

WISH Drop-In Centre Society

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WISH Newsletter • Spring 2018



Jenn McGinn (Vice Chair)
& Alem Beyene-Clark.
Walk with WISH on June 24th!

THE RIGHT DIRECTION: LONG TIME STAFF AND AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!



Long-time volunteer and dedicated friend of WISH, **Nivedha Ravi** is someone worth knowing.

With a background in the sciences, and a desire to go into medicine, Nivedha reached out... and we couldn't be more pleased that she did.

She is always present, genuine and hardworking—the qualities of the perfect WISH volunteer.

Working mainly in the Supportive Employment Program, Nivedha describes WISH's make-up room like a barber-shop: social, relaxed, and full of talk. On this particular day, she and another woman sorted make-up and began to chat.

As they spent time getting to know each other, this woman had opened-up and shared intimate and poignant life stories. Even though worlds apart, Nivedha, a Sri Lankan immigrant, and her new friend- a street-based sex worker, couldn't have felt closer that day.

Thank you for always caring Nivedha. You are one very special volunteer.

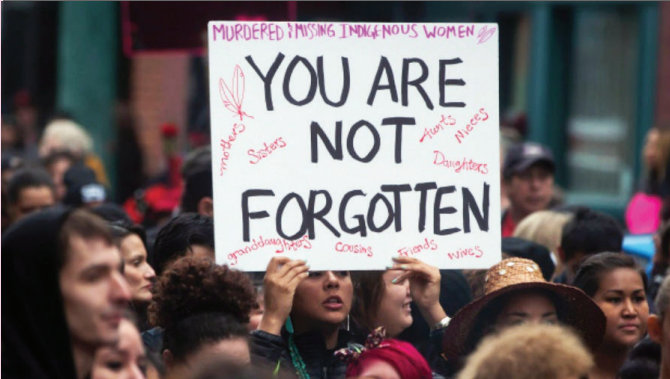
"Listening to participants' experiences and sharing time with them has been a privilege..."

After 18 years with WISH, our very dear **Catherine Minchin** is ready for retirement. We send her off with love and appreciation for everything she has done as the longest-serving Program Assistant (PA) in our Drop-In Centre. Our PA's are the heart & soul of our organization. They are the frontline of WISH, and care for participants in the most meaningful of ways.

Catherine's unique qualities are her loyalty, her exemplary work record, and her patience and humour with everyone she encounters. Her skills are particularly important at WISH, as our staff interact daily with women who are surviving/have survived traumas like: homelessness, hunger, loss of family, addictions, abuse, violence, racism and stigma. Thank you, Catherine, for teaching us so much.



THE NATIONAL INQUIRY: HEARING FROM INDIGENOUS SEX WORKERS

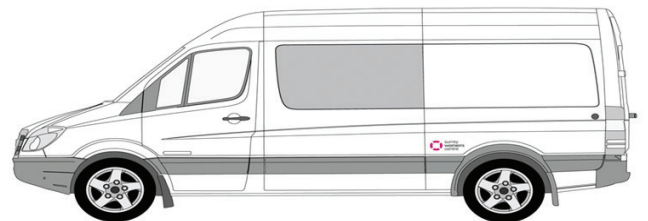


Over 50% of the participants at WISH are Indigenous. Therefore, we are keenly interested in the developments surrounding the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and will support and advocate for Indigenous sex working women's ability to safely and accessibly provide their statements. In partnership with Pivot, PACE, and SWUAV, WISH has standing at the Inquiry and have formed a collective to ensure that the voices of Indigenous women who engage in sex work is heard. In service of the Collective, Indigenous women at the four organizations have organized themselves into an Indigenous Caucus that will lead the Collective in ensuring that Indigenous sex workers are able to make statements and share their experiences in a culturally-appropriate, safe, and accessible way. We are proud to take direction from our Indigenous sisters in ensuring these voices are respected and not further silenced.

SMART VAN AT SURREY WOMEN'S CENTRE

Modelled after WISH's MAP Van, Surrey Women's Centre (SWC) has put its own specialized outreach van on the road! Equipped with harm reduction supplies, a medical station, emergency response workers, a help board, and other personal safety features - this is the first of its kind in Surrey. After just a few weeks on the road, "bad date" reports submitted to WISH doubled showing how much that service is needed.

We know that women are feeling a greater sense of safety and security. WISH looks forward to helping to train and further develop the SMART van program at SWC.



DEWC TEMPORARY SHELTER

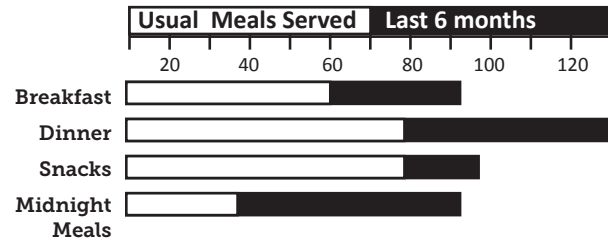
Doors have opened at the new Downtown Eastside Women's Centre shelter space, next door to WISH. This is an emergency space for women and is open overnight from Monday to Friday and open 24 hours on the weekend. This newly renovated space will provide an opportunity to create up to 20 new shelter spaces – a 25% increase in capacity – while providing a unique service model where women will access meals, health, income, and housing support onsite. We're pleased to have DEWC as our temporary neighbours and pleased to continue to collaboratively increase the health and safety of women in the Downtown Eastside.

THE RIGHT DIRECTION : STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY AT WISH!

Did You Know?



