



Vancity donates \$1.2 Million to Streetohome for Taylor Manor renovation

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From L-R: Nancy Keough, The Kettle Friendship Society, Virginia Weiler, Vancity Board Chair, Penny Ballem, City of Vancouver, Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, Judy Graves, City of Vancouver, Dick Vollet, President of Streetohome, and Vancouver City Coun. Kerry Jang (photo Jason Lang)

On June 29, 2012, Streetohome Foundation announced a generous donation of \$1.2 Million from Vancity Credit Union in support of the renovation of Taylor Manor. The Carraressi Foundation also made a significant donation of \$200,000 to the project. The building, which was constructed in 1915 by the City of Vancouver, is located at Boundary and Adanac. The renewal of this heritage building is also supported through a partnership with the City of Vancouver, and will provide 56 supported housing units and facilities for homeless people with mental illness and addictions.

"Safe, supportive housing is a key driver of self-reliance for individuals, and community well-being," said Virginia Weiler, Chair of Vancity's Board of Directors. **"Taylor Manor is a great example of how we can come together and put money to good to help build vibrant, healthy communities that can**

thrive and prosper."

"Streetohome is dedicated to building capacity within the housing continuum for homeless individuals living with mental illness and addictions," said Dick Vollet, President of Streetohome Foundation. **"Taylor Manor will provide the types of programs and support that people who are at great risk of chronic homelessness need in order to maintain their housing and establish stability in their lives."**

We are very appreciative of this generous contribution from Vancity, which reflects the vision of its members and employees, as well as its CEO Tamara Vrooman, who has been very supportive of Streetohome from its inception as a founding Board Member.

Taylor Manor will be operated by The Kettle Friendship Society, a well-respected and experienced service

provider working with people with mental health challenges since 1976. They will offer residents an opportunity to live independently with a tenant-centred philosophy of creating individualized goals, support and services. The Kettle also honours their tenants' social, spiritual and personal growth. The program allows residents to build life skills such as shopping, cooking, and cleaning, and encourages group activities including gardening, swimming, art, and music through their Enhanced Model programming.

"The Kettle is thrilled to be chosen to operate this supportive housing facility," said Nancy Keough, Executive Director of The Kettle Friendship Society. **"We see our vision of bringing safe and secure housing across Vancouver becoming a reality, and we are excited to be part of this wonderful community."**

City of Vancouver's 2012 Homeless Count shows that we must maintain the momentum

When the City of Vancouver conducted their latest homeless count on March 27, 2012, Streethome was proud to be part of the data collection. The count was positive on one hand, because the data showed us that the number of homeless people overall has stayed relatively the same since 2008. On the other hand, it also showed that the number of people sleeping on the street has doubled. This was not a good sign for the organizations that work diligently to help solve homelessness through the Housing First and other low-barrier models.

As many of you know, since Streethome created its 10-Year Plan in 2008 we have invested in the creation of more than 1,000 new units for youth, families and adults. With some of these projects completed, and others still in development, we are able to provide safe, supportive housing for people in need so that the number of people sleeping in the streets continues to go down over the next few years, as the remaining projects are completed.

The key to success is the supports provided within the housing projects. A report published in March 2012 entitled BC Health of the Homeless Report, by Dr. Michael Krausz, provided survey results showing that 93 percent of people affected by homelessness have a current mental disorder, 86 percent experienced trauma in their lifetime, and 83 percent experience a substance use disorder. Therefore, the relationship between homelessness and health is crucial and treatment for mental illness is essential to

