

People Families

Communities



Creating Brighter Futures

DOMINGA MOVED TO CANADA IN 1985 TO ESCAPE PERSECUTION IN HER HOME COUNTRY OF EL SALVADOR. GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS, SHE HOPED TO FIND PEACE AND A BETTER LIFE IN HER NEW HOME IN VANCOUVER. A SEAMSTRESS BY TRADE, SHE COMPLETED ESL TRAINING AND SOON FOUND WORK IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY.

Life for Dominga was good, she did indeed find peace and happiness. She was a hard worker and was able to earn enough money to support herself, her daughter and her young granddaughter.

In 2003, the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement was reaching the garment industry, and Dominga, now in her late 50's, was laid off. Strong and fiercely independent, she had prepared for such a rainy day by diligently saving as she worked. For the next five years she spent every day looking for work. Having no success, she began to believe her age was the barrier.

Discouraged, and with her savings exhausted, she had no option but to turn to government assistance. She was referred to Family Services of Greater Vancouver's Community Access Program (CAP) for Women in late 2008.

Soon after connecting with the staff in CAP, Dominga says her life began to turn around. Most importantly, in her view, the staff truly listened to her and supported her through one to one sessions. They helped her find a doctor to deal with her underlying health issues. She began to attend weekly group support sessions that focused on a wide range of issues such as anger management, nutrition, communication, dealing with stress and parenting.

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FAMILY SERVICES OF GREATER VANCOUVER

Spring 2010

Family Services of Greater Vancouver
*Strengthening people, families and
communities since 1928*

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Message from the CEO

As you read this, the 2010 Olympics will be in full swing and the world will be watching. Literally billions of people around the world will tune into their televisions to watch the competition and catch a glimpse of this beautiful country. With tens of thousands of people visiting the city – athletes, media and spectators – it's going to be an exciting event.

Family Services of Greater Vancouver will continue to provide service to our clients and the community throughout the Olympics. Each of our programs has an operational plan in place, and all of our sites will be open and staffed during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Within the operational plans, we've also managed to meet our commitment to VANOC to reduce our vehicular travel by at least 30 percent during the Olympics.

We are also working closely with our Board to be a strong voice for the people we serve. We are focusing on three priority areas: the impact of family violence on the lives of women and children, the need to eliminate youth homelessness, and the vital importance of the social service sector in ensuring that the necessary social supports are available to people, particularly during these tough economic times.

Given the current state of the economy, we do expect funding challenges to continue in the coming year. In anticipation of these, we are reviewing our budgets and creating business plans to ensure that we can continue to deliver quality services to those who need our help.

I know that once again we will be able to rely on our generous donors who will rise to the challenge so that the people who come to Family Services for help won't be turned away. From the bottom of my heart, I can't thank you enough.

Teri Nicholas, CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Ken Werker

Chief Executive Officer

Teri Nicholas, MSW, RSW



Back Row (L to R): Chris Sanderson, Sarah Boon, Joanne Hausch, Andrew Medd, Neil Hershfield, Michael Wallberg, Peter Kafka

Front Row (L to R): Caroline Campbell, Teri Nicholas, Anthony Ostler, Karen Choi

This newsletter is published by the Communications Department at Family Services of Greater Vancouver. Please submit your questions, comments or story ideas to Anita Deiter at adeiter@fsgv.ca.

If you would like to update your mailing address, please contact Annastasia at 604.731.4951 or apalubiski@fsgv.ca.



“In Our Shoes” Giving Homeless Youth a Voice

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE YOUNG AND ON THE STREET? **INOUSHOES.CA** IS A WEBSITE THAT SHARES THE SELF-TOLD STORIES OF 10 HOMELESS YOUTH, GIVING THEM A CHANCE TO TELL THE WORLD ABOUT HOW THEY ENDED UP ON THE STREET AND ABOUT THEIR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE. THE WEBSITE IS PART OF THE **IN OUR SHOES** CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ISSUE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS. THE CAMPAIGN, WHICH LAUNCHED SEPTEMBER 2009, WAS CREATED BY VANCOUVER'S HOMELESS YOUTH IN CONCERT WITH DIRECTIONS YOUTH SERVICES AND RETHINK COMMUNICATIONS.



The website invites viewers to “walk with Vancouver’s homeless youth and experience their world first hand”. The campaign kicked off in September with six groups, including Mayor Gregor Robertson, walking a mile with homeless youth involved in the project. The campaign also includes transit posters and post cards with images and stories of homeless youth.

In addition to providing a voice for youth, the idea behind the project was to engage the community on youth homelessness. By raising awareness, the project aims to build capacity within the broader community in order to help to support youth who are ready to make a change.



