



Monarch Milestones

SUMMER 2008

It was the news we had always dreaded...

It was February, after a very busy January. I had just finished printing some Christmas thank you notes to those of you who generously supported our Christmas programs when the news arrived. The news that confirmed that one of our Chrysalis Place Second Stage residents had been found, murdered, after being missing for from our house for 2 weeks. Although we had already begun to realize that the news would not be happy, our 17 staff members huddled together in shock and sorrow as we reflected on the haunting questions - Had we failed this gal in some way? Had we said everything we should have over the 3 months she was with us? Had we taken advantage of every opportunity? Was there something we had missed? Could we have prevented this?

It became a time of great comfort as we talked and shared that day about each one's interactions with this gal - how we had said certain things and responded in particular ways in the significant conversations we had had with her. Yes, we had done all we could. It also reinforced for each of us how precious is each moment we are given to serve these vulnerable women and children. Lives are at stake. What a sobering reminder this event has been to us of the reality of the work we do each day.

Statistics paint a shocking picture of how vulnerable women and children fleeing abuse are when they make a choice to leave. More women are physically injured and murdered at this point whether they have simply articulated the decision or actually left. A 2006 Statistics Canada report revealed that in half of all cases of murders of female ex-partners, the

woman was killed within two months of leaving the relationship. In Canada approximately 1 to 2 women per week are murdered by a partner or ex-partner. 1 in 5 homicides in Canada involves the killing of an intimate partner.

So when the question comes up, "Well, why does she stay?" there are many complex possibilities. Threats might have been made to her, her children, or her family. She might feel safer with the harm she knows than with the unknown, or doesn't realize the level of danger she is in. One of the most compelling reasons is that most women don't want to leave, they just want the abuse to stop and remain hopeful their partner will change as he often promises. Immigrant and refugee women may face even greater barriers to escaping abuse due to

isolation on the basis of language or culture, and to their dependent status on their partners. Shame is often another factor.

A couple of weeks later when I returned to try and finish putting together the Christmas thank you notes, I realized that I had inadvertently printed them upside down on the note paper. It was a vivid picture of how this event had turned our world upside down. Our resident, our sister, our friend, was not a statistic to us.

The notes never did go out - yet that doesn't reflect our appreciation to all who have supported us over this past year and those who have provided tangible items that have met the needs of the women we serve. The partnerships we cherish with you have been a significant source of encouragement during these past several dark months. Thank you.



MONARCH PLACE TRANSITION HOUSE

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Charitable Tax Number
87104 0168 RR0001

Offering shelter and support
to women and children

A recent resident
commented,

“For the first time
in months I feel
confident that I can
move forward
towards my goal
to be happy and
independent –
I have more than
received the caring
and encouragement
here that I’d been
missing in my life.”



OUR MISSION STATEMENT...

*To provide women and children in need the opportunity
to gain strength and to live according to their true worth*

OUR THANKS GOES TO OUR WONDERFUL DONORS:

Communications Energy and Paperworkers Local 456, *New Westminster Lions Club*, Canadian Auto Workers Social Justice Fund, *Canadian Union of Public Employees Locals #387, #561*, TD Canada Trust, *Royal City Rotary Club*, Angelina's, *Essence Boutique and Home Décor*, Westminster Savings and Credit Union, *Canadian Women's Foundation*, Knights of Columbus, , *Ladies Auxiliary #20 Fraternal Order of Eagles*, Senior Citizens Association Branches #15 and #16, *Kiwanis Club of New Westminster*, New Westminster Rotary Club, *Union of BC Performers*, West Coast Title Search, *HBC Foundation*, Canadian Auto Workers Locals 3111, 114, 2002, 3000, *Telus Community Connections*, New Westminster Rotaract Club, *Telus Cares*, DA Townley & Associates, *Royal City Jewellers*, Royal Bank, *Compensation Employee's Union*, Lady Dynafit, *Mad hatter Tea Party*, Kids Up Front, *Glenbrook Residential Association*, Century House, *Aquilini Investments*, Maple Leaf Self Storage, *Olivet Baptist Church*, Starbucks Coffee, *Community Savings Credit Union*, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, *PEO Sisterhood*, Queen Elizabeth School, *New Westminster Family Eye Care Centre*, Balancing Act Shiatsu, *BC Federation of Labour*, Portola Packaging, *Cartwright Jewellers*, Garaventa Canada Ltd., *Elks Club of New Westminster*, Hydrecs Fund, *Fun Friendship and Community Service Club*, Unity in Action, *Danielle's on Sixth*, Burnaby Royal Girl Guides, *Bank of Montreal*, Margaret Macchus Seniors Association, *Merritt Mountain Music Festival*, Gordon Russell Ltd., *McLaren & Co.*, Cassady and Company, *CKNW Orphans Fund*, Griff's Building Supplies, *Baptist Housing Ministries*, Home Depot, *Savvy Space Solutions*, Cadeaux Gift Store, *Alouette Nurseries*, Pearson Adult Learning Centre, *Flowers CNC Machining Ltd.*, ICBC Sister Fellowship, *The Body Shop*, BC Liquor Store, *Aon Reed Stenhouse, Inc.*, Lazy Boy Furniture, *Inn at the Quay*, and many many more caring groups and individuals.

Our organization is primarily funded by The Ministry Of Community Services, BC Housing, and Service Canada.

Our 10th Anniversary....

On December 1st 2008, we will have completed 10 years of providing services in the community.

A quick look at our statistics show that we have intersected the lives of almost 5000 women and children through our transition house, second stage program, outreach programs, multicultural work, support groups, and crisis line. The support net represented by this number is significant now more than ever, yet the need continues to be challenging to meet.

We are planning an event early in November to reflect on the journey of the past 10 years, honor those who have walked with us along the way, and look ahead to accomplishing our goals in the future. Please circle the date of Thursday, November 6th, and anticipate further details to come.

I hope you have a refreshing summer and look forward to being in touch with you later in the year.

Sincerely,

Lorrie Wasyliv, Executive Director