Demographic data

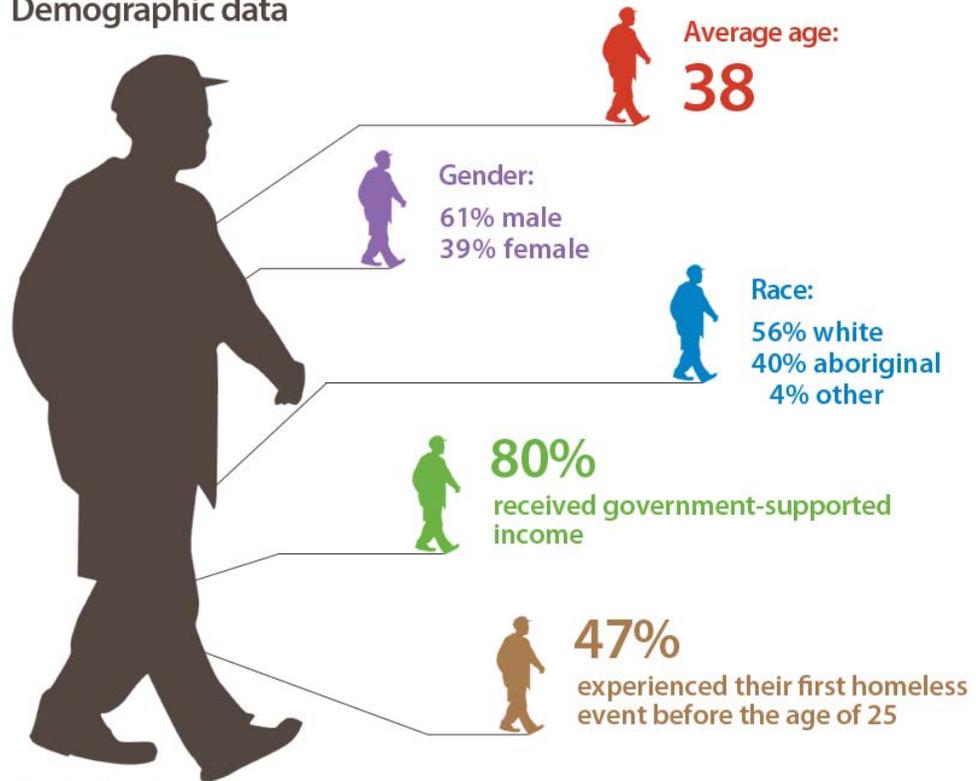


Image from City of Vancouver
500 homeless individuals in British Columbia; from Vancouver (n=250), Victoria (n=150), and Prince George (n=100) were surveyed about their health and mental health.

effective care for the most vulnerable.

The BC Health of the Homeless Report was able to fill many of the gaps that exist in our knowledge about homeless individuals living in B.C. and provide evidence to support positive change in this important issue. As part of its strategy to solve homelessness in Vancouver, the City of Vancouver has adopted these key recommendations from Dr. Krausz' report:

- Treatment for mental health, addiction and trauma should be made a priority at all levels of care
- Low barrier treatment and easy access to primary care, mental health and addiction services, case management, and crisis intervention
- Early support for childhood trauma – family intervention and prevention for

trauma and re-traumatization

- Support for drug users in vulnerable populations – immediate access to detoxification and substitution treatment services in addition to counseling and case management
- Care for severe and persistent mental illnesses – supported community housing, intensive case management and crisis intervention

As we continue to work together, we need to realize that no one group can achieve success on their own. It's an ongoing effort, and we all need to collaborate, until people living on the streets and with concurrent disorders are housed appropriately.

A Message From Dick Vollet

A Final Message from the President of Streetohome Foundation



As I write this message I am reminded of all the great things so many people have done to make the Streetohome Foundation what it is today. I feel privileged to have spent the past 2-1/2 years moving the vision from discussion into what is today, a reality. Streetohome Foundation has witnessed growing support from a dedicated and caring group of philanthropic individuals and organizations. I am confident this great work will continue, and the relationships

formed will only grow stronger over time.

Today we are on the verge of seeing some of the biggest changes in the past few decades, in the world of homelessness and supportive housing. There is openness to working together, sharing information and ideas, and finding new ways to solve homelessness in our communities. I would like to think Streetohome Foundation helped facilitate this openness. It certainly has been able to establish a neutral environment where "like minded" people can come together to discuss new ideas.

My time at Streetohome Foundation was very enjoyable, as was working with the Board of Directors, the staff, and

getting to know the people who are making a difference for those marginalized individuals in our community.

I can only hope the momentum towards solving homelessness long-term continues and gains support from business leaders, private citizens and others who see the value in the work being done. Creating capacity in a fragile housing continuum is critical to stabilizing the homeless population within our communities, and providing the hope that there is a better way.

Thank you to the many people who supported me personally, as well as the Streetohome Foundation.