“This is more than raising more funding for services,” says Renata Aebi of Directions Youth Services, “we want it to bring other partners to the table, to invite the community in. We often ask the youth we deal with ‘what else are you, other than homeless?’. Each one of them has dreams and hopes for the future. This campaign is about building capacity, so that when a youth is ready to take the next step, we’ve built a network they can turn to, so they will be able to connect with the organizations that can help them make that change”.

The In Our Shoes project started two years ago with an idea for a poster campaign, it was the youth who drove the idea of the website. Colin Ford, Media Programs Facilitator at Directions directed the videos and worked with each of the youth as they filmed their own stories.

While the vision for the project came from the staff at Directions, it was the creative team of Rethink Communications who brought it to life. The Rethink team was led by one of the firms founding partners, Tom Shepansky.

Rethink generously donated their time, covering the cost of the entire campaign. “Their contribution to Directions through this campaign exceeds \$200 thousand,” says Aebi, “we couldn’t have made this happen without them”.

Rethink is an agency that describes their role for clients as creating “work that gets talked about”. That’s certainly been the case for In Our Shoes. The September launch drew considerable media attention, raising the awareness of youth homelessness.

Check out inourshoes.ca and find out how you can become involved.

Canaccord Finalist for Giving Hearts Award

CONGRATULATIONS TO CANACCORD CAPITAL INC., NAMED A 2009 GIVING HEARTS AWARD FINALIST FOR OUTSTANDING CORPORATION. THE GIVING HEARTS AWARD PROGRAM ACKNOWLEDGES INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, GROUPS, AND CORPORATIONS WHO HAVE MADE AN EXCEPTIONAL DIFFERENCE TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THEIR GENEROSITY.

Contributing countless hours in volunteer time and donating significant funds to support a variety of programs over the past 25 years, Canaccord and its staff have truly made a difference. Senior vice president, Anthony Ostler, is currently the Chair of our board of directors, a role that involves considerable hours of volunteer service. The firm has also long been a sponsor of our 'Walk for a Child' events raising funds to provide services for vulnerable children.

More recently, Canaccord played a significant role in fundraising for our 'Building Tomorrows' campaign to purchase a new building - The Joanne Brown Centre for Families. The leaders and staff at Canaccord genuinely care about the mission of Family Services of Greater Vancouver. They have demonstrated their commitment through their years of donated time and financial support.

Celebrating National Adoption Month



Designed and created by Joanne Reagh, the adoption journey quilt made its debut during Adoption Awareness Month's Open House.

More than 76,000 children in Canada are waiting to be adopted into loving homes. Since 1997 Family Services of Greater Vancouver has been helping to match children with loving families. The FSGV adoption agency arranges adoptions within British Columbia and from other provinces in Canada, and has also facilitated relative and orphan inter-country adoptions. The agency also provides counselling and adoption services to birth parents and adoptive parents.

During National Adoption Month in November the agency hosted a number of special events to raise awareness and to reach out to prospective parents in order to help build families. The events included an open house and information evenings with guest speakers on open adoption, post adoption support and inter country relative adoptions.

Legacy Gifts Ensure Hope For the Future

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A LEGACY GIFT AS PART OF YOUR WILL? LEGACY GIFTS PROVIDE LONG TERM, DEPENDABLE SUPPORT THAT CAN ENSURE THE IMPORTANT WORK OF STRENGTHENING PEOPLE, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES WILL CONTINUE FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW.

YOUR GIFT CAN BE:

- A bequest in your will, naming Family Services of Greater Vancouver as a beneficiary. Your gift may take the form of a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate. A bequest allows you to make a significant gift from assets that are tied up during your lifetime.
- A life insurance policy, RRSP or security. You can name Family Services of Greater Vancouver as a direct beneficiary. This allows your gift to be passed on without probate fees, and your estate will be issued a charitable receipt.
- Creating or contributing to an Endowment Fund can provide long-term support to Family Services of Greater Vancouver (FSGV) through the fund's interest, while the original capital is preserved in perpetuity. You may choose to set up your own endowed fund, or contribute to our existing Family and Children's Foundation.

Full Legal Name: Family Services of Greater Vancouver
Charity Number: 11891-3102-RR0001




We would be pleased to discuss other options with you as well. If you are planning to make a legacy gift to FSGV, please contact us to ensure your gift will fulfill your intentions. For more information, please contact Anastasia Palubiski at 604.731.4951 ext 4025 or apalubiski@fsgv.ca.

The purpose of this information is to provide general information and not to give legal advice. You should always consult with your advisors before making any significant gifts.