EVERY DAY, WISH serves food to 300-400 women. Those numbers are increasing.



Food security is something we provide women at WISH. With more and more women needing our services, how do we manage the growing demand? YOUR support is a critical part of our sustainability. Here's what your gift means:

\$25



10 pouches of pureed fruits and vegetables, an important source of nutrition for women who haven't got teeth to process harder foods. Snacks like these are given out by the MAP Van , 7 nights a week.

\$100



One box of lettuce and tomatoes for one week. We often struggle to afford and offer fresh veggies to our participants. WISH is often the only place women can find a nutritious meal.

\$500



One holiday meal for 200+ women. Always at capacity, holiday meals deeply impact our participants. Many women are without families, and we celebrate these occasions with them by providing themed treats, and arts and crafts.

\$1500



Kitchen staff payroll for one week. One full time cook and 10 hours of prep-staff, are critical WISH expenditures. Without staff, we cannot feed our participants.

\$3500



Hot dinners every night for 2 ½ weeks. Each dinner at WISH costs us \$1.32. We are serving approximately 150 dinners per night. This gift level ensures 2 ½ weeks of hot dinners.

Eight jugs of milk (4 liters = 1 large jug). Milk is one of our most costly food expenses, but a good source of protein and calcium for our participants. WISH goes through approximately 18 jugs a week.

\$50



13 bulk-sized canisters of hot chocolate. Street-based sex work is incredibly difficult and isolating work. Getting warm drinks to women at night is a part of the outreach we do at WISH through our MAP Van.

\$200



Small appliances purchase. Appliances that we need include: a microwave, a large restaurant-grade colander, two 8-piece toasters, and a commercial flat-top griddle.

\$1000



Training and pay for 20 women for 500 hours in the Peer Volunteer Program. The program supports women in their pursuit of a mainstream career and job skills. Stage 2 of the program involves integrating into the WISH culture. In this case, the kitchen.

\$2500



One new large freezer. Having never been replaced, WISH's restaurant-grade freezer is now on its last legs. We depend daily on cool storage for all perishable items to remain Foodsafe.

\$5000



DONATE TODAY AT WISH-VANCOUVER.NET

THE RIGHT DIRECTION: EVENTS!

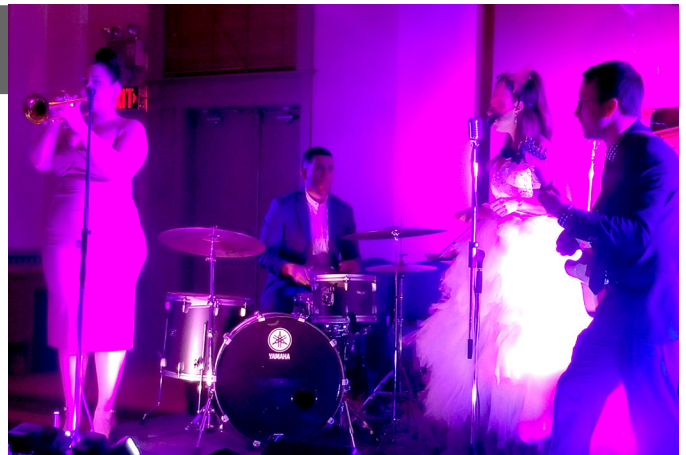


ALLEGRA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

On March 2, 2018, we were gifted with a most beautiful experience. **Allegra Chamber Orchestra** and friends, in partnership with **Music Heals Canada**, held a fundraiser in honour of WISH's Music Therapy program. It truly was our privilege to be in the presence of such skilled musicians. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for event listings like these!

ODDFELLOW'S SOCIETY LODGE 8

This amazing philanthropic group threw a great Mardi Gras party in February to raise funds for WISH. We were impressed by their mission to promote good will and harmony amongst peoples, holding the belief that all people regardless of race, nationality, religion, social status, and gender are valued as brothers and sisters. We were equally impressed by the great turnout and the phenomenal band: **T Riley and the Bourbon Rebels**.

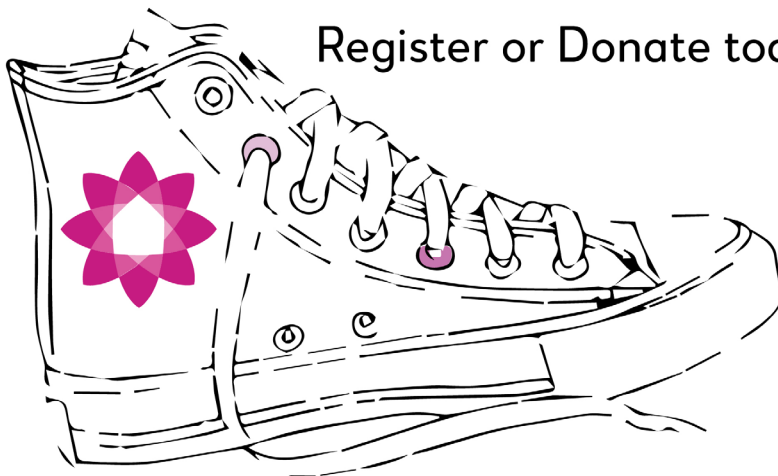


ANNUAL SCOTIABANK CHARITY CHALLENGE: JUNE 24!

PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD FOR WISH!

We created a team for the 2018 Scotiabank Charity Challenge 5K/Half Marathon

Register or Donate today at bit.ly/WISH-Team



Use code 18WISH5K for 5K Run/Walk
or code 18WISH21K for Half Marathon