Until our paths cross again,

**Dick Vollet, President & CEO
Streetohome Foundation**

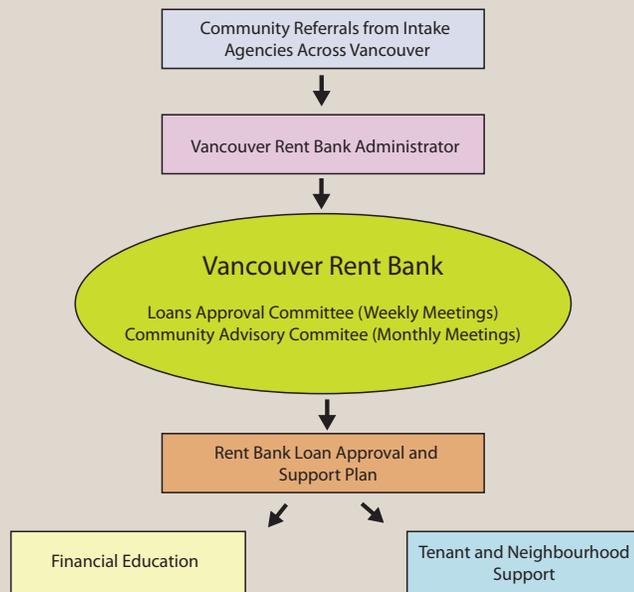
Streetohome Foundation supports Vancouver's First Rent Bank

Through collaboration with the Network for Inner City Community Service Society (NICCSS), the City of Vancouver, Vancity Community Foundation and UBC, Streetohome is proud to announce our involvement in the Vancouver Rent Bank project!

The Vancouver Rent Bank will provide emergency interest-free loans for Vancouver residents facing eviction from their homes or essential utility cutoff due to short-term financial crisis. The goal of the project is to reduce the high cost of homelessness by providing an option to renters in temporary crisis.

This exciting and innovative project, along with the support of community partners, will not only provide short-term financial solutions, but also financial literacy training and connections to other support services within Vancouver.

Through a generous donation provided by the Radcliffe Foundation, Streetohome is excited to announce our support of the Vancouver Rent Bank through our three year commitment to the capital portion of the project. Launching in fall 2012, we look forward to sharing in the success of the Vancouver Rent Bank with the Radcliffe Foundation, our partners, and the families who immensely need the financial assistance.



Donor profile – Q & A with Kasondra Cohen

Bridging Great Ideas with a Touch of Glamour

Kasondra Cohen is the President of the Face of Today Foundation, a public foundation committed to helping underprivileged aspiring leaders achieve success. Kasondra's mom is Jacqui Cohen, President and CEO of Army and Navy Department Stores and President of the Face of the World Foundation, and Kasondra's inspiration and a great example to her for running a successful foundation. As a supporter of Streethome Foundation's youth-focused initiatives, we thought we would find out more about Kasondra, get the inside scoop about her organization, and ask her why her Board of Directors chose to give to Streethome Foundation.

1. What types of projects does Face of Today give money to?

We give money to projects and organizations that empower youth. The demographic of our charitable giving is youth from 16 to 25 years of age, which is unique because we are about creating that next step for youth. Most organizations only serve youth to age 18, but then what happens to you? Some youth end up getting lost after 18.

2. Why did Face of Today decide to give to Streethome?

We gave to Streethome because we love what you do. Getting involved with youth, building housing, helping eliminate poverty on the streets, the relationships that you have made. And I think you have a really good network of supporters that believe in you.

3. What are some of the things that you've learned from your mom?

My mom likes quality over quantity, and building close

relationships, and I've learned to appreciate the same things. She has also taught me how important it is to give back to the community and to make a difference.

4. Why did you start the Face of Today Foundation?

I believe that everyone deserves the chance for success and to be able to achieve their highest goals. No matter who you are, we all have dreams and that's why our slogan is turn your dreams into reality – we want to make that happen for underprivileged youth.

5. What are some of the lessons you've learned from starting a foundation?

There have been so many. One big thing I can say is that starting a charity is not as easy as people think. And if people asked me if I would start a charity again right now, I would say yes because it's absolutely the most rewarding feeling you can have from making a difference, but considering everything else going on in the world, I don't know if it would have taken off in the exact same direction. It takes a lot of time and work for people to believe in your idea and vision.



about streethome

Streethome Foundation is a community organization working to ensure that all citizens of Vancouver have access to safe, decent, affordable housing.

We bring together business, government and community leaders to build resources and develop lasting solutions to homelessness.

Everyone has a role to play.

What can **you** do to help? Be **part** of the solution.

Find out how you can be part of the solution at

www.streethome.org

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