A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Most Recent Donors

Family Services of Greater Vancouver would like to thank everyone who has contributed towards our mission of strengthening people, families and communities. We especially wish to recognize those individuals, businesses and foundations who most recently contributed or pledged a one-time gift or total monthly contribution of \$1,000 or more between September 1st, 2009 and December 31st, 2009:

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

-  **PLATINUM \$100,000+**
 - BC Social Venture Partners
 - United Way of the Lower Mainland
 - Vancity
 - Vancouver Foundation
-  **Gold \$50,000+**
 - BC Hydro
 - CKNW Orphans' Fund
-  **SILVER \$10,000+**
 - Anonymous
 - Blake, Cassells & Graydon
 - CIBC Wood Gundy (Caring for Kids Committee)
 - Face The World Foundation
 - Variety - The Children's Charity of BC

OUR FAMILY CIRCLE

-  **GOLD \$5,000+**
 - Ipsos Charity Trust
 - The KPMG Foundation
-  **SILVER \$1,000+**
 - Alice Angus
 - Margaret Blackwell
 - Johnathan Burke
 - Caroline Campbell
 - Gabrielle and Richard Campbell
 - Dorian Cochran
 - Brian DeMuy
 - Paul DiPasquale
 - Kim and Bob Disbrow
 - Dundee Wealth Management (Branch 303)
 - Higher Resources Inc.
 - Paul Kearns
 - Douglas Knight
 - The McLean Foundation
 - Andrew Medd
 - John Montalbano
 - Teri Nicholas
 - Anthony and Victoria Ostler
 - Philippa Ostler
 - Moura Quayle and David Fushtey
 - Lorna Romilly
 - Chris and Diana Sanderson
 - The Schein Foundation
 - Keith Spencer
 - Judy Taylor
 - Shane Uren
 - The Vancouver Sun Children's Fund
 - Michael Wallberg
 - Ken Werker
 - Westminster Savings Foundation
 - Claire Wright
 - Anonymous

SNAPSHOT OF FUNDERS

A number of Family Services programs have recently received a boost thanks to the generous contributions of community members. Here are just a few:

Dundee Wealth Management Canada's Vancouver office donated \$3900 to FSGV's Respect Safety and Violence Prevention program following a staff driven fundraising effort. The wealth management company believes in working to create healthy communities, and this donation marks the start of a new partnership between Dundee Wealth and RSVP.

The RSVP Program also received \$4,000 from **The Vancouver Sun Children's Fund**.

The KPMG Foundation donated \$2,500 and the **McLean Foundation** gave \$3,500 to the agency's Healthy Connections - You and Your Baby Program.

The Westminster Savings Foundation donated \$2,000 to Vital Connection's Sharing Insights on Emotional Well Being. Over the holidays the agency also received donations of more than \$1,000 from both **Higher Resources Inc** and **The Schein Foundation**.

Ipsos Charity Trust designated Family Services as its choice for its employee giving fund in the amount of \$5,000.

Local Law Firm Believes in Stopping the Violence

Blake, Cassels and Graydon LLP of Vancouver is a dedicated supporter of FSGV's Stopping The Violence (STV) program, providing an annual donation of \$10,000 since 2004. Their ongoing commitment to STV is one of the many ways the law firm demonstrates their belief in supporting thriving and caring communities.

Stopping The Violence provides counselling for women who have experienced childhood physical and sexual abuse, sexual assault and violence in relationships. The program helps women understand the effects of sexual abuse and violence in relationships, improve their psychological and emotional well-being, increase their self-worth and reduce isolation. Stopping the Violence helps women make positive changes in their lives, and empowers them to improve the lives of their children by breaking the cycle of violence.

The generous support of Blake, Cassels and Graydon LLP is important as many women are on a waiting list for services and are at risk of being victimized. It is crucial that Stopping the Violence services are available and accessible when a woman makes the initial call for help.

Hats off to Blake, Cassels and Graydon LLP for helping to increase the accessibility and availability of services for women in Vancouver at a time in their lives when they need it the most.



Teri Nicholas, Family Services CEO (right) presents Bill Maclagan, Managing Partner with a framed gesture of thanks.

CIBC Wood Gundy at Bentall Caring for Kids Fund Supports RSVP

CIBC Wood Gundy at Bentall Caring for Kids Fund sees tremendous value in the services children receive through FSGV's Respect, Safety and Violence Prevention program. The Caring for Kids Fund aims to impact the lives of children at five points throughout a child's day, and through RSVP, they are able to reach children after school. Their recent donation of \$35,000 is part of their ongoing commitment to the program.

Their strong connection with RSVP over the years has been vital. RSVP does not receive any annual core funding, so this continued commitment provides much needed stability. Knowing that we have their continued support, we can maintain RSVP's core services from year to year and ensure this valuable program continues to serve children in need.

