

Monarch Milestones

WINTER 2014



Monarch Place

It's been a turbulent year...

From the NFL shocking incidents to the recent CBC Jian Ghomeshi scandal, to the ongoing epidemic of rape and sexual assault on campuses across North America, violence against women has been steadily in the headlines.

In a series of papers released by the World Health Organization & others, experts estimate that nearly 40% of women killed worldwide were slain by an intimate partner and that being assaulted by a partner was the most common kind of violence experienced by women. WHO director-general Dr. Margaret Chan said in a statement, **"Violence against women is a global health problem of epidemic proportions"**.

In BC, closer to home, 13 women were murdered and 5 women survived from attempted murder by their male partner or husband in the first nine months of 2014. This number is higher than it has been in several years.

These events appear to have escalated a grassroots response that encourages people to take a stand against violence against women. We have seen changes in the dialogue, particularly in the social media realm, giving voice to survivors of violence in unprecedented ways as well as those who perhaps haven't spoken out about violence against women before.

There have been clear statements from the NFL and correspondingly, from sports media—most notably a

speech in September from CBS broadcaster James Brown, who noted **"Our silence is deafening, and deadly"**.

California became the first USA state to adopt a "yes means yes" law, requiring students to obtain overt agreement to sex. Slogans of **"No to rape culture"** and **"Break the silence"** have been circulated widely on each state campus.

Mariska Hargitay (*Law and Order: SVU*) began an organization as a result of her television character (Olivia Benson) and the story lines the show portrays from week to week. This organization, JoyfulHeartFoundation.org has now launched a movement entitled **"No More"**, a powerful campaign that offers a variety of downloadable resources designed to give people the opportunity to become involved.

Recently Rinelle Harper, a teen in Manitoba, was raped, beaten and dumped in the icy waters of the Assiniboine River. Rescued by two city workers, she has become a focal point for rallying people in Manitoba to take a



stand against rape and violence against women. **"This is the hour we have to call for change"** declared Grand Chief David Harper, representing northern Manitoba First Nations, **"the acts of violence have to stop"**.

1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men experience violence from their partners in their lifetimes. 1 in 3 teens experience sexual or physical abuse or threats from a dating

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Grand Chief David Harper

relationship in one year. 1 in 5 women are survivors of rape. 1 in 2 women and 1 in 5 men have experienced some form of sexual victimization in their lives. 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men are sexually abused before the age of 18. These are not numbers. They are our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, children, co-workers, neighbours and friends. They are the people you confide in most at work, the guy you play basketball with, the people in your book club, your exercise buddy, your coffee pals, your teenager's best friend – or your own teen. If we talk about these issues the silence and shame can end for good.



The Spirit of Christmas...

I have been very inspired by our Governor General David Johnston and his **Dare 2 Give** campaign this Christmas. Perhaps you have seen the advertisement? The premise is simple—he is challenging everyone to give to a worthwhile cause and then challenge their friends and family to do the same (see mygivingmoment.ca).

So I would like to challenge each of you to give. It truly doesn't even have to be a gift to us, but please consider something you believe to be a worthwhile cause or a charity doing important work that you admire—and give a gift this Christmas. I know you will be blessed.

If you do accept the challenge and do decide to select us, we thank you in advance! Our financial partnerships are a vital ingredient of our ability to provide services to vulnerable women and children.

If more convenient for you, we are registered online with www.canadahelps.org, (a reputable public charitable foundation that provides secure donation access to all of Canada's charities.) Find us there using the search words "Monarch Place".

Recognition of our Donors....

