

Safe, Affordable Housing

Without a stable place to live, it's hard to move forward in life. YWCA Metro Vancouver provides safe, affordable housing options – from short-term hotel stays to longer-term housing for single mothers and their children.

135 women and children made their home at Vancouver's Semlin Gardens and Langley's Fraser Gardens. These single mothers and their children benefited from safe, affordable housing and the support of a YWCA Community Development Worker.

YWCA Munroe House provided refuge and services to 240 women and children escaping family violence. Along with housing, emotional support, advocacy and court accompaniment, art/play therapy is provided to children and youth who have witnessed or experienced abuse.

29 pregnant and parenting women dealing with addiction found transitional shelter at YWCA Crabtree Corner Housing. This accommodation, combined with the integrated services at YWCA Crabtree Corner, provides

a solid foundation for stable parenting and healthy children.

The YWCA Hotel proved it was “worth checking into” by providing 43,737 room nights of comfortable and affordable accommodation to travellers and locals. 24,569 subsidized room nights were provided to those needing emergency or temporary shelter – women in crisis, families in transition, seniors and others marginalized by the current housing market.



Connecting People to Employment

YWCA Metro Vancouver offers nine employment programs throughout Metro Vancouver that help women and men find meaningful employment and career satisfaction. Mentorship, workshops, hiring fairs and much more are offered, with specialized services available for professionals, immigrants, women and youth.

731 women and men accessed YWCA Career Services on the North Shore, benefiting from a range of job search assistance and career decision-making programs, one of which is the Professional and Technical Workers Program for immigrants.

A total of 5,974 youth visited YWCA Career Zone in Downtown Vancouver or One Stop Career Shop for Youth on the North Shore. Both centres work with young women and men ages 15 to 30, providing employment counselling, workshops, mentoring opportunities and events such as hiring fairs.

2,599 women and men were helped at the YWCA Employment Resource Centre in South Vancouver, accessing a wealth of resources and referrals, as well as one-to-one case management.

103 women of all ages received assistance in connecting to meaningful employment through YWCA Focus at Work.

76 women participated in YWCA Connect to Success, where women entering or re-entering professional careers were matched with mentors – professional women working in their fields who can share experience and insight.



Metro Vancouver interns gather to celebrate their achievements in the Youth Eco Internship program (YEIP). In 2010, 197 interns were hosted by 206 non-profit organizations across Canada, with many more placements in the works.



Participants enjoy laughter and music together in the YWCA World Beat program. This music-centred life skills and career exploration program helps young immigrants adjust to life in Canada.

IN 2010, MORE THAN 50,600 LIVES WERE TOUCHED BY YWCA METRO VANCOUVER THROUGH 43 PROGRAMS IN 28 LOCATIONS

A Safe Haven in the Heart of the Downtown Eastside

Crabtree Corner Family Resource Centre provides programs and services for families who need them the most. Integrated services – early learning and care for children, transitional housing, food, clothing and parenting support – help build better futures for women and children in one of Canada's poorest neighbourhoods.

In 2010, Crabtree Corner food programs served 28,100 plates of hot, nutritious food to needy families.



Healthy Choices for Youth

Both girls and boys need support, skills and role models to face the challenges of growing up.

209 girls and boys participated in Welcome to My Life and Boys 4 Real, after-school programs that support Grade 7 students in their transition to high school. They were mentored by 83 volunteers: older high-school students, UBC student facilitators and over-30 “wisdom champions.”

52 girls participated in Camp Fun Girl, a summer day camp for girls ages nine to 13, helping them on their way to becoming healthy and confident teenagers.

220 women built lasting friendships through the YWCA High School Mentorship program, where high school girls are matched with volunteer professional women who inspire and inform them about their desired career path.

A Healthy Start for Children

The quality of care children receive when they are young affects them for life. YWCA Metro Vancouver operates four licensed early learning and care centres that provided quality affordable care to 374 children whose families have diverse backgrounds and needs.

YWCA Crabtree Corner provides a healthy and secure environment to children in the Downtown Eastside. YWCA Emma's Early Learning and Care Centre helps young mothers finish high school while providing a safe, stimulating learning environment for their children.

YWCA Citygate Early Learning and Care specializes in working with children ages three to five to develop social, motor and interpersonal skills, and to prepare them for school. Leslie Diamond Early Learning and Care Centre is located in the heart of downtown and provides care for families balancing the challenges of working and parenting.

Support for Families in Need

Support for single mothers is a key focus for the YWCA. These families have the lowest incomes, the highest poverty rates and many barriers to economic independence. The 376 women and children touched by YWCA Single Mothers' Services had access to weekly support groups where children are cared for while mothers share information, resources and support.