The Respect, Safety and Violence Prevention program focuses on the development of healthy relationship skills for vulnerable children and youth. Group programs and presentations are available in schools to raise student awareness of relationship violence and promote the development of healthy personal relationships.

Our thanks to the members of the Caring for Kids Fund for their generosity. They truly are in it for the kids!



Karen Hudson, RSVP Program Manager; Teri Nicholas, CEO; and Anthony Ostler, Board Chair receive cheque from CIBC Wood Gundy (Bentall Centre) Caring For Kids' fund members Jeff Watchorn; Oliver Gilbert; Ken Greaves; and David Stobart.

Coca-Cola Funds Creativity

Each year Coca-Cola Ltd. of Canada provides a donation to FSGV's Directions Youth Services Centre (DYS) as part of their community support initiatives. This year's contribution of \$20,000 was designated for the DYS Art program.

Community support is one of Coca-Cola's three pillars of corporate social responsibility. The world's leading beverage company believes that giving back to communities and feeling good about working at Coca-Cola Ltd. go hand-in-hand. Given the company's reputation for creativity in marketing, having their donation earmarked to support the DYS art program was a natural fit. Their contribution will help many at-risk youth find their own creativity.



Artwork created by "Re" as part of the DYS art program

Face the World Foundation Making Healthy Connections Possible

Jacqui Cohen's Face the World Foundation continues to be a strong supporter of Family Services, with a recent donation of \$10,000 to the Healthy Connections Program. This is their second such donation to Healthy Connections in recent years and represents part of the long term relationship they have had with various FSGV programs over the years.

Face the World's first connection with FSGV began in 1991, the year the Foundation was formed, with a \$40,000 grant split between VISAC Victim Services, the Counselling Program, and Street Youth Services Outreach. Since 1991, the Face The World Foundation has provided more than \$120,000 in support of a variety of programs such as Children Affected by Family Violence, the Domestic Violence Response Team, Respect Safety and Violence Prevention and Dusk to Dawn.

The most recent donation, to the Healthy Connections – You and Your Baby Program, will help to provide therapy and support to pregnant women to help them deal with issues that may impact their ability to parent their children.

Vancouver Foundation Provides Support for Street Youth Initiative

Our Street Youth Job Action program recently received \$35,000 from the Vancouver Foundation. The funds represent the second of three installments of a \$100,000 grant to assist with staffing costs for the program. Street Youth Job Action (SYJA) is an initiative of Directions Youth Services Centre that gives homeless youth in Vancouver a chance to learn skills and behaviours to prepare them for the workforce. Community organizations work with SYJA to hire street youth for services such as street beautification, graffiti removal and needle sweeps. Youth involved in the program are paid each day for the work they do.

The Vancouver Foundation is Canada's largest community foundation, and has been supporting communities in BC since 1943. The foundation pools the charitable gifts of donors to create endowment funds and uses the investment income to provide grants to worthy recipients like FSGV's Street Youth Job Action program. Their generous support helps to ensure we have the staffing resources to find and work with community partners to provide opportunities for street youth.

The group sessions helped her to connect with other women who were struggling with their own issues. No matter their background, as they spent time together and listened to one another they began to share their experiences and in doing so, help each other. The Thursday group sessions are now the highlight of Dominga's week.

"In the group we can feel free to say what we want, we can cry if we need to and we can laugh if we want to," says Dominga, "this program has helped me so much."

The Community Access Program helps women on income assistance with one-to-one support to develop skills, make connections to resources, and establish a plan to creating a better future. Dominga is one of 95 women helped by the program last year. The CAP Program is funded by the Ministry of Housing and Social Development.

Moe's Home Collection Supports Victim Support Program

Moe's Home Collection donated a portion of their January sales to Family Service's Burnaby/New Westminster Victim Support Program which serves people who experience violence in their families. Accessed primarily by women and children, the program offers safety planning, information and emotional support. Moe's Home Collection also donated new furniture pieces to the agency's program space in its New Westminster office. This space serves families and children in need and includes Community Education, Counselling, Victim Support Services, Project Parenting, and Parenting Mediation programs. This makeover has made the space even more inviting and will make families and children feel comfortable and welcome for years to come.



We care about our environment so we have chosen to use 100% post consumer recycled paper from a source that practices responsible use of natural resources.

Yes! *I would like to help make a difference.*

**FAMILY SERVICES OF
GREATER VANCOUVER**

Please accept my: One-time donation of \$.....

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Pre-authorized payment (please attach a void cheque) Cheque or post-dated cheques (payable to Family Services of Greater Vancouver)

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Alternatively, visit www.fsgv.ca to make your donation online.

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I have left a gift to Family Services in my will. I would like information on leaving a gift in my will. Please add me to the newsletter mailing list.