Blue Sky Properties Charitable Foundation ☿ JTI Macdonald Corp. ☿ Dr Brenda Horner Optometric Corp./Family Eyecare Centre ☿ UNIFOR Local 456 ☿ LOWES Home Improvement ☿ Ladies Auxiliary Fraternal Order of Eagles #20 ☿ Essence Hair Design & Home Décor ☿ CCC The Tanning Studio ☿ RBC Royal Bank ☿ CUPE #387 ☿ UNIFOR Local 114 ☿ Kiwanis Club of New Westminster ☿ Royal City Rotary Club ☿ Sewell's Marina ☿ BC Retired Teachers' Association—RR Smith Memorial Fund ☿ The Nourish Society ☿ Glenbrooke North Residential Association ☿ First Baptist Foundation ☿ Gordon Russell Ltd. ☿ Westminster Savings Credit Union ☿ Walmart ☿ Pratts Wholesale Ltd. ☿ New Westminster School Board ☿ Mad Hatter Tea Party ☿ Inn at the Quay ☿ Kruger Products ☿ Canadian Women's Foundation ☿ The Elks Club of New Westminster ☿ Aon Reed Stenhouse Inc. ☿ Fisheries and Oceans Canada ☿ Derrick Thornhill ☿ Maple Leaf Storage ☿ The Body Shop ☿ Prince of Wales Whale Watching ☿ Tommy Hilfiger ☿ D.A. Townley & Associates ☿ Personal Touch Hair ☿ New Westminster 9th Avenue Neighbourhood ☿ Vancouver Chamber Choir ☿ BC Lions ☿ BC Liquor Store ☿ LaZBoy Furniture ☿ New Westminster Lions Club ☿ Masters and Wardens District #2 ☿ Alouette Nurseries ☿ The Home Depot ☿ City of New Westminster ☿ Starbucks ☿ Ricki's ☿ Aquilini Investment Group ☿ Queen Elizabeth Secondary School ☿ BAAS Premium Offices ☿ Aero Carpet Services ☿ HYDRECS Fund ☿ Pearson Adult Learning Centre ☿ Eden Home and Garden Accents ☿ Cassidy & Company ☿ Alpha Iota Society ☿ Delta Kappa Gamma ☿ Starlight Trading ☿ McLaren Trefanenko Inc. ☿ JASMINE ☿ Telus Cares ☿ Radcliffe Foundation ☿ Queens Park Realty ☿ Granville Entertainment Corporation ☿ Perkins Family Trust ☿ Cathay Importers ☿ Bedwell Properties ☿ Pacific Newspaper Group ☿ UNIFOR Social Justice Fund ☿ "Grace, Grit, and Gusto" ☿ Milestones, Victoria ☿ New Westminster Fraternal Order of Eagles ☿ Canucks Sport Entertainment ☿ Cobs Bread ☿ Jeremy's Memorial Foundation ☿ Queen of Soap Everything ☿ Vivalogue ☿ Olivet Baptist Church ☿ Vancity Savings Credit Union Kruger Community Branch ☿ Winners/Home Sense ☿ Rogers Media ☿ Numerous Individuals ☿

Reflections on our workshops with the Grade 10 students at New Westminster Secondary School...

Being back in the hallways of a high school is always unexpectedly intimidating. I am immediately reminded of the insecurity of that age, lacking the experience to have confidence in who you are, but feeling the pressure to act like you know what you're doing. Each time I'm invited back to present at NWSS, I become painfully aware of the fine balance these teens walk, between making their way in the world and being accepted by it.

None of the students look pleased when they hear that I'm talking about teen dating abuse, but the teachers are always eager to help them see the value in this topic. Too many times before they have seen their students fall into bad relationships, not knowing what's right or appropriate, how to treat someone else, or what's an acceptable way to be treated.

I start with a quick true or false exercise and about half the class becomes vocal and participates in the discussion that takes place over the next hour. I'm not as concerned about whether or not the students speak up, but more that they're paying attention. By the end of the class, most of them have received at least one piece of candy for being able to identify red flags in relationships and they are all a little somber after watching a video of a girl navigating the dangers of teen dating abuse. A few thank me for presenting as they file out of the classroom and I can only hope the message has reached those that will unfortunately face some of the red flags we discussed. The teachers eagerly thank me again, apologizing for the class clowns, and expressing their amazement at those that got involved.

