



WISH Drop-In
Centre Society
Celebrating 35 Years of Supporting Sex Workers

FALL/WINTER
2019



“ BECAUSE OF WISH...

*“My life has become so much better. I have a home.
I have a job. I have my self esteem. My family came
into my life again. That’s... because of WISH.”*

I Learned to Trust Again

"The Aboriginal Health & Safety Program (AHSP) helps us learn to talk about all the trauma we went through. This group is a place of friendship and comfort, where I learned to trust other women."

AHSP participants say that the program gives them the confidence to mend relationships with family members, take on new educational opportunities, find work as Peer Outreach Workers, and explore their respective cultures further.

Said one participant, "I learned a lot about my culture that I never knew growing up. I hope they learn from me the good ways in life."

“One of my goals is to make myself a better person, and pass what I learned here onto my children.”

I Can Express Myself

"I love Music Therapy. It gives us the ability to express ourselves. It's a place of diversity, inclusion and respect, and I really appreciate that."

"We sing songs that fit our moods, so whatever we're going through – there's something that matches what we're feeling. To me – to be able to do that – is pretty awesome!"

“Singing gives me an avenue to feel or not feel.”

I Got the Help I Needed

Women can develop their personal progress plans in our Transitions program. "19 years ago, when I was 80 pounds and on the street from heroin, my life was really rough, and I wanted a way out. There was a time when I thought being a sex-worker was the best thing, and there was a time I just wanted to get away from it" remembers Sara. Now in the Transitions Program, Sara has been able to access ongoing support, as well as work on and share skills through facilitating activities for her peers. "I'm so grateful for WISH and the Transitions Program."

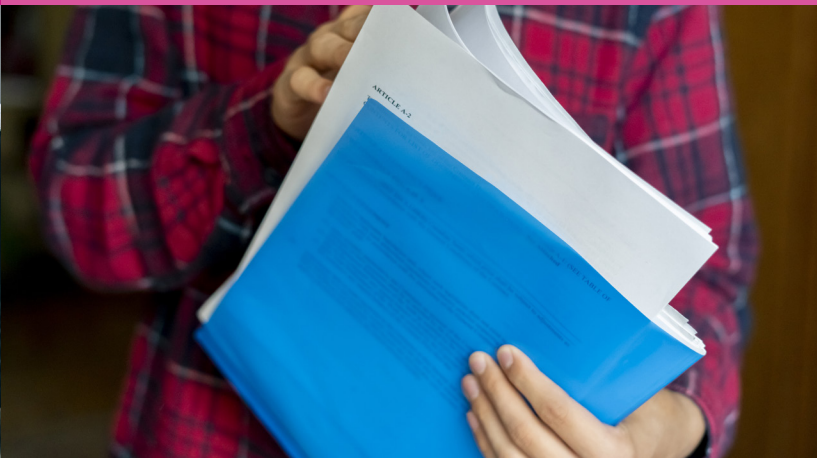
“You have been so supportive of me – helping me when I needed it most.”

I Have a Job and a Family

"Being a sex worker in the community, this place has really helped me to transition from sex work to a more structured life through employment and being able to integrate with a society that's still allowing me to do what I want to do as far as sex work. The Supportive Employment Program lets you transition into having a job here and working with the women and giving back."

"WISH gave me a safe place. Being homeless at one point in my life, WISH provided a place for me to come and feel at home. It's shown me love. We are exposed to a lot of hatred and discrimination in the community. All the women who come here face marginalization."

“When I found WISH, I walked in the doors and saw that everybody here is like my family...”



\$250

Five women can earn safe, stable income by working a Drop-In shift in the Supportive Employment program.

\$500

Ten women can reconnect with their Indigenous culture through two months of programs.

\$750

Helps 50 women upgrade their financial or computer skills, get help with their resumes, or write stories, poems and songs during one month of customized literacy programming in the Learning Centre.

\$1,000

Ten women can sing their hearts out at Music Therapy sessions in the Drop-In Centre.

\$2,500

Pays for one year of fuel for the MAP Van, providing critical front-line support to women where they work, 365 nights a year.



DOUBLE YOUR GIVING POWER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

WISH is very fortunate again this year to have received an offer from a generous donor to double your donations. From December 1 to January 31, every donation of \$250 or more will be matched – dollar for dollar – by an anonymous, long-time donor. With a Matching Donation you can DOUBLE the number of women you help with your gift. *

*All donations are needed and appreciated – regardless of the amount. If donating \$250 on your own sounds intimidating, you can always pool donations with your friends to reach \$250 or more. Your donation will still be eligible for our matching program, thereby doubling the impact of your support.



Thank you for showing up, listening, and donating at WISH Up-Close on September 21st. Collectively, you donated a whopping \$18,000 to the Supportive Employment Program. This incredible program provides women with low-barrier employment opportunities within the safe, non-judgmental environment of WISH.

Special guest speaker Libby Davies, a long-time former MP, author, and activist inspired us with the following message. "For all of you who are in the room today who obviously care about this issue... what you're doing is so incredibly important. These issues are big and complex. It is that sense that what we do is bigger than ourselves. It's about taking on these systemic issues – whether it's racism – whether its homophobia



Libby Davies speaking at WISH Up-Close.

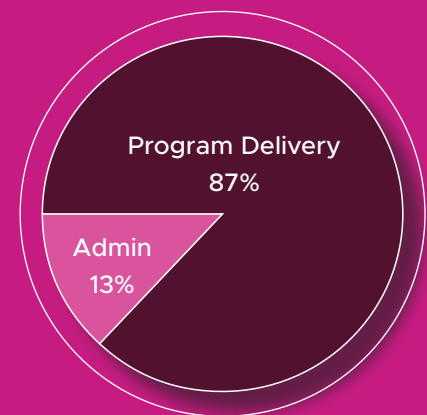
"For all of you who are in the room today who obviously care about this issue... what you're doing is so incredibly important."

– whether it's the stigma about sex work. Whatever it might be. It's when we work together and build those alliances that we feel the power that we have to make that transformative change."

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

Every dollar you give is important to us, and we are committed to spend your donations in the most effective, efficient way – improving the health, safety and well-being of women involved in Vancouver's street-based sex trade.

Program Delivery	\$	1,872,102	(87%)
Admin	\$	270,878	(13%)



HOW WILL YOU BE REMEMBERED?

Leaving a gift in your will to WISH is an incredible opportunity to ensure that women who struggle with homeless, poverty, violence, and the stigma that comes from their involvement in street-based sex work have somewhere to turn for help, even after you're gone. Anyone can make a bequest – it's no longer something that only 'wealthy' people do.

And, for your kindness, we'll always remember you. To learn how easy it is to leave a legacy gift to WISH, please call us at 604.669.9474