292 families received hampers of food and gifts through the YWCA Presents of Peace program, bringing the holidays alive for the families who access YWCA community programs.

YWCA Metro Vancouver's Legal Educator program enabled 362 women to access legal advice, support and workshops on important issues like custody and access, employment rights and much more.



Recognizing Women Who Inspire

1050 individuals attended the Women of Distinction Awards on June 3, 2010. 66 exceptional women were honoured for their contributions to the health and future of our community, and two workplaces were recognized for supporting the wellness and diverse needs of their employees. New for 2010, we introduced the Connecting Community Award online vote and a Presenting Sponsor category.

Finding Balance through Health + Fitness

18,239 women and men made 205,072 visits to the YWCA Health + Fitness Centre, the YWCA's co-ed fitness facility in the heart of Downtown Vancouver. With an ozonated pool, the latest in cardio/weight equipment and innovative programming, this state-of-the-art facility helps hundreds of people ‘find their balance’ every day, while membership fees help fund YWCA programs and services.

YWCA Metro Vancouver believes that everyone should have access to the benefits a healthy, active lifestyle brings, which is why 50 annual memberships were subsidized for people in need, and 3,066 free visits were provided for clients in YWCA community programs.

Inviting Community Involvement

More than 21,000 volunteer hours were provided by 588 individuals throughout Metro Vancouver. The youngest volunteer was 10, the oldest was 90 and our longest-serving volunteer has been working with us since 1975.



Message from the Chair and the CEO

With the support of our donors, partners, staff and volunteers YWCA Metro Vancouver touched the lives of more than 50,600 people throughout Metro Vancouver in 2010. From single mothers to jobseekers to families of every kind, YWCA Metro Vancouver continues to provide holistic services that help many people in our community build better lives and achieve economic independence. We would like to update you on some of the highlights from 2010.

As many of you know, the YWCA does significant advocacy work around early learning and care for children. In the spring of 2010, along with the support of UBC's Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) the YWCA commissioned a poll that showed overwhelming support to dramatically reduce the number of BC children at risk or developmentally vulnerable. 88% of those surveyed support the provincial government's goal of reducing the number of children at risk from the current 29% of all children by 2015. Those polled expressed

strong support for measures to help children and families, including 89% for more affordable, quality child care spaces, 83% for financial support for low income families, 58% for extending parental leave to 18 months from one year, with additional months for fathers, and 53% for limiting the work week for parents with young children to 35 hours a week. These numbers demonstrate that British Columbians want a higher priority placed on public investment to reduce child vulnerability and ensure that families receive the support they need.

The YWCA Citygate Early Learning and Care Centre was able to remain open and continue to operate in the long term, thanks to a funding partnership with Vancity. The YWCA subsidized Citygate—a child care centre for children aged three to five, 25% of whom have special needs—by more than \$1 million over the past ten years but had planned to close the facility in August 2010 due to budget shortfalls. The generous support from Vancity covered close to 50 per cent of Citygate's deficit, and we are extremely grateful that Vancity is an organization that values early learning for children and show great leadership in supporting the YWCA's work in child care.

Several years ago, YWCA Metro Vancouver front line staff began seeing an increasing number of mothers without legal status. These women, who had left their relationships because of abuse, found themselves without permanent status after their ex-partners cancelled their Canadian sponsorship applications. In fall 2008, the YWCA embarked on a two-part project called Mothers Without Legal Status in Canada. Funded by the Law Foundation of British Columbia the project is the first of its kind in Canada and consists of an informational booklet for service providers and a research report that makes recommendations for meaningful change to policies and laws affecting mothers without status. We were pleased to release both of these documents in 2010 and have been working with various levels of government advocating for these mothers to have their basic needs met by providing them with access to income assistance, health care, schools and housing.

This important project brings to light what mothers without status are experiencing and how governments, communities and the law can work together so these women can have a better life for themselves and their children.

Funding received from a Western Economic Diversification grant enabled the YWCA Health + Fitness Centre to renovate and revitalize the locker rooms, as well as repair the building envelope and replace gym flooring in spring 2010. During this time, the locker rooms and pool were closed, and not surprisingly, this negatively impacted the membership volume. Since reopening, we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from members about the completed revitalization project. The Health + Fitness strategy to focus on marketing and promoting the facility has resulted in increased sales and retention, as well as allowing us to be competitive with other newer facilities.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our many volunteers and donors who give generously of their time and financial resources to help us succeed. We look forward to the exciting activities and opportunities that 2011 will bring.

Janet Austin
CEO

Dr. Verna Magee-Shepherd
Board Chair