Although I probably never will find out what kind of an impact the presentation has had, I never doubt the importance of this work. Prevention is one of the most effective ways to create change, and I hope for a generation that can live free from abuse.

Averill, Monarch Staff

Program Notes...

WISHES (Women in Safe, Healthy, Empowering Support) is our community group that offers solid teaching about how abuse impacts women as well as integrates the support of other women who REALLY understand—because it is also their life experience as well.

One of the major impacts of abuse is the sense of being different, isolated, and somehow unlovable. These women often live in a world of silence and secrets, fearful of being judged or misunderstood if they ever shared the truth of their lives.

In our group we have the opportunity to both encourage and honour the incredible strength of these women. The group is facilitated by two counsellors (both who are on staff at Monarch Place). Every woman is given time to share their struggle, learn about healthy relationships and grow into the person they were created to be. It is a awesome experience to witness the healing journey women are on as they process through what they learn, what they say to each other, and what they say to themselves.

One woman this year told us, "When I first came to the group, I didn't talk. I didn't think I had anything to say. Now that I feel there are others who understand what I have gone through, I will never go back to being silent again."

It is a sacred trust and as facilitators, we don't take it lightly.

Margaret, Monarch Staff





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Offering shelter and support
to women and children

A recent resident commented,

"With all my heart I wish you the best! Monarch was key to making me a new and rewarding life! I think with all the kindness and positiveness, I soon gained confidence and therefore, one by one, obstacles were forced out of my way."

Spending of funds is confined to programs and projects approved by the organization. Each restricted contribution designated toward such an approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the organization the remaining restricted contributions will be used where needed most. Gifts are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt for income tax purposes.



Women In Need Gaining Strength

OUR MISSION STATEMENT...

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

OUR PROGRAMS.... REPRESENTING 16 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY...

These numbers alone on a piece of paper are just that: numbers. But, in reality, they represent the faces, voices, hearts, minds, dreams, hopes, and fears of the women and children who have sought our services since 1998...

Monarch Place Transition House is a fully staffed 12 bed emergency 1st stage shelter for women and children fleeing violence at home. *(served 2339 women & 1395 children)*

Chrysalis Place Second Stage House is an 11 bed residence offering a one year subsidized residential program designed to support women through an intensive recovery and healing process with the goal of creating safe independent living. *(served 111 women & 66 children)*

W.I.S.H.E.S (Women in Safe, Healthy, Empowering Support) is a curriculum-based community support group facilitating the journey to wholeness and healthy living. *(served 451 women)*

W.I.N.G.S. Multicultural Services provides specialized support and advocacy services to multi-cultural women living in the New Westminster area. *(served 318 women)*

W.I.N.G.S. Outreach Services supports women to find affordable housing, be connected to supportive community resources when they relocate, and navigate any necessary legal or court processes. *(served 930 women and 729 children)*

W.I.N.G.S. Counselling Services provides confidential, non-judgmental counselling for women, families, & friends affected by domestic abuse. *(served 101 women, men, and children)*

Home Improvement: Men In Relationship provides a facilitated peer support program for men who wish to learn healthier ways of being in relationships *(served 46 men)*

Our organization is primarily funded by BC Housing, Service Canada, and The Ministry of Justice

Greetings to our Supporters

Highlights of our year included...

- ◇ Facilitating our 4th mens group
- ◇ Participating in the Purple Light Nights in April
- ◇ Seeing many women and children find peace and safety in their lives
- ◇ The efforts of our main volunteers: Paul, Clarence, Irene—who inspire us with their service and dedication

serve, and those of you who have given of your time to help us with our special projects and events.

Let me take this opportunity to express our best wishes to you for much peace and hope throughout the Christmas season and in 2015. May your home be filled with love and joy.

Warmest regards,

Lorrie Wasyliv

Lorrie Wasyliv, Executive Director

Thank you to all who have supported us financially over this past year, those who have provided tangible items that have met the needs of the women we