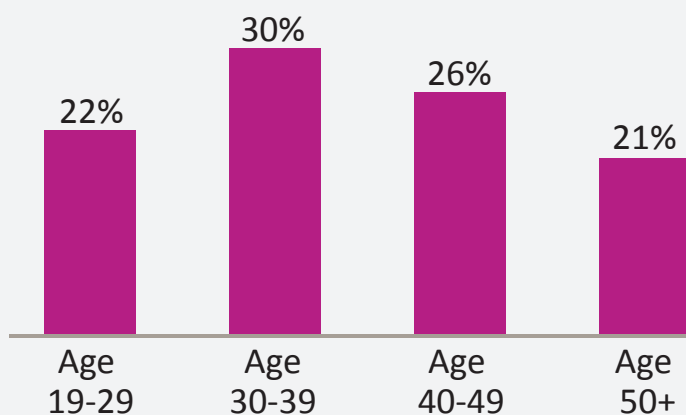
They can also pick out some (new to them) clothes from the donation room or redo their make-up from the make-up counter, visit the nurse on duty, report a bad date, and chat with a friend or make a new friend.

NUMBER OF TIMES SERVICES WERE ACCESSED IN 2015 - 2016



DROP-IN CENTRE STATS 2015 - 2016

AGES OF WOMEN VISITING THE DROP-IN CENTRE



MEALS SERVED

Average of 235 women each day

MAP VAN STATS APRIL 2015 - MARCH 2016

WOMEN SERVED	11,702
USED NEEDLES COLLECTED	180,880
NEW NEEDLES HANDED OUT	108,640
CONDOMS HANDED OUT*	78,640
HEALTH REFERRALS MADE	239
BAD DATE SHEETS HANDED OUT	1,273
SUPPORTS PROVIDED	3,436
REFERRALS TO ADDICTION SERVICES	4,028
REFERRALS TO WISH DROP-IN CENTRE	486
HARM REDUCTION EDUCATION PROVIDED	3,389
CALLS TO SHELTERS LOOKING FOR A BED FOR A WOMAN	57
SUCCESSFUL SHELTER PLACEMENTS	2
CRITICAL INCIDENTS (911 CALLS)	9
BAD DATE REPORTS TAKEN	125
SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS WITH STAFF (INDICATIVE OF TRUST BE- ING ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE WOMAN AND STAFF)	348
DECLARATIONS OF LOVE (# OF TIMES WOMEN EXPRESS LOVE AND APPRECIATION FOR THE MAP VAN STAFF AND SERVICES)	401
* condoms are recorded as per strip: strip equals 4 condoms	

WISH DROP-IN CENTRE SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended March 31	2015	2014
Government Grant Revenue (Schedule 1)		
BC Housing	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,200
Ministry of Justice	231,045	200,000
City of Vancouver	130,000	110,963
Ministry of Finance, Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch	76,000	71,000
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada	5,164	4,833
Total Grants - Government	1,192,209	1,136,996
Non-Government Grant Revenue (Schedule 1)		
Sprott Foundation	25,000	25,000
Face the World Foundation	14,000	10,000
Vancity	10,000	8,000
The Anglican Church of Canada	9,800	8,365
RBC Foundation	7,500	7,500
The United Church of Canada	7,500	-
Other	50	10,833
Total Grants - Non-Government	73,850	69,698
	1,266,059	1,206,694
Other Revenue		
Donations	220,670	227,737
Fundraising - Scotiabank Run	11,629	12,878
Interest	12,087	11,450
Stewardship Programs		
Sex Workers United Against Violence - MAC AIDS Fund	36,073	16,783
Literacy Round Table - Decoda Literacy Solutions	25,800	12,150
Am I Next	1,848	-
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	226,162	139,608
Total Revenue	1,800,328	1,627,300
Expenses (Schedule 1)		
Drop-In Centre	1,023,809	833,705
Wellness Centre	226,162	139,608
Literacy Program	6,480	6,225
Emerging Voices	2,748	2,041
Organizational Support	168,750	175,754
Mobile Access Project	262,470	246,658
Aboriginal Health and Safety Program	54,890	61,164
Peer Volunteer Program	11,194	5,341
Peer Security Program	87,234	67,921
Change in Our Backyard	30,845	16,413
Stewardship Programs	63,721	29,539
Less: Administration Recovery	(122,997)	(88,555)
Total Expenses	1,815,306	1,495,814
Deficiency (Excess) of Revenue over Expenses	\$ (14,978)	\$ 131,486

MISSION

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.

VISION

The vision of WISH is that every woman should have access to opportunities to make free, healthy and positive choices.

CORE VALUES

Acceptance, Caring, Dignity, Respect

UNCEDDED TERRITORY

WISH acknowledges that the land on which we operate is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkwəṣ Stó:lō and Sə ətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

POLICY OF TRANS-INCLUSION

WISH recognises that gender identity and expression is complex and welcomes street-based sex working individuals, who identify as a woman, regardless of their sex, gender presentation and medical transition status, to access our services. Throughout this document when we refer to "women" we mean an individual's gender identity and expression.

HARM REDUCTION AND SEX WORK

While drug use is not allowed in the Drop-In Centre to maintain the safety of staff and participants, the WISH MAP Van does distribute harm reduction supplies and collects used needles out in the community and especially overnight when the women are working and few other services are available.

We do support our participants' safety by providing them with services and resources that reduce the harms of sex work while promoting social justice and fostering self-determination.



*Drum making workshop,
Aboriginal Health and Safety Program*



Button blanket



*Regalia Workshop,
Aboriginal Health and Safety Program*



WISH

Drop-In Centre